

Insight Meditation Ann Arbor
Community Meeting
Minutes
January 8, 2017

Brief Meditation

Call to Order 11:45

Board/Treasurer's Report:

Nothing out of the ordinary to report. The offerings of the Sangha are comfortably covered by member contributions, which totaled \$659.00 for December. Monthly expenses were minimal, at \$505.60. leaving a balance that adds to the safety cushion, currently at \$9, 573.78.

Susan mentioned the weekend workshop offered by John Cunningham from Cleveland, and it was agreed that we would offer him an honorarium of \$750.00.

The new Board will meet in the week of Jan. 8 to 15.

Teacher Report

Dawn Lemon will be leaving the teacher circle. We are grateful to have had her with us.

Space Enhancement Committee

The new bookcase has arrived and will be set up soon. We have not heard back from Joy on replacing the rug. It is agreed that Susan shall simply take the rug back, and we will see if anyone offers a suitable one, and still check in with Joy when she is available.

Old Business

Audio enhancement: Shawn will continue to research options, and we will invite members to talk with him after the sittings for a few weeks, to get a sense of what the needs are.

Morning sittings: Jacqui says that things are going well for her Friday 7 am sitting, no need to ask for a modification. Shawn will offer one more 6 am sitting on Monday mornings, but not continue until further notice as his work situation may change.

Libby and Sister Pine have met for a few 6:30 am sittings on Thursday mornings. Susan requests that any new initiative for use of the space be communicated to the teacher circle first, as part of their role is overseeing space usage. It is part of our agreement to let the church know when we will be there.

Inclusion of members with varying political or social identifications: the Sangha has a concern that a prevailing “liberal” leaning (“this is Ann Arbor”) can feel exclusive to practitioners who don't share it, as it can be to the church members. Susan and Andy, the pastor, have been thinking of ways to be sure that everyone feels included in our respective communities. Eric suggests a simple preface to the sharing invitation, requesting that the sharers refrain from any political commentary, or a statement of acceptance, that no assumptions be made that everyone shares a particular point of view.

New Business

Shawn brought up another assumption - our longstanding practice of removing our shoes can be destabilizing for certain people, as with a guest he brought. We clarified that, while it is standard practice in most spaces of Eastern philosophies, and certainly helpful for maintaining cleanliness, if an individual needs to keep their shoes on for whatever reason this is not a problem.

The wheelchair ramp has been out of order, and it's not sure how soon it can be repaired. We will be notified as soon as it is again available.

Adjournment 12:25

Respectfully submitted,

Janet C.