

Insight Meditation Ann Arbor  
Community Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2017

**Brief Meditation**

**Call to Order**

**Board/Treasurer's Report:** Several people have offered to join the Board. New members are Evelyn, Jeremy, and Christine, who has been serving as accountant and will take on the role of treasurer. Phil will replace Shawn until the expiration of his term.

The Board will meet next week. Revision of the bylaws is being considered, notably to reduce the obligation of the monthly community meeting to a quarterly requirement, with the possibility of a more frequent meeting when needs arise. It is hoped this would encourage a wider participation.

The finances continue to cover the needs with a small surplus, which has allowed us to build up a nest egg of a little more than \$10,000. Considering that we currently enjoy a very reasonable rent, and that that will probably not always be the case, we are thankful to know that we will have the means to transition when the time comes.

**Teacher Report**

Classes are progressing well. Ann reports that it is a real joy for the teachers. Lou mentions the development of a new mentoring program. After the fundamentals class, practitioners can request a mentor, who will check in with them once a week to encourage daily practice. This has been very fruitful. We are still working on the new formula of a 3 week fundamentals class followed by a longer series.

**Space Enhancement Committee**

The team which has been doing the cleaning is still enjoying it. Linda has expressed interest in joining them.

**Old Business**

Terry is in charge of finding the person with the skills to update the website. Susan is retiring as administrator and met with the board and teachers last month to give them a task list of what she's done so they can make a smooth transition.

## **New Business**

Sheryl presented her research on volunteer opportunities and a resource sheet, based on the United Way website, which offers a calendar as well as a lot of useful information. Sheryl will also give us a more complete write-up of the opportunities she sees. Susan C. also shared details of her involvement in volunteer work, notably with Jewish Family Services, which helps to welcome and establish refugee families. She is currently offering an arts and crafts course for refugee families, and is in need of art supplies, yarn and knitting needles, and sewing machines and material.

Susan proposes to head up a food drive for the JFS. Another popular idea is to collect items needed to establish a family in an apartment, but many of us are already pretty booked.

Ann mentions the weekly newsletter at the Friends' Meeting, which highlights volunteer needs and the sanctuary question. It is decided to begin to include a moment after the regular sharing on Sundays, for members to share something about their own volunteer involvement. Some thought is needed to define the format.

Sheryl is interested in the idea of sponsoring a family and helping them get set up in an apartment. This can be a fruitful way of sharing our practice- if a small number of people come together around one family, each can provide help from their own area of knowledge. Another person is needed to help with this organization.

We also discussed the idea of having a Friday night presentation, perhaps from JFS, or from other volunteer organizers. The question of sharing some of our savings to support these causes was also on the table, as it had been brought up by Susan W. and other people. It is felt that, as this dana is given to support the sangha, it should remain dedicated to that purpose. At one point, it was felt that a sangha should not amass funds beyond its immediate needs. However, the realities of life in a commercialized society mean that having a reserve is essential to the survival of any nonprofit organization, and as mentioned above, there will likely be a day when that reserve will be called upon. It is proposed, though, to set up a second basket for those who wish to support the service begin offered as outreach.

## **Adjournment**