



Sky Creek Dharma Center

Three Oaks Court ♦ Chico CA 95973 ♦ 530.893.8088

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sky Creek Dharma Center

December 7, 2008

1:30-3:30 PM at Sky Creek Dharma Center

Board Members Present

Jasper Lerch, President
Kirsten Boyd, Secretary
Jessica MacKenzie, Treasurer
Bob Egert
Lakshmi Ariaratnam

Others Present

Ann Ponzio
Brittany Whitman-Hall
Ellan Evans
Chris Perskey
Marian Baldy

Proceedings:

*Meeting called to order at 1:30pm by Jasper Lerch.
Review of minutes for November 25, 2008.*

Motion: to move the proposed minutes of September 11th and November 25th into corporate records as final minutes. *Motion to approve by Lakshmi; Seconded by Jessica; Aye: all; Nay: 0; Abstain: 0.*

Agenda:

Presidents Report:

Jasper reported good things about the Dharma Center Organization. That even though when Amos left there was not much of an organization left, the Board came together to fill in for it's loss. Bob has taken over the website, and other projects are taken on as they are needed.

Treasurer's Report:

Jessica reported that last November, our NPO started out owing debts but that over the span of this year, we have paid them off and are now barely making it. At least we are not predictably in the negative numbers each month. Her wish was that by next year we will be discussing the programs implemented over the period of this upcoming year that will have brought us greater financial success. Jessica also reported that Georgie gave her a \$500 credit off rent to take care of the hot tub. She broke a hole into it so that the collecting water inside it will drain out.

Election of Officers:

Nomination: to nominate Jamie Halloman to the Board of Directors before the time for nominations officially closed. *Nominated by Jasper; Seconded by Lakshmi; Aye: all; Nay: 0; Abstain: 0.*

Motion: to accept the official slate of ballots to the minutes and close all elections. *Motion to approve by Jessica; Seconded by Jasper; Aye: all; Nay: 0; Abstain: 0.*

Calendar of Board Meetings:

Meetings of the board shall match the monthly dates of the Half-Day Sittings that have been taking place over the last year. The meetings shall be at 1:30pm, following the potluck of the Half-Day Sittings. It was suggested by Bob that a designated amount of time be given to the discussion of each topic per agenda item.

Meetings shall be held on the following dates:

Jan 17 th	Jul 20 th
Feb 28 th	Aug 29 th
Mar 28 th	Sept 26 th
Apr 25 th	Oct 24 th
May 23 rd	Nov 28 th
Jun 27 th	Dec 19 th

Current Committees:

Executive Committee- may consist of two or more directors
Marian nominated Jessica and Jasper and Bob to the Executive Committee; Seconded by Lakshmi; Aye: all; Nay: 0; Abstain: 0.

Budget and Finance Committee

Jessica
Bob

Communications/Technology Committee

Bob
Brittany
Ann

Site Operations and Maintenance Committee

Ellan
Marian

Lakshmi
Jasper

Corporate Documents

Ann
Kirsten

Event Planning, Promotions and Fundraising Committee

Jessica
Brittany
Chris
Marian
Kirsten

Committees are to have prepared a report of the month's proceedings at every monthly meeting.

30-Day Action Items for Committees and Board:

This topic is where suggestions for action items that can be taken care of within the following month are discussed. Two items were suggested:

1. That Thank You notes be sent out within 60 days to appropriate recipients.
2. That a list of contacts be created to help aid Ellen with any need she may have.
3. Tracy suggested sending a student out to evaluate green and sustainable ways to make the Dharma Center more energy efficient and earth-friendly.

Tax Exempt Status Update:

Lakshmi informed the board that she volunteered to fill out the form for tax-exempt status with Jessica's help. It will cost about \$700 to file. The paperwork needs attachments that take a bit of time to compile, and also the Narrative that Amos was working on is going to take some careful wording as to how the Dharma Center is similar to but different than a singular denomination religious entity. The financials and narrative of how we operate are the only missing pieces to our tax-exempt puzzle.

New Business:

Resident Caretaker's Report:

Ellen reported that her family visited and helped her mount the bulletin board to the wall. Her brother took the debris off the room and wants to donate more of his time to help fix the fence and assist with anything electronic that malfunctions. She found a leaf blower in the garage and has been using that to keep the place leaf-free. She will put up a current list of supplies the Center needs (ie toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, tea, etc.) onto the bulletin board. Ellen re-recorded the phone message and is checking for messages that have been left two times daily.

Fiscal Year:

Jessica informed the Board that our fiscal year is July 1st-June 30th of each year.

Amos' Belongings:

The Board agreed to send Amos' list of belongings to all the sangha's tagged with a request for donations and/or the purchasing of items then donating them back to the center. We will tally the numbers and report at the next meeting.

Board Members Goals to Achieve Within the Next Year:

Bob and Kirsten want to see communication improved between the sangha's and the Board.

Ann wants a larger donor/pledge base and to have a committee that makes sure all corporate guidelines are being followed.

Brittany wants more promotion within the community and a better utilized website.

Ellen wants an annual maintenance plan created and to also create a native plant garden.

Marian wants to achieve tax exempt status and to work on a "story" that will sell this place (ie. What we have done, and why we need to continue doing what we're doing) She agreed to spearhead that project.

Jessica wants to see an energy retro-fit plan in place and have nothing at the Dharma Center that is essential that does not belong to the center. She also wants to land our first capital donor.

Jasper wants to land our first major capital donor.

Kris wants better marketing.

Lakshmi wants better pledges and the library to be updated and kept current. Lakshmi requested help in typing the library's information up.

Next meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 17th 2009 at 1:30pm.

Meeting adjourned by Jasper Lerch at 6:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by-

Kirsten Boyd
Secretary to the Board