

Insight Meditation Ann Arbor

Community Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2015

Brief Meditation

Call to Order: 11:35 a.m.

Board/Treasurer's Report: Report given by Richard K. The sangha has approximately \$5,500 in the bank. The Board approved money to be utilized by the Room Committee for some maintenance items. The Board of Directors has started working on the budget for 2016. Members present shared their opinions regarding the benefit of establishing reserve funds, which can be earmarked for such things as rent, retreats and future speakers.

Building Committee: A presentation by Lou W. for the Room Committee was moved to next month's meeting.

Old Business: Revisited the issue regarding the lock on the women's bathroom door which locks with some difficulty. Susan W. will contact the church asking if we can put signs on the doors requesting people knock before entering. This led to a discussion as to who is the building liaison for our sangha with the church. Susan has agreed to be the contact person at this time.

New Business: Terry was presented with a restaurant gift card in appreciation for his efforts towards renovation of our current space. Susan spoke of the contributions made by member volunteers and acknowledged the work they do on behalf of the sangha.

Community Outreach: The question was raised as to whether we feel the need to advertise more for the purpose of acquiring more members. The consensus was that we have been sufficiently attracting new members through our website, classes and retreats. Additional suggestions made included: putting more effort towards further engaging the people already attending the sangha; having the sangha do more in the community; focusing on supporting ourselves in practice while keeping in mind our desire to be visible to people who are looking for a sangha.

Retreats: Since moving the retreats to the Weber Center there is some concern about whether dana will completely cover the costs. Future retreats are expected to cost an additional \$1,000 with the benefit of providing greater physical accessibility to those who attend. Susan volunteered to rewrite the letter sent out to retreat attendees clarifying costs involved in presenting retreats. Richard emphasized the intent that dana from people attending a retreat will be in reality paying forward for the next retreat.

Retreat Committee: Discussion regarding establishing a more comprehensive Retreat Committee. Dawn L. and Tom S. have contributed much effort in the past towards organizing retreats but would like to turn over the reins to others. A Retreat Manager and Registration Coordinator have been arranged for the spring retreat, but individuals are needed to help with the fall retreat. Dawn L. agreed that she and possibly Tom S. could identify some people they can personally invite to be on the Retreat Committee.

Meditation Room Usage: The group decided the room is available for use by internal groups for meeting purposes. Pat C. confirmed this would be covered under our agreement with the church; however, the church must be kept informed of our usage. Logistics such as access, appropriately closing down the room after use were discussed. Terry G. volunteered to do a checklist to be placed on the inside of the door for groups to follow when using the room. Usage will have to be coordinated with the room calendar on the website.

Due to the New Year's holiday weekend the next Community Meeting has been moved to Sunday, January 10, 2016.

Adjournment: 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M.