

Floating Zendo Business Meeting 3/10/09

Present: Ritu, Dan, Samia, Britt, Jane, Julian, Angie, donnalynn, Wendy, Russ

1. Financial Report from Treasurer Russ
 - a. Should we be reporting Angie's dana to the IRS via 1099 Misc?
 - b. We have omitted a 3rd quarter dana check to Angie. Russ will issue.
 - c. The projected income should be adjusted (downward) to reflect changes in expected dana.

2. Changes to Officer slate, and job descriptions/Officer Roundtable
 - a. Britt to continue as Secretary, Ritu as Assistant Secretary
-if other officers need an email sent out more quickly, Secretary will provide instructions about how to do that.
 - b. Updated job descriptions passed out.
 - c. All terms will be one year.
 - d. Website manager will check the emails received for FZ.
-Can charge website fees to FZ debit card.
 - e. Ino Julian: would like to appoint a Shika each month. Shika will introduce new people and make sure they feel comfortable and welcome.

3. After extensive discussion about outreach to new participants of FZ, an Outreach Committee was formed: Ritu, Julian, and Russ. To be discussed in committee:
 - We need a standardized welcoming script.
 - Once a month "Introduction to Meditation" class?
 - Reinstate Wendy's brochure for new people? dl will update it.
 - Chants on website for Tuesday schedule. Jane, Julian will proofread copy of Heart Sutra, Metta, Short verses.
 - Website revisions? More welcoming on website?
 - YELP listing?
 - Search Engine Optimization? Currently a Google search on "San Jose zen" results in a listing of Floating Zendo on 3rd or 4th page.
 - We are on Merc website but it is buried.
 - Who's Who in American Zen. In print and the web.
 - Soto Zen Buddhist Org on web- we are on it.
 - Official temples? We don't qualify since we don't have a temple.
 - What about the Metro?-Rose Garden Resident, Willow Glen. The Weekly. Silicon Valley network?
 - Camera Theatre.
 - Writing articles.

3. Renewal of Directory Listings (Shambala Sun & Buddhadharma) - \$225
 - Purpose was a national acknowledgement of our existence-not to get new members.
 - Voted to not renew. We will try something different now.

4. Proposal for donation to Jikoji Pathway Project presented by donnalynn

-Jikoji-difficult to get around. Handicapped bathroom-but can't walk down the steps. No handrail, steps uneven. Jikoji diverted money to pathways-\$10K— Phase 1- path from parking to small zendo and other path. Phase 2 – ramp to community building and patio ramp. Phase 3- ADA pathway to dorm and zendo and bathroom.

-Approved donation of \$225 from FZ for Jikoji Pathway Project and we will revisit issue after sesshin to examine our finances to consider donating more.

5. Recommendations from Sesshin Committee regarding Sesshin fees, dana, scholarships presented by Coordinator Wendy through a handout.

-Recommended that Sesshin fees be set by a committee of current Sesshin Shika and former Sesshin officer (s) then presented to general FZ membership. Sesshin fees will be as low as possible to break-even.

-Simplified structure for fees-day rate, night rate or full sesshin. Flexibility will be retained by offering sliding scale if requested.

-Dana will not be solicited for general FZ fund, will not be part of registration, will be confidential.

-Scholarships will be offered, amount and funding to be decided at the June Biz Meeting.