

Floating Zendo Business Meeting
at 8:15 p.m. on September 18, 2007
at the Friends' Meeting House, 1041 Morse Street, San Jose, CA 95126

Present: Angie, Jane, Kitty, Wendy, Russ, Britt, Lorne, Julian, Dan, Samia

Agenda:

1. Financial update
2. Sesshin – feedback from 2007 and looking ahead to 2008
3. Website update
4. Fall newsletter
5. The roles that keep FZ afloat

1. FINANCIAL UPDATE

FZ's current bank balance, including all outstanding checks, is \$5, 171.55.

Sesshin income exceeded expenses by \$496.91. The positive balance was attributed to two factors: (1) dana was especially generous; (2) food expenses were low, and Samia did not ask for compensation for her work as Tenzo.

donna lynn is creating a proposal for how FZ should use its surplus. She plans to present the proposal at the beginning of next year.

ACTION ITEM: FZ invites anyone with ideas about how to spend the surplus to share those ideas.

2. SESSHIN

2007 Feedback:

The Friday evening start was appreciated. Those who could only attend on the weekend blended seamlessly with those who were staying the entire week.

Making the kitchen off limits was awkward for those who needed access, for example, for refrigerated medication. FZ will be alert to this possibility in the future. Anyone with physical needs that require accommodation should notify the Ino.

Kitty, as Shika, thought it would be helpful to have one or two more to setup.

Julian advocated notifying whoever will fill the Sogu (Head Server) role in advance so that they have time to learn the job before sesshin begins. Julian will write instructions for the Sogu role.

Looking ahead to 2008:

For now, Floating Zendo plans to book Villa Angelica for the 2008 sesshin, but Kitty has offered to continue to search for other options.

Villa Angelica has several drawbacks: (1) The zendo was damp and musty. (2) There was no space for dokusan; Angie found sitting on beds limiting. (3) We completely filled Villa Angelica. Not only were the bedrooms filled, but the dining room and zendo were crowded. If we return, attendance may be limited by space constraints.

On the other hand, FZ is familiar with Villa Angelica and finds it mostly satisfactory. As Tenzo, Samia found the landlord to be helpful and accommodating. If we return to Villa Angela, we might be able to rent a room for dokusan in the building up the hill. However, the building may be a women-only facility.

More venues would be available for sesshin if Floating Zendo had corporate status. Wendy, Julian, and Britt formed an exploratory committee to assess the feasibility of becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

3. WEBSITE UPDATE

People are finding FZ through the website. Several visitors and a couple of new regulars located FZ this way.

Angie requested FZ add links to Beth Goldring's organization <http://www.brahmavihara.cambodiaaidsproject.org/> and to Khandro Thrinlay Chodon's <http://www.khachodling.org>

Julian volunteered to make a short video for the website demonstrating how to sit zazen.

4. FALL NEWSLETTER

Ideas generated for the fall newsletter: the 2008 calendar, an article on the Study Group, a transcribed talk by Angie, an excerpt from Aspects of Sitting, photos from the Kobun remembrance, a group shot of the sangha.

The question was raised whether we want to make an electronic version of the newsletter. The possibility was put off as the newsletter is created with Publisher, which is not easily converted to PDF. The newsletter currently available on the website was scanned in.

5. THE ROLES THAT KEEP FZ AFLOAT

All the FZ officer roles are up for renewal every year end. Ino, Treasurer, Secretary, Coordinator and Web roles, currently held by Julian, Wendy, Britt, Jane and Dan respectively will continue to be held by those people with the exception of FZ Coordinator. That role is held by Jane, and she will give it up at the end of December. A replacement is needed, and Jane will train whoever takes up the role.