Minutes
Board Meeting
Albuquerque Vipassana Sangha
October 18, 2015

The board meeting was held at the AVC.

Board members present: Wesley Morton, Tam Saimons, Alison Owens, Fred Herman, Betsy van Leit, Tiska Blankenship, Ken Munoz, and Sivakumar Challa.
Other members present: Mark Pugsley and Anne Arkin.

Ken opened the meeting at 1:00 pm by initiating a brief sitting meditation.

Ken invited comments on the draft agenda (Draft_Agenda). Reports from Education Committee and Finance Committee moved to main agenda. Tiska made a motion to approve the (amended) agenda; Betsy seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Ken opened a discussion on the draft minutes of August 2015 board meeting. Tam made a motion to approve the draft minutes; Alison seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

**Elect Officers**
Ken welcomed the new and re-elected board members, Alison, Wesley, and Fred; he also announced that new officers needed to be elected by the board members for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. A discussion on the by-laws on, and responsibilities of, these positions took place. Betsy, Ken, and Sivakumar volunteered for the positions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary; Ken made a proposal to elect these three officers and the board approved it unanimously. The board decided to continue with the existing treasurer, Sarah Schwartz, until an able replacement was found, with informal discussions to carry on outside the board meeting.

**Report on September 2015 annual membership meeting**
Ken reported on the annual membership --the attendance, voting, and elections of board members.

**Consent Agenda**
Reports received from the Communications, Education, and Finance (October 18 2015 ComCom Board Mtg Report, Education committee report, Finance Committee Report 2015-10) committees. Fred made a comment for the communications committee about the usefulness of the weekly email of Sangha News when it is sent out early in the week. Sivakumar made a motion to approve the report on consent agenda; Betsy seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

**Standing Committee Reports**
* Bhavana Dana Presenters *** Betsy informed that a joint update would be provided later under a related topic in “Other and New Business”.

* Home of Our Own Tam gave an update. Proposal received (HOOO Budget proposal). After a brief discussion the board unanimously approved the proposal. Tam also voiced issues on the decision-making process at the committee level and support from the board leadership towards that process.
Retreat & Residency  Anne updated. The retreat by Susie Harrington was reported to be a success in terms of attendance, arrangements, and financial viability. Residencies being planned for next year were discussed, about 5 retreats and residencies: residencies of Annie Nugent, Brian Lesage, Daeja Napier, and Erin Treat, and one low cost retreat. Anne is planning for future events in coordination with Santa Fe sangha, with an awareness of the mission, values, needs, and budget of AVS. The committee requested for more volunteers for events and is looking into different approaches to find suitable people.

Other and New Business

Authorize officers to sign checks 2015  The topic was deferred until a treasurer was appointed and the current set of authorized officers remains unchanged.

2016 board and annual membership meeting schedules  Ken updated. Report received (Proposed dates for 2016 meetings). The dates were approved for all the meetings.

2016 budget process  The board decided to defer this topic until an update was received from the treasurer, Sarah Schwartz.

Review 2015 annual gifts  The board decided to defer this topic until an update was received from the treasurer, Sarah Schwartz.

Review of Joint meeting – BDP, Education, R&R  Betsy updated. Report received (BDP education R&R minutes sept 28 2015) on the meeting between the three committees: BDP, Education, and Retreat and Residency committee. A discussion followed on various relevant issues: ability of sangha members to offer teachings, on balancing the focus between nurturing the BDP team and utilizing outside teachers, on following a theme for dharma talks in the absence of a core curriculum, and on coordination between the three committees. The joint meeting group intends to continue their discussion after input from its members and update the board in due course. Wesley volunteered to conduct a survey of sangha members for topics that members would like to hear upon from the BDP during regular practice events.

There being no further business, Ken initiated a sitting meditation prior to adjourning the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by

Sivakumar Challa
Secretary