

DCC Board Meeting Tuesday, April 5th, 2022 1:00 pm

Present: Christine, Karen, Robin, Cheryl, David , Mark, Nick.
Ex Officio as Treasurer: Monique,
Guest: Steven

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Cheryl, seconded Christine

President's Report: Christine

Update Ukraine:

Kim Sawyer is fundraising with friend in Romania, so far collected \$3000 in short time

Christine reports all committees are up and running well

Cheryl will wait to be "point person" for NooN with Christine as mentor.

Facebook page for DCC is open. Nick has been curating posts.
Thus far Nick and Sharon Tashi have been doing the marketing and looking forward for help from NooN.

We need a discussion re solo retreats; experienced meditators are welcome, but others need to be screened.

We need to email Core Teachers regarding spiritual guidance for solo retreatants. Perhaps create a format for Core Teachers to discuss how to oversee solo retreatants.

Karen reports that Tarchin is very happy to see the development of Core Teachers

Discussion of the use of Sutra Page to help with online retreats.

Christine says we will not take on solo retreatants until DCC is more fully staffed.

Monique gave Treasurer's Report: see Monique's detailed report...

Monique cannot make Motions as she is not a Board Member, so Cheryl made these motions:

Cheryl : Motion to hire Greg Evans Professional Corporation to perform a review engagement of the DCC finances for 2021, provide financial statements and complete the Registered Charity Income Return for 2021.
Seconded by Christine. All in favour

Cheryl :Motion to transfer 7,000 from deferred contributions for Uplifted Property fund to revenue from donations for the Uplifted Property fund as a year end adjustment to 2021 to cover a portion of the cost of the tent.
Seconded Christine
All in favour

Monique said we need a water softener for Main House.
It is very important to protect the new dish washer, protect our investments.

Programming Report Karen

Jane is unable to cook for Terry and Mala's May retreat. They will approach Usha.

July 1 to 5 David will be Teaching with Achi Tsepel (translator to 16th Karmapa)
(They will need a cook)

Lama Lodro would prefer to come to the DCC from March to June, 2023.
He will be a Resident Teacher and will supervise Solo retreatants.
We need to do good marketing for Lama Lodro because last time very few people showed up and he has a large following.

Derek will be teaching next year Feb18- March 12.

Kim Sawyer would like to teach a graduated approach for the Practice of the 6 Yogas of Naropa. There will be preliminary work first, to qualify, possibly a Holistic Clearing course before the 6 Yogas.

Monique stresses that staff need days off between retreats, therefore not to program retreats too close together.

*****Christine** brought up a very important point regarding the scheduling of teachers: Some teachers who are NOT Core Teachers are teaching more than once, whereas many of our Core Teachers are not included even once, in the schedule!

Someone ? asked the question..” what is the minimum number of people registered for a retreat/ course, in order to run it?
Someone ? said before the number was 5, but we may need to rethink this.

Nick said he needs to have a “ Living Document” in order to do the website marketing.

HRC Report Steven

NooN will be arriving at the DC on April 22

SJ plans to be there at that time for several days , which is also the Music retreat weekend.

SJ will spend several days training her at that time.

We are in process of interviewing potential Cooks and Property Manager.

Len R. Is at the DC for rest of the summer, so that will be very helpful.

Robin said she is currently looking for a housekeeper/ cleaner.

Dharma Centre Renewal Committee Report David

David reported they had their first meeting.

They agreed on their ToR - decide not to have subcommittees

The areas of focus are

- 1) Renewing the Temple— discussed the engineers etc.
- 2) Cabin at Hermitage - Robin lead person on that
- 3) Fundraising - Monique and David

Question re option New Building? David decided to speak to Lama Mark directly for clarification since on the previous Board it was mainly his students who pushed strongly for a new building and to not renew the current Temple. So David wished to discuss with him directly. Lama Mark told David on the call that he has been in favour of renewing the Temple from the beginning of the discussion two years ago when he and David spoke about placing Len’s cabin at the Hermitage. On the call he recommended against building a new building to avoid dividing the funding and the David asked Lama Mark if he could please

convey his preferences to his students since the three pronged plan of cabin at Hermitage, renewal of current Temple and building of a new building was a compromise designed to bring harmony to the Sangha.

David recommended to the Board that we change the order of the projects. Get the cabin up at Hermitage so that there would be an alternate teaching space during Temple renewal. Then renew the Temple. Then we would assess what our greatest need for a building would be whether additional teaching space, residential space, office, etc and plan accordingly.

David said we should give people the option to get the unspent portion of their donations back, now that the Renewal Committee has changed its priorities and timing. We have already returned the unspent portion of Travis's donation and several donors told David they do not want their donations returned.

Monique *said legally we cannot return donations./*

David *said we have no obligation to return funds but if there are some people who insist they want it back we will negotiate with them and as with Travis, we can find a way to do it.*

Fundraising David

Fundraising consultant, Richard Thompson suggested that we expand our third corporate objective on charitable works to qualify for more kinds of grants and support.

The Board has already approved the additional objectives and they need to be ratified at our next AGM. These will then be posted with the DCC information on Corporations Canada.

DAVID *moved the following motion*

Motion : *David moves that the Board initiate a 3 year contract to have access to the GrantAdvance list of donors to support our fundraising efforts. The contract can be initiated once we have clarity about the number of allowed users.*

Seconded by Mark. All in favour.

Property Report Robin

Hill House needs new roof first.
The *first* quote is \$12,500. Warranty 20 years ?
Roofer's name ?

Foundation work **Main House** \$13,000 est.
Needs new eavestroughing
Gaps need to be rodent proofed

Hermitage Site for new building
We have a permit that was for another building.
Could we use old permit, or do we need a new permit?
There is an old foundation there already.

Recess

Part 2 Wednesday, April 6th 8:00pm

Policy

Christine : We need to clarify, to be up to date with policies
The HRC must become fully cognizant of the DCC policies.
Christine recommends that everyone read the Employee Handbook and policies:
conflict of interest, clear communication.

David: *we want our policies to be in accord with the 5 Precepts and the 6 Paramis.*

Christine: Previously there was a **no-dog-policy**, as a result of incidents of dogs fighting with each other and harassing retreatants.
Also some people attending courses at the DC had severe dog allergies.

We have made exceptions for Lama Mark, Len and Robin.
We need to review the pet policy.

Christine Robin Mark and Karen *will meet to discuss and recommend an amended policy to the Board..*

Board Member Privileges at the DCC

Christine would like David Monique or Nick to discuss this. Monique said for the whole time she has been on the Board, for the last 4 years, a Board Member receives 1 free week rent for retreats at the DCC, plus \$25 per day for food. However when they go to the DCC to work, they receive free rent, They would pay \$25 for food per day.

Rental of Galaxy Cabin for a year-long retreat:

The current and previous Boards were not fully informed about this unprecedented request.

In the discussion members of the previous Board said the procedures of the Dharma Centre were followed at the time and the Board members involved in retreats welcomed the booking as supportive of the Dharma Centre. Others said that for years we have sought to have long term retreatants at Galaxy Cabin because they could be there while other retreats were going on. The discussion also made clear the popularity of the remote cabins to some of our members for short term retreats.

David suggested that we should not to rent out Orion for a long term retreat while Galaxy is occupied until we agree on a policy. He also suggested we build another small cabin or two as soon as we can afford it. One possible site is in the area that was logged a few years ago on the left side of the road to Hermitage.

Another Board member said that it is the BoD of the DCC who are responsible for the oversight of running the DC and the Board should be kept informed of major decisions.

A full discussion was had and it was decided to go ahead and allow Hagop to rent the Galaxy Cabin from May until the end of 2022.

The Motion was moved by Mark and seconded by David, 1 abstention, Motion carried.

Motion moved by **David**:

1). A subcommittee be formed to clarify the parameters of booking retreat cabins

2) any extra-ordinary requests be brought to the Board for full discussion and a vote to approve or not.

Seconded by Mark. All in favour.

Tent

Robin asked how we put up the tent?

Monique said there is a video which she has in her possession, explains how to do it.

It is easily done, all we need are 4 people with muscle to do it.

Robin asked when should it go up?

Monique said when it's warm enough, however it is not bug proof and would need extra screening. Terry and Mala like to teach outside so they will enjoy using the tent.

Rapid Testing for Covid Robin

People arriving at the Centre should take a Rapid Covid test before.

This should be made clear to everyone, and probably added to the website.

The DCC should have a supply of Rapid tests in stock.

Cheryl said she would speak to Peterborough Public Health about getting 100 Rapid tests for the DCC.

There is a Covid Questionnaire on the DCC website.

Raising Accommodation Rates

Robin said we we need to review the accommodation rates in the near future.

New Business

Also Robin reported that Len will stay at the DCC all summer.

A Zoom to be arranged to interview a potential cook in England.

Robin deposited a cheque for approval \$81,900 into savings account at Kinmount bank.

Date of next AGM, **Sunday May 29, 1:00 pm**

Date of next Board Meeting is **Monday May 2, 1:00 pm**