

Board Minutes

April 23, 2006

Shamata

Attending: Jeff Alworth, Sally Alworth, Anthony Kimple, Ephraim Miller, Steve Parker, Kathleen Benz, Mary Woods (today's note taker)

Short check-in from yesterday's meeting of CCLC, PC, Devcom, the board and Design review board where we looked at how we communicate with each other.

Members shared their thoughts regarding Saturday, various opinions expressed but no outright negative things were said. It was suggested that this type of gathering be repeated at a later date. A more social gathering of this group and/or just the board might be considered as well. It was also proposed that a meeting like the one on Saturday could be helpful to others on committees at KCC. No action was taken on setting a date for a future meeting.

Urban center update:

Anthony K., Steve P. and Jim K. have been looking at the urban center piece and what conditions would need be present to acquire a new one. They also considered the question of whether the original Phase I plan would be followed, or if priorities have shifted enough to alter this.

-They have focused on what the circumstances need to be for a change in priorities toward acquiring a new urban center. They acknowledge that this would involve key players (Lama, CCLC, PC, consultant, etc) in facilitating any such shift from original Phase I thinking. The following is a compilation of various members' thoughts, both the subcommittee and other board members.

-One goal has been to minimize the impact on the retreat land project (it was asked if that were even possible).

-Questions of willingness to incur debt will need to be raised as well as reviewing what funds are present now or likely to be available in the future to accomplish this.

-Changes in our program at KCC will also occur as Michael's time is needed more for preparations for long retreats and could potentially affect membership at least in the short run. It was also stated that a change in focus now could affect giving towards the retreat land (will the sangha lose steam for supporting SCOL?). Some have voiced a belief that in the end most of the financial support for these projects will come from the sangha and this has yet to be disproved.

-Jeff said that Roger has taken over the Urban Center portfolio for the CCLC so at some point he will have input too.

-Kathleen asked Sally to look at some of these issues now in light of her strategic planning experience. She had not been approached with this before so she shared some thinking that had arisen at this time in regards to visioning:

- a board's role is to set priorities; this helps to facilitate creating a timeline for projects to progress along.
- until we do officially move away from SCOL as a priority, we should not spend energy on looking at this (the urban center piece).
- considerations would include stream of revenue, teaching resources, effect on SCOL, and effects from altering Phase I.

-The PC is looking at the teaching aspect, and various ideas might be tried over a period of time in the future to see how it affects the sangha. No details for this now.

-The question "Can we finance it?" needs to be asked and explored before resources are spent toward this. We should prove/disprove that we have the money or potential to acquire needed funds. If we answer these questions we will know whether acquiring a new urban center is feasible at this time.

- Kathleen pointed out that we have yet to have the summit meeting with PC and CCLC where these questions can be asked. Their input will be crucial in any decisions made. The need to clarify our direction in regards to Phase I is becoming critical. Other committees like Finance and Membership will need to take part in this discussion as well. For now, Roger as a CCLC member will be keeping track of these issues on a long term basis, so he will offer insight from that perspective.

-The Board can/will ask the CCLC to look at Phase I and clarify it, and see if/how it has changed from the starting point. While the board is responsible for

setting priorities, it is their wish that those with purview keep it for given activities. ***Jeff will bring this to the CCLC so they can look at these issues. *Sally will compile a draft of a “conditions list” regarding Phase II (new urban center).**

- Follow up with the board subcommittee that has recently looked at the above questions regarding Phase I showed that they had some doubt as to whether it was time well spent, since now another person is working on the same things.

FYI: Great Vow has been looking at the nearby church property that is for sale. This raises some possibilities and questions:

- If they do not need the space/time they rent at Dharma Rain, it frees it up for another dharma group.
- Would we ever consider “going in” on a property with another group?

Wheelchair Ramp:

-Questions centered on feasibility, liability/insurance issues, and structure alterations needed. Also wondered if we would need to make the bathroom wheelchair-accessible.

-It was asked if getting some type of lift would be a safe way to fulfill the need for handicapped access.

***This question will go back to Bob Harr.**

VSC update:

After the coordinating council meeting earlier this month, feedback showed that there was a wish by many to do this on a more regular basis. After reviewing this feedback, this plan was formulated:

- A meeting of this type will occur 3 times a year on the second Sunday and will be a part of the general Sangha monthly meeting (April, Aug. and Dec.).**
- The VSC will ask that each committee send at least one member to represent them and to field questions relating to their committee.**
- It was emphasized that this will not replace the monthly meeting, but is just an opportunity for all committees to give/receive input.**

-All sangha will be welcomed and encouraged to attend.

The board approved this activity.

Finance report from 1st Quarter 2006

A full report was given to all attending. It was noted that as the retreat land has been developed more and permits taken out, the SCOL property is now assessed at a higher level and so the taxes have gone up. We need to be aware that this increase will continue as we keep developing the land. Once programs have begun at SCOL, becoming tax exempt will be pursued. Until that time it seems prudent politically and just as “good neighbors” to just pay the taxes. A spike in the heating bill there was attributed to the need to dry out the kitchen building before the Leadership weekend.

Some concerns were raised about the cost of the design piece at SCOL. There is now a design review board consisting of Byron, Bill S., Steve P. and John D. which will create a better opportunity to look at these things.

Visioning:

Many, if not all, of these things came up in our earlier discussion:

- How to address issues regarding changes at KCC?
- Figuring out priorities
- Changes in program and who will teach
- Use of resources in all areas
- Change in the culture at KCC, how we view ourselves
- Need to ask where we want to be in the future and what is that time frame.
- Need to keep a “Big View”
- Acknowledging our Kagyu/Shangpa lineage and how we relate to that model

***Proposed:** Make an effort to spend up to one hour at each Board meeting to look at these issues in the effort to come to a consensus.

Sally will begin work on this, and may be ready to present ideas in June.

Dedication of merit.