

Community Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2026

Present (in person in gonpa): Efrem Marder, Bodhi Krause, Mark Alston-Follansbee, Helena Bankovic, Dominik Niceva.

Present online: gakyil members Gerard Miller and Ellen Halbert, Paula Barry, Gerry Steinberg, Martha Tack, Larry Howe, Emily Luhrs, David Leskowitz, Vern Harrington, Lauri Marder, Marsha Ellison.

Guru Yoga

Agenda

- 1) The previously reported 2026 deficit was traced to an accounting error (mixed cash/accrual categories) and an underestimate of membership income. Corrected figures show a \$1,055 surplus for the prior period and a projected \$3,261 surplus for 2026. The revised budget was approved by verbal vote of all present.
- 2) Reserves, savings, and frozen funds total \$134,886.48 as of May 16, 2026, with all major bills paid. Of this, \$8,793.37 remains frozen pending the fraud investigation (BOA #5490 and #2138), leaving \$126,093.11 available across operating and savings accounts. A CD worth about \$18,000 was cashed in 2025 which leave us without safety cushion other than that reserve funds (\$80K) The schoolhouse mortgage (\$12,623 remaining at \$825/month) is on track to be paid off by early 2027, which will free \$9,900/year permanently.
- 3) Largest annual expenses are insurance (~\$39,000, negotiated down 10% from 2025), property maintenance & repairs (\$36,000 + \$15,000), utilities (~\$23,000), Schoolhouse propane (~\$12,000). And Khandroling lease/KPI taxes (~\$16,500). Overall, the goal going forward is to reduce expenses by approximately 7-10% across the board and increase our income by a similar margin.
- 4) Vern explained that he placed a request for Buckland tax assessor to lower our taxes, which was denied because the owner (KPI) is setup as an LLC rather than the nonprofit DCA. The potential benefits of dissolving KPI in an effort to lower our tax bill were briefly discussed. This idea was discarded because KPI was established to protect Khandroling from liability in case of mismanagement, dissolving KPI would require 100% vote in favor, and dissolution as Efrem explained, is no guarantee that our taxes would decrease. It was noted by Gerard that many members don't understand the relationship between KPI and Tsegylgar East. Taxes are waived on Schoolhouse and Rinpoche's house, it's been confirmed by John Foster (via Will) and Gerard who talked to Conway. It was also mentioned we should make donation to the town of Conway as it's been in the past.
- 5) The role of Interim Executive Director oversight and the reasons for establishing the temporary position (per our IDC statutes) were explained. It was noted that IDC established the ED position for oversight of daily budgetary affairs of larger budgets and that most organizations our size or larger have such a position to effectively manage their resources. The initial 3-month position, ending in May, was established to address financial reorganization following the second bank fraud in two years, provide ongoing oversight, and develop documentation that ensures both continuity as gakyil membership rotates and protection of the Community from further fraudulent activity, while also avoiding exposure to any State or Federal compliance risk due to misclassification. A continuity contingency budget is being planned for this function going forward, to be discussed further, since

this and any office-based role working under the gakyil / Board of Directors is more appropriately a W-2 position than a contractor one. In the meantime, Dominik has offered to continue for the next 3 months at no charge to the Community, in order to finalize the operations manual, update some of the technology supporting guest user fees, and advance fundraising efforts. In September, the Gakyil will reassess how this role should continue and review the structure going forward. The \$15K planned for this function and the \$12K for legal fees are held as contingency to be drawn on as the role and related needs develop.

- 6) The Contractor role (formerly "maintenance caretaker") was revised on the advice of our attorney, to better align the arrangement with contractor status under state guidelines and in light of the DUA determination we received. Moving into 2026, we discontinued all hourly invoicing and switched to per-project invoicing. Under the new arrangement, the budget is controlled by the gakyil while hours are at the contractor's discretion, as proper contractor status requires. The work itself has not changed: we identified the same recurring tasks and one-time projects, and built the SOWs together with David so everyone is in agreement. Our attorney is finalizing the agreement, which will also be part of the new regular operating practice going forward. Rates stay the same, with a slight reduction on the variable side in line with the 2026 objective of trimming variable expenses across the board. The contractor has since formalized his business, so we are moving forward in much better shape. Bodhi asked that the SOWs be shared with him for transparency.
- 7) Suggestions from the previous Community Meeting that are being implemented include: encouraging members to renew at a higher membership tier and to donate periodically; creating a donor group, such as Friends of Khandroling, to increase support that stays with our gar; creating a sweepstakes that runs all summer with a big prize given at end of season; managing our Community rentals more efficiently — including our house at Dzamling Gar — since they represent a stable source of income; and balancing and managing the budget using only cash, savings and checking accounts, increasing savings without going into our reserve funds.
- 8) The overall priority going forward is to increase income through fundraising and programming, reduce expenses wherever possible, and build a safety cushion for emergencies.
- 9) **The revised budget was approved by verbal vote of all present.**

Dedication of Merit