

Minutes from Floating Zendo Business Meeting, Jan 26, 2010

In attendance:

Angie, donnalynn, Ellie, Britt, Samia, Ritu, Wendy

Financial Report from Treasurer (presented by Coordinator, Wendy): There was a big increase in weekly Dana and other donations during the fourth quarter of 2009. Donations were still much lower than 2008. We came out of slump in dana after donnalynn gave a “Dana” pitch to the sangha; Wendy also mentioned that we weren’t meeting our monthly rent. donnalynn reported on an article she had read in the Shambhala Sun about Dharma groups around the country having a very difficult time during the current economic downturn, which has resulted in large losses in donations.

As for expenses, the Newsletter expense was only 50% of projected cost due to the elimination of one newsletter, and the mostly online distribution of the one edition that was published. There have been no complaints about that change. Stipends to Angie were higher than expected because of the late payment of a 2008 quarter. The net residue from the August 2009 Floating Zendo sesshin was \$793. No big changes in expenses are anticipated for 2010.

Overall, we spent \$1600 of our cash reserve last year, which was less than projected. Our 12/31/09 Bank balance has only decreased about \$1000 from the end of the year balance for 2008. (Wendy distributed a detailed financial statement for 2009 at this meeting.)

Putting Donation Info on FZ Website: Although there was a form for donations on the newsletter, there were suggestions from donors to include this information on the website. There have been previous discussions of putting the Paypal option on the site, but it was rejected because it was deemed “too tacky.” A request was made to discuss this subject further at the next business meeting. Ellie suggested that there could be a note about Dana placed on the website where Angie’s Dharma talks are located, reminding people of the opportunity to show their appreciation for receiving these teachings. She noted that other Dharma groups do this; donnalynn said she will send Ellie some language to use for this info.

Floating Zendo Positions Update: Samia has volunteered to serve as Floating Zendo’s Ino for the first three months of 2010. Britt will continue (for now) to post the audio files of Angie’s Tuesday night talks to the FZ website and send out announcements via email. Ellie is being trained as a Doan, and will serve as Doan for the last three Tuesday night sittings of February.

donnalynn has offered to serve as Sesshin Coordinator for 2010 (a new position). She soon plans to begin recruiting potential candidates for key positions (i.e., Tenzo, Ino, etc.) for the August sesshin. Her first need is for someone to fill the Shika position to handle enrollment and requests for information prior to the August sesshin. She will need to fill this position within a couple of months. There is also a need to post the sesshin

guidebook to the website. dl is continuing to refine the guidebook of job descriptions for sesshin officers, which is a big help for those doing sesshin jobs, especially for the first time.

Saturday FZ Sits: A brief update from Wendy that attendance at the Saturday FZ sits has been better than earlier in 2009, and they will continue to be held. (There was a previous discussion at the last business meeting on the possibility of scaling back the frequency.)

Honoring Jane Jasper's Ordination: After a brief discussion about how to honor Jane Jasper's ordination, and about the amount of "Priest Dana" that FZ will contribute to future priests to be ordained by Angie, a majority agreed to keep this Dana at the existing \$300 amount. (This Dana is intended to help defray the expense of having certain necessary priest robes custom-made.) We will budget \$600 for Priest Dana for 2010.

Interest in Spring Retreat: After a brief discussion about a weekend spring retreat at Connie Batten's in the Santa Cruz Mountains on May 1-2, it was agreed that we should let her know that the interest level among FZ sangha is sufficient to go to the next stage of planning. Wendy will contact Connie to discuss the logistics of this possible retreat.

Community and Social Outreach: Ritu suggested that there could be more social events, perhaps a Spring event. Since there is no center to hang out at, Angie suggested that perhaps we could have a picnic after one of the half-day Saturday sits.