

Board Minutes

August 15, 2004

Attendance

Board: Ephraim Miller, Steve Parker, Julia King Tamang, Lydia Maddux, Peter Wood, Jeff Alworth. For the Membership Committee: Michael Davis, Miriam Hammer. For the Fundraising Committee: Karen Nelson, Adele Hilsen. For the CCLC: Roger Edwards.

1. Shamata and Check in

2. Membership Sunday Proposal (Michael Davis, Miriam Hammer)

Proposal for Pledge Sunday (attached). Conceived of as a time to discuss commitments to KCC; possibly also what committees people are on; what KCC spends its money on. This will be an opportunity to make a case for supporting the general fund; also discuss what other funds are at KCC: Lama Support Fund, Scholarship Fund.

There was a discussion about the volunteering component. This would be mainly directed at new members. Annual sangha meeting is for general recruitment.

Process plan: Mailing to announce the membership event. After the event, a call to those who didn't turn in their pledge cards to learn what is going on. If someone's payments have lapsed, membership committee calls to find out what's happening. Questions about the definition of member are still not fully resolved.

DECISION

Unanimous vote to accept proposal with an amendment to the policy that the Membership Committee include the Volunteer Support Committee in the feedback loop for the event.

3. Proposal from Dev Com (Karen Nelson and Adele Hilsen)

Dev Com checked in to confirm board will be putting KCC in wills. (They are.) Donor cultivation query—how is the board doing, do members need support? Julia asked for “marching orders” (specific direction). Karen asked that the board appoint a member to track boards individual efforts in donor cultivation. Board agreed to do this.

ACTION: Board will discuss this at September meeting.

4. Waiver of Liability discussion (Roger Edwards)

Roger wanted to discuss the use of volunteer waivers of liability. He sent three version of the waiver in preparation for the meeting. Version 1 had language including “employees” in addition to “volunteers.” Second version included language that reflects a different kind of relationship between volunteers and KCC.

Version two rationale. Most lawyer-drafted waivers are antagonistic to the person waiving their rights. Roger raised the question: are we renting cars from Avis, or are we volunteering for the dharma? His suggestion is to take the advice from the lawyer, but then make individual decisions about what's right for KCC. A principle Roger incorporates when creating his own documents is to reflect the two-way street nature of the relationship.

There is a downside to this approach. Legal issues play out on a legal playing field by legal rules. If KCC is sued, the intent of whatever document we create can be challenged. If we go to a lawyer with new language and she says we're not covered, what will we do next?

ACTION: Roger will send an email clarifying principles and Peter will incorporate that into a document that the board will later consider.

5. **Presidential Succession**

In an effort to ensure that this board considers carefully who will replace Julia as president, the board will plan to meet before the next board meeting for the express purpose of pushing this question around. The board feels it's critical to have Michael attend this meeting.

ACTION: Julia will send out an email with dates and coordinate the date for this meeting.*

*Venerable Bokar Rinpoche unexpectedly passed away on August 16 near Mirik, India. In subsequent discussions, the board decided to postpone this discussion until after the 49-day period of practice, mourning, and celebration.