

Insight Meditation Ann Arbor
Community Meeting and Annual Members' Meeting
Agenda
November 6, 2016

Brief Meditation

Call to Order: 11:30 a.m.

Board/Treasurer's Report:

Our new board members, Mary G and Shawn P, along with Christine C. as bookkeeper, have now assumed their functions and are warmly welcomed. Christine brought us up to date on the transition to QuickBooks and to a new presentation of our financial statements, with a Balance Sheet and a Profit and Loss Statement using standard bookkeeping practices.

The bank balance currently stands at \$9019.45, and the total assets at \$9287.54. The profit and loss statement allows us to easily break down the income and expenses from each area. In October, donations from the sittings totaled \$424, those from the classes \$431, and a portion of the contributions for the fall retreat and miscellaneous donations made up the total income of \$1242. The month's expenses of \$685.09 left a comfortable margin. The new system will also give us a year-to-date look as of next year but as we began using it in October it is not available for this year. We should have the figures on the fall retreat at the next meeting, but preliminary information is that its expenses were covered.

The new lease has at last been signed, for 2 years at the current rent and the option to renew for two years. The church retains the right to propose a new rent figure after the 2 years.

Teacher Report

Only one class is currently running, Terry G's Heart Teachings of the Buddha, the Brahma Viharas. Several new classes will start in the new year, the details are posted on the website.

A guest talk and workshop has been planned with John Cunningham of Cleveland Insight Meditation on Jan. 20-21, with a possible report to the 27-28 in case of serious snow. It will include a talk on Friday evening and an all-day workshop on Saturday. We have not received any further info from John but when we do it will be posted on the website.

Space Enhancement Committee

Susan would like to recover the carpet she loaned us. We will ask Joy to suggest replacement options and a budget.

Old Business

The survey Richard K. has organized over the last few months is now complete. Around 30 people have participated. Most people seem to be fairly satisfied with our organisation and offerings. There are no definite indications pointing to needed changes. Some of the comments highlighted the following: There is interest in additional sittings, but finding a common time is difficult. Trial and error seems to be the best way to find out if a time is viable! People are happy with the retreats, but there is also interest in one-day weekend retreats (i.e. Saturdays). Classes also enjoy approval, but again, there is a wish for a wide choice of dates. And most participants expressed satisfaction with the Friday night activities.

Susan will link the survey results to the web site, and include the mention that comments can still be contributed through our email address.

A question that was surveyed was of expanding our presence in the community. The survey showed no clear interest or vision for this, but it gave rise to a discussion at today's meeting. The example of Still Mountain people's engagement with a diversity/outreach effort sparked some brainstorming. There is an ongoing interest in outreach to help the sangha reach a more diverse community but how to do that is unclear. Kristie H goes to Glacier Hills with a mindfulness teaching, reaching out to Miller Manor, Dawn Farms or Lurie Terrace was mentioned. This would depend on teachers being available. More thoughts are welcomed on this.

We discussed the issue raised last month, of making our space available for other groups or other activities. After discussion, we concluded that the room should be reserved for activities either directly related to meditation or other dharma type activities, or for compatible activities or events proposed by sangha members. We have no interest in renting out the room for the monetary aspect and a strong interest in limiting its use to events compatible with our good relations with the church. A priori requests to use the room by other teachers who charge for participation are not acceptable. Requests from sister sanghas or other teachers will be referred to the teachers and the board, who can decide if they are suitable.

New Business: Winter is coming and the side entrance will again become perilous. Now that the church is comfortable with our presence, we will encourage people to use the parking lot entrance, especially for night classes and events. Susan will amend the website to reflect this.

Phil brought up a problem with the bike rack. He was able to furnish a used rack but it is no longer in good condition. There has been a fair amount of use of the rack and it would be appropriate to get a good one now. He was asked to research the options and submit a proposal to the board.

Adjournment: 1:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, Janet C.