

Sky Creek Dharma Center



Three Oaks Court ♦ Chico CA 95973 ♦

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sky Creek Dharma Center

January 30, 2007

5:30 – 7:00 PM at Sky Creek Dharma Center

Board Members Present:

Jasper Lerch, President

Ann Ponzio, Co-Secretary

Kirsten Boyd, Co-Secretary

Bob Egert

Lakshmi Ariaratnam

Joanne Hamilton

Others Present:

Catherine Brown

Stephen Burgess “Rocky”

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 5:19pm.

Minutes for January 9th, 10th, and 16th were approved with a minor name correction to be made in the minutes of the 10th.

Executive Director's Report:

Bob spoke with Amos about transferring the upkeep of the Dharma Center's website from Amos to himself. Amos does not have a very good internet connection to keep up with the maintenance of the site for the time being, but if Bob did take over the upkeep of the site, its layout would have to be re-designed. It is remaining under Amos' care for now.

Amos is still moving the last of his belongings out of the Center. He will not interrupt any activities in order to do so. The Board of Directors should offer him some compensation for his bookshelves, as they are the perfect size and shape for housing the books in the Center's library.

Executive Committee's Report:

In order to provide more "wall space" for the upcoming John Travis retreat, Kirsten priced thick, solid colored draperies and curtain rods to cover the stationary window in the meditation hall. Jasper and Kirsten volunteered to make sure the curtains are up in time for the retreat.

Treasurer's Report:

Nothing to report.

Continuing Business:

1.

2. Advertising Rooms for Rent

Ann has put an add in the *Enterprise Record* to advertise the 470 sq. ft. bedroom with its big closet as well as the 830 sq. ft. total for the three back bedrooms and two baths for rent. She has also posted flyers on bulletin boards outside of Chico Natural Foods and S&S, and she also posted an add on Craig's List. The aim is to attract businesses to rent out the spare rooms in the Dharma Center.

3. Pledges and the Website

The topic of pledges was discussed. Bob explained that the website has very few regular pledge members, but currently, not all have pledged for the month of January yet. Some discussion of whether the Board should send a notification email to remind those who have not pledged yet for the month ensued. It was decided that all email notifications and reminders to pledge will be postponed unless Bob is asked otherwise.

Bob will also be in charge of maintaining the calendar on the website as well as posting minutes on the website for all to see as well. Amos will still be in charge of the main layout of the website. Bob, Ann, and Kirsten will get together to strategize how to send minutes and treasurer's reports out via email to anyone interested.

The idea of posting a bulletin board in the Dharma Center with all finances/reports was re-mentioned again from a prior meeting by Joanne.

At this time, minutes from the January 9th, 10th, and 16th were motioned to be approved. Motion made by Ann; Seconded by Bob; In favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 for the 9th and 10th minutes only.

4. The NVC School

The coordinators for the NVC School, Linda and Cindy, are going to meet with them the first Saturday in March (March 1st). It will be a Saturday brunch to inform and make a decision concerning the NVC School at the Dharma Center. All are welcome to attend. Jasper will draft a letter to send out via email announcing this meeting to be open for anyone who is curious to learn more about the NVC and how it has to do with the Dharma Center.

5. Rental Rates for Events

Rates for the meditation hall and kitchen were discussed but not officially motioned for approval. The rates are:

Meditation Hall and Kitchen All-Day Rate: \$75-125
Half-Day Rate: \$40
Weekend Rate: \$100-200

These rates apply to non-Dharma based groups. The rates still need to be posted on the website.

Bob suggested that Jessica become an Executive Coordinator of events held at the Dharma center. With her permission, she would be in charge of keeping a tally of all details regarding events (i.e. the number of people attended, money received, etc.).

6. End of the Year-Long Lease at the Center

The Board discussed the end of the year-long lease at Three Oaks Ct. coming up in March. The options before the Board are:

- Buy the house and property currently being rented
- Renegotiate the lease with Georgie
- Arranging a month to month lease with Georgie
- Re-locating the Center somewhere else
- Closing the Center for good

All board members were encouraged to think about ideas for which decision the Board should make.

7. All Sangha's Weekly Sit

Sunday, February 24th will be the first weekly All-Sangha Sit. It will begin at 10:00am and end at 11:30am, approximately. The room will be catered to sitting, walking, and wall styles of meditation. There will be a half an hour of sitting, then time for a short Dharma talk, then refreshments and visiting in the kitchen to conclude the Sit.

The board discussed the idea of a different facilitator from each group rotating weekly to instruct the Sit each Sunday. Rocky reported to the Board that he will be back from his retreat in mid-April, and he is willing to lead short Dharma talks centering around the similar concepts that Zen, Vapassnaa, and Shambala all share. Joanne will draft an email letter announcing it to everyone, and Bob agreed to send it out to our extended sangha community.

8. Kirsten will follow up with Amos about his status as Executive Director, his business insurance for the center and how much it costs as well as the narration for the Center's Tax-Exempt Status. Ann will contact North Valley Community Foundation to get information about Tax-Exempt Status for NPO's as well.

New Business:

1. Dharma Talks by Lobsang Samten Throughout February

Catherine Brown, a guest residing at the Dharma Center for the Lobsang Samten's sand mandala during the month of February, informed the Board of Lobsang Samten's desire to hold three talks at the Dharma Center during the month of February. The dates for the talks and topics to be discussed were proposed by Catherine as follows:

1. Sunday, February 3, 2008 at 7:00pm- Medicine Buddha Healing
2. Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 7:00pm- Kalachakra Teachings
3. Saturday, February 23, 2008 at 7:00pm- The Meanings of Om Mani Padme Hum

Motion: The Board of Directors will sponsor the three events proposed by Lobsang Samten to take place at the Dharma Center on the dates provided by Catherine. All publicity for the events is permitted via word of mouth, flyers and any website. A \$10 recommended donation will be requested at the door to benefit Lobsang Samten and the Dharma Center. Motioned by Joanne; Seconded by Bob; Aye: all; Nay: 0; Abstain: 0.

Bob was designated the official go-between for the Board and Catherine in order to assist her in any way necessary to make the hosting of the Lobsang events a success.

2. Hot Water Problems

Dana from Dana's Plumbing came to the Center and examined the water pipes for potential cold water leaks into the hot water line. There is a good chance that that is happening. The Board could hire Dana to come out again and diagnose why it is taking so long to get hot water running to the house, or it was also suggested that the Board ask Georgie if she would be willing to pay for Dana.

3. Propane

A \$900 propane bill was sent to the Dharma Center. The Board will investigate who's name the propane is in so that it can be transferred into the Dharma Center's title and paid.

4. Secretary

Kirsten Boyd became the official secretary for the Board. Motion made by Ann; Seconded by Lakshmi; All in favor; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2008 from 5:30-7:00 at Sky Creek Dharma Center

Jasper had to leave the meeting early. It was turned over to be led to its conclusion by Ann. Meeting adjourned by Bob Egert at 7:05 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by-
Kirsten Boyd
Secretary to the Board