

Zen Fields Annual Meeting of Members March 25, 2023

Board Members Present: Daishin McCabe, Jisho Siebert, Steven Cannon, Minniette Milligan, Jie Shao, Heather Hildreth, Mark Hogen Cluney

Board Members Absent: Keith Knapp

Non-Board Members Present: Jon Jikyo Foote, J. Larson, Navaab Munirih, Kenryu Bins

Call to order at 1:00

The meeting began with a check in of all attendees.

Show the approved budget for 2023

Daishin and Jisho worked with Chris Hicks to prepare a budget workbook that includes income, expenses, and a budget worksheet.

The presented budget includes several new items this year including a future teacher fund and a savings and reserve fund. These are necessary to prepare for future expenses and growth opportunities.

Jikyo asked if there was a line item for a building fund. This is not in the current budget but has been discussed at previous board meetings.

Jikyo raised the question of having an audit. Discussion on whether an internal or external audit is necessary. It was decided that an internal audit with two non-Board members would be a good idea.

Jikyo offered to assist with this audit.

Jikyo raised a question of membership. Currently there is no formal membership. Discussion on ways membership could be formalized occurred and it was decided having a formal membership was indeed a good idea as we are a non-profit that could be asked for a membership list.

Daishin will create a membership page for the website and share it with the Board for feedback.

Fundraising efforts for Ricardo and Sherline

Jisho shared Ricardo's and Sherline's stories and gave updates to their academic endeavors. Ricardo is currently studying IT in France but is considering changing majors and relocating to a school in Canada. Sherline is studying Administration in Haiti.

A committee is being formed to create a transparent process and create criteria for future Haitian student scholarships. Jisho and Heather will serve on this committee and anyone else interested should contact Jisho.

Need for a social media person

Daishin has not received any candidates for this position through the posting at ISU. Heather has not received any response from Drake.

Steven has not found anyone.

Discussion occurred on other ways to reach the community at large including reaching out to ISU, going to public events of other organizations, working with other Zen temples to do a podcast, and utilizing social media to promote the YouTube videos.

The goal is to bring awareness to Zen Fields and to alleviate suffering through our events. Word of mouth is often a good way to bring awareness to our organization.

Daishin is meeting with a colleague to discuss a podcast.

Daishin will contact Sayeed Tokhi to see if he is willing to help us with Facebook events.

Daishin will send Jie links to our YouTube page for feedback.

Share Ethics Statement/Grievance Procedure

Several Board members attended training on writing ethics statements and following grievance procedures in the past year.

Minniette, Heather, Daishin, and Steven worked on this new document and it is now available on the website.

It is important to respond appropriately to any grievance and to have a transparent process.

Share about Ethical Designee

Judy Porter has agreed to be our Ethical Designee per our new Ethics Statement and Grievance Procedure.

Open Forum

Daishin shared that Dokan Kojima and Ejo McMullen will be visiting Zen Fields on June 21st at noon. More information regarding this visit will be shared in the near future.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM