

**APPROVED**

**Sacramento Dharma Center Board Meeting Minutes**

**Via Zoom Meeting Platform**

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Present: Kenny Bender, Barbara Colton, Joe Countryman, Jay Nair, Angela Scarlett, Larry Smith. Absent: Bob Jenne, Diane Wilde, Sue Taylor.

Minutes

**VOTE: The Board approved the minutes of the August 12, 2020 SDC Board meeting.**

Executive Committee

--SDC's website went down due to an incompatible plug in, but service was soon restored by our web maintenance person.

--Executive decided that Board discussion should be deferred until October on a request that SDC should use its property to accommodate a vehicle with portable showers for the homeless. There were too many unanswered questions.

--The Committee discussed other items that appear separately below.

Sangha Reports

Sacramento Buddhist Meditation Group (SBMG)

--SBMG made a contribution to the solar campaign at its last meeting.

--The board was split on whether to reopen SDC for outdoor events but did not take a vote or come to a conclusion.

--SBMG is looking for a better way to make sure online teachers receive the same level of dana as in-person teachers once did. SBMG will contact SIM about how they handle Zoom teacher donations.

Valley Streams Zen Sangh (VSZS)

--No report.

Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM)

--Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

--At the end of August, Board-authorized operation reserves stood at \$39,216 and non-earmarked cash on hand was \$30,567.26. Earmarked funds held for a Susan Orr memorial were \$10,383.78; and \$36,843.61 were being held for installing solar panels on the new roof.

--The Profit and Loss Report (accrual method) shows total monthly income for August was \$22,840.65 and total expenses were \$5,210.54; net income was \$17,630.11 [Note: cash-basis accounting would show an additional regular expense of \$1,293.55 in August for payment of mortgage principal.]

**VOTE: The Board approved the August 2020 financial reports.**

--SDC's CPA has retired. Larry has someone in mind who charges \$55/hour (Heidi Russell) and has experience with non-profits.

**VOTE: The Board approved hiring Heidi Russell, owner of Solid Rock Financial Services, for SDC tax preparation subject to no one objecting after reviewing her forthcoming resume.**

### Building Report

Solar Panels --In Bob's absence, Larry reported that the solar energy system contract with SDC Energy (aka Sandview Energy) has been signed and that \$1,000 has been paid to the construction contractor, Solar Revolution. Installation should commence in late September or early October.

Parking Lot-- The resurfacing of the parking lot is complete, and it looks like new. Many thanks to Jim Hare, who coordinated the job.

Signs—The new metal signs need some adjustments to fit the wooden posts. Once that is done, Bob will install them. Bob will also put a new redwood backing on the main sign out front.

### Audio-Visual Report

--Nothing to report on the upgrading of SDC's video capability.

--There was a brief discussion on whether SDC should acquire its own subscription to a video conferencing service. Jay suggested that we look into other services besides Zoom due to security concerns and Zoom's ties to the Chinese government. He was asked to provide the Board with more information and documentation.

### Ad Hoc Committee on Re-opening

--The Board discussed the drafts of the three documents on re-opening that were sent to them earlier--"Statement of Allowable Uses and Conditions of Use of SDC Outdoor Property During COVID-19," "Role and Responsibilities of Event Coordinator for Use of SDC Outdoor Property" and "Guidelines for Using Restrooms at SDC During Events Held Outside."

--After any changes are made, the Board will vote by email to approve the final drafts.

--As soon as the documents are approved, the sanghas will be notified and outdoor activities will start being scheduled.

--The three documents on re-opening will be published on SDC's website.

--Bob will purchase tarps for outdoor use on the dirt.

**VOTE: Per the recommendation of the Re-opening Committee, the Board authorized the purchase of toilet seats with self-closing lids for all the toilets.**

--The work of the Re-opening Committee is done for now. It will revisit the issue when Sacramento County authorizes further re-opening.

#### Workdays

--Kenny reported that the August end-of-month workday was canceled due to smoke from the wildfires.

--An outdoor workday is planned for September 27, subject to favorable air quality.

#### Development of the North Area

--With permission, Terry Wenner (and his helper) has spent the last several months clearing out roots and moving rocks from the yard outside the north side of the building. About eight volunteers braved the smoke on August 30 and helped out, too.

--The area is now potentially functional. Terry has proposed a plan to make minimal improvements to the North Area to make it more usable before full implementation of the SDC yard plans that were developed by Lynelle McNiel.

--The plan would not involve large expenditures. It would depend on volunteer labor and some modest donations.

--Terry would like to add a layer of topsoil, plant trees that are in accord with the SDC yard plans, and demolish the low wall that is outside the glass walls of the breakroom.

--Larry would like more specifics about the costs and what is proposed to be done. Barbara will ask Terry and Lynelle for more information. Bob will serve as an intermediary.

--Kenny will send Terry a thank-you note on behalf of SDC.

#### Newsletter

--We will publish the newsletter once the outdoor re-opening protocols are approved.

#### SDC Fourth Anniversary Celebration

--SDC might be able to put on a live, online anniversary event in November after the election. We just need a format. Perhaps short dharma readings, poetry, and music. Perhaps each sangha could be asked to come up with something.

--Angela and Jay (and anyone interested) were asked to think some more about it and get back to Barbara.

*Minutes written by Kenny Bender, SDC Secretary.*