

**Vipassana Santa Cruz
Board Meeting
10/28/2009 @ 6:30PM at Val's House**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

G S, Martin C, Chris B, Lael A, Ann Z, Leslie T, Bill C, Val N, Jason M (no guests)

MEDITATION

BRIEF CHECK-IN

APPROVAL/DISCUSSION OF THE MINUTES: September Minutes approved

CONSENT CALENDAR (FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES):

- VSC Family Program met on the first Sunday in October at Land of Medicine Buddha. Seven families (22 individuals) hiked up to a meadow and did story-time-yoga led by a parent. The VSC family program has met (almost) monthly for over two years. The families meet at the VSC Center and out in the community. The community outings often draw a larger group of participants and a valuable chance for more social time and public service. In November we will meet at La Posada retirement home for movement and stories with older folks.
- Sangha dana dipped quite low (\$2,123 & \$1,889), but these are actually similar to previous years. Unfortunately, the other months of the year are running below budget.
- The checking account balance remains healthy (\$8,761 & \$9,035), but this is a false sense of security. About \$5600 of that balance for August is the general Teacher Fund...and needs to be distributed to them at some point.
- Teacher dana also suffered like Sangha dana (\$1,800 & \$1,990).
- As of the end of August, we now have enough in the Scholarship fund (\$1,769) to cover the need from the LMB retreat (\$1,725). We are still waiting for a significant donation from Peter Mehan as of end of August...which was going to cover the retreat.

FOR DISCUSSION:

- Board Business
 - Retired Board Members [carried over from previous meeting]: *Board agreed to institute a standard practice to honor retiring Board members at the last meeting they attend. This should be placed on the agenda for the meeting.*

- Bob as "part time" Board member, or other outside-the-box thinking [carried over from previous meeting]: *Board agreed to accept Bob as full-fledged member.*
 - Supporting guest teachers with sangha money: *Board agreed to defer to the Teacher Council dana for Bonny and Marlow; agreed to discuss Board role in approving funds for special teachers at a future Board meeting.*
 - Review notes from Board retreat (Leslie sent via email to Board for review on 10/10 - please bring your own copy): *Board had no comment on meeting notes*
 - Incorporation of "norms" into the Board Meetings: *Board agreed to read some or all of the norms at each meeting*
 - Board term: *Ann announced her intention to leave at the end of her term in June 2010. She asked that a new Board President be appointed in March so that there could be a transition period. The Board agreed to accept nominations until February 2nd, with a vote at the March Board Meeting. Board agreed that the nomination process could be conducted through email but that people should check with the nominee to see if it's OK with them.*
 - Finances: *Sangha monthly intake is slowing but a large reserve remains, so there is no immediate emergency. It was suggested that we should name a "Suggested Donation" that corresponds to what it takes per person to fund the Sangha's budget. An example was provided from Boulder Colorado Sangha where new comers get a handout with such information. It was suggested that the Facilities Managers could post financial charts with a note that more detailed information is available on line. No action taken.*
- Space Planning
 - Standing agenda item for the discussion of our three-pronged approach to space:
 - Feasibility of staying at 1010 Fair (Mary Grace, Bill, Dan, Henry)
 - Fact-finding on church site (Martin, Bob, other rep from TC)
 - Broad review of other possible space (G, Chris, Alice?)

The Board had a general discussion and learned that 1010 Fair owners would welcome a new lease; information on church site indicated that it would take longer than anticipated to develop this option; Martin and Bob will meet with Sylvie monthly if possible to track her progress
- Program
 - 20th Anniversary Celebration: November 12: *Board agreed to let committee make all the decisions around this.*
 - Program and update: *A proposal was made to hold a VSC-sponsored event outside the Sangha and charge a fee. Board said no to this citing current policy against charging for VSC events.*

- Hearing device update (what a Boulder sangha uses): “*TV messenger 100*” is used in Boulder and costs around \$400.
- Team Design
 - Update: *Library remodel on hold until decision on lease renewal is made; Board approved \$200 out of Legacy Fund for a new bench; G will return to next meeting w/ a specific proposal for cassette storage.*

BRIEF CHECK-OUT: *what worked and didn't work at this meeting.*

TO DO LIST:

1. New agenda item to discuss process for choosing Board members
2. New agenda item to discuss Board role in funding visiting teachers
3. Nominations for new leadership by Feb 2nd
4. Facility managers to post financial charts
5. G to propose storage for cassette storage.