

APPROVED

Sacramento Dharma Center Board Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom Meeting Platform

Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

Rooftop Solar Energy System

--The fundraising campaign launched on July 17 to raise the last \$15,000 for solar was met with great enthusiasm from the sanghas. SDC will have the \$45,000 it needs to go solar.

--A huge "thank you" to the anonymous donor who contributed \$15,000 in matching funds and to everyone who got this last push going.

--Prior to tonight's meeting, the Board reviewed Bob's detailed memo "Request for Board approval to purchase and install a solar system." After discussion and questions from the Board, the following three votes were held:

VOTE: The Board approved signing a contract with Solar Revolution to install a solar system at the Dharma Center and authorized Larry Smith and Bob Jenne to finalize the language of the contract, and Barbara Colton or Larry Smith to sign the contract.

VOTE: The Board approved entering into a Solar Energy Services Agreement with Sandview Development Corporation and authorized Barbara Colton or Larry Smith to sign the Agreement.

VOTE: The Board authorized the expenditure of \$3209 from unallocated Dharma Center funds to help pay for the solar system.

Executive Committee

--The Board agreed to a change in how SDC pays its bookkeeper, Betsy Robertus of Verity Bookkeeping. To simplify the paperwork, she'll now be paid \$60 a month instead of \$30 an hour.

Sangha Reports

Valley Streams Zen Sangh (VSZS)

--No report

Sacramento Buddhist Meditation Group (SBMG)

--SBMG's Zoom attendance is half of its live attendance, but financially they are doing fine. Attendance always drops in the summer. They had a very successful Zoom retreat.

Sacramento Insight Meditation (SIM)

--SIM's finances are fine and don't seem to have gone down.

Building Report

--Please see Bob's report attached below.

Minutes

VOTE: The Board approved the minutes of the June 10, 2020 SDC Board meeting. *Note: There was no July 2020 meeting of the Board.*

Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Reopening

--The consensus of the Reopening Committee was to wait till after January 1, 2021 to resume indoor in-person meetings. It was felt that people would be unwilling to return until there was a vaccine.

--The committee felt that people would be interested in meeting outdoors and felt it would be possible with protocols.

--Two documents were sent to the SDC Board for review, "Draft Protocol for Holding Events on the Grounds at SDC" and "Draft Protocol for Using Bathrooms at SDC." Barbara requested that SDC Board members (and SDC sangha representatives) get back to her in writing with any comments or revisions to the draft protocols; she'll take the comments back to Reopening. Reopening Committee will finalize the guidelines and present them to the SDC Board.

--Diane reported that the SIM-sponsored Young People's Sangha (YPS) is interested in meeting in-person again. They would like to invite any self-identifying young people of any tradition to their meetings (traditionally on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays). Diane will inform YPS that the possibility of meeting again (outdoors) is on the horizon.

--Joe said that Refuge Recovery might want to meet outside. There may resistance to the pre-registration requirement in the draft protocol.

--Barbara will inform the Reopening Committee that groups are interested in meeting outside. SDC scheduling may have to be modified to accommodate outdoor meetings. She will send something around to those who are on the schedule.

--The question of whether the county bans outdoor meetings of more than ten people needs looking into.

VOTE: The Board approved voting by email to approve final outdoor meeting protocols.

Treasurer's Report

--At the end of July, Board-authorized operation reserves stood at \$39,216 and non-earmarked cash on hand was \$25,876.35. Earmarked funds held for a Susan Orr memorial were \$10,383.78; and \$26,228.61 were being held for installing solar panels on the new roof.

--The Profit and Loss Report (accrual method) shows total monthly income for July was \$16,161.07 and total expenses were \$3,887.43; net income was \$12,273.64 [Note: cash-basis accounting would show an additional regular expense of \$1,342.64 in July for payment of mortgage principal.]

VOTE: The Board approved the June and July 2020 financial reports.

Audio-Visual Committee (AV)

--AV will keep an eye out for sales on the items it needs to purchase for the video cart. Larry would like to obtain the necessary equipment over the next thirty days so that AV can do a second test of its set-up.

--Joe reported that SBMG has approved paying one-third of the cost of the video equipment, up to \$1,300. VSZS has pledged a contribution but will wait till reopening is closer to donate.

Workdays

--The end-of-month outdoor workday for July was cancelled in light of the resurgence of cases of COVID-19 in the county and state.

--Kenny and Jerry Simkins will get together to decide whether to hold an August workday.

Outdoor Plan

--SDC is seeking a qualified volunteer to act as coordinator to begin implementation of the outdoor plan with volunteers. SDC Board members are asked to help identify potential candidates. Such a person would need the skills to read the plans, have knowledge of landscaping practices, and the time to take it on.

Newsletter

--Suggested items are 1) the new roof, 2) the possibility of outdoor meetings, and 3) how life is continuing on at the Center despite the closure.

Minutes written by Kenny Bender, SDC Secretary

Building Report: August 2020

Final roof update

In late June our roofer finished installing our new shingle roof and repairing all the dry rot under the eaves. I think he did a really good job. The total cost was \$29,812, which was significantly less than we thought the job might cost.

The job could have cost as much as \$35,000 depending on how much dry rot was discovered when the old roof was torn off. While we did discover a fair amount of dry rot, it was confined to a few localized areas and did not cost that much to fix.

New wood bench

Terry Wenner made an attractive bench out of black locust wood. You can see it outside the front door of the Dharma Center, where it has been bolted to the concrete to deter theft.

After we reopen the bench will be useful for people who are waiting outside for rides (such as Paratransit) or waiting to be get into the building if they have arrived early for a meeting.

Thank You Terry!

Signs outside Dharma Hall

After consulting with our Design Committee, Karen Hamilton had some signs made that will direct people to the Meditation Hall, Library, Board meeting room, etc. Two of the signs will be attached to the outside of our building and two signs will be attached to a wooden post which Karen and Jim Hare set in the ground near the southwest corner of our building. Each sign is about one square foot. I will attach the signs sometime in August or September.

Resurfacing our Asphalt Parking Lot

Jim Hare is working with the contractor who will be resurfacing our parking lot. The resurfacing will probably occur sometime in September.

Update on Solar

At the SDC Board meeting on August 12, the Board will be asked to approve the purchase and installation of a solar system at the Dharma Center. If the Board approves the project we can immediately enter into the necessary contracts and get the ball rolling. Our solar contractor (Solar Revolution) told me that they should be able to install our system in September or early October if we sign a contract in August.

I'm excited that this long-planned solar project is finally coming to fruition. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Bob Jenne