

Tsegyalgar East Gakyil Minutes

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

8:00am (ET)

Moderator: Miranda Shannon

Minutes-taker: Bret Bourman

Present: Diane Kramer, Nancy Paris, Sarale Lizdas, Al Daggett, Ed Matheny, and David Hayes

Guru Yoga

Revised Gakyil meeting minutes 11/13/2018 approved.

Approval of 12/11/2018 Gakyil meeting minutes tabled.

General Discussion

- Red/Yellow/Blue representatives met with Philip Bowden, to inquire about his interest in renting space at the Schoolhouse. The person in question was looking to run a marijuana dispensary. The Gakyil unanimously voted against pursuing this.
- Documentation of Geko weekly duties was requested by Blue, as a way to know what the Geko has managed to complete over the course of the week, and what he needs help with. Blue thinks this would help to better assess the karma yoga needs of the Gar, and create a more organized approach to help Geko. Red felt there are too many variables to create such a system of organization, and that it is better to continue as we do at this time.
- Blue and Yellow will inform the Geko and Red, with greater clarity, when they have members who request work exchange or karma yoga when attending programs. Better coordinating of this aspect, between colors, is needed to ensure a smoother process and better results.

Geko Report

- Furnace: Plumbing estimates have been requested for both part repairs and furnace replacement. Once estimates are received, Red and Geko will inform Gakyil, and give recommendations whether unit should be repaired or replaced.
- Building passed inspection. Fire inspection took place months ago. Now waiting for Certificate of Inspection. As soon as it is received the fire inspector will sign it.
- A member wishes to donate new items for the dormitory. Once the overall design of the dorm has been determined, these items will be included.
- A member wishes to store their snowblower at the Gar, and transport it to offsite locations for personal use. In exchange for storing the snowblower at the Gar, the snowblower would be lent to the Gar for the Gar's use when not being used privately.

The Gakyil voted against this. The Gar cannot be responsible for storing owner's equipment.

- Two large hedges need trimming at the back of the Gonpa. Tabled until spring.
- Water pipes in off foyer bathroom froze. This occurs annually at the ceiling level, and switch that controls the heat-tape on those plumbing lines needs to stay on. Additionally, water pipes froze at ground level, behind the sink, inside the common wall that divides the vestibule/stairwell from said bathroom. A severe drop in external temperature caused this, as well as in the lobby. These critical areas shall remain closely monitored throughout the winter.

Yellow

- KPI rent is now due. Yellow will issue the 2019 rent check prior to February tax date.
- Account Balances:
 - Checking: \$19,166
 - PayPal: \$35,125
 - Reserve: \$74,057
 - Vajra Hall: \$4,225
 - Khandroling: \$3,421
 - Dzamling Gar: \$6,232
- Membership Drive for 2019 membership will be sent to the Community soon. Yellow will work on the needed text.
- Community member brought to Yellow Gakyil's attention that a *Conflict of Interest Policy* was not in place for the Community. Yellow circulated via email, on January 22, 2019, a drafted policy for the Gakyil to consider. Yellow and Blue vetted the policy, and Yellow requested quick action on adapting the policy. Topic was tabled to a future date.
- Annual report was filed with the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth. It was discovered that not for profit religious corporations are exempt from filing annual corporate reports. The exemption was unknown to prior board members, as the organization has a history of filings. The Gakyil will review how the organization presents itself.
- Tsegyalgar Gar East Gakyil gave Giovanni Boni Power of Attorney over its financial holdings in Tenerife, Spain.
- Yellow board member suggested looking into streamlining bookkeeping/accounting costs, as they currently run upward of \$1,600 monthly. Yellow will look into alternative solutions to reduce monthly expenses.
- Bank signatory power will be transferred from outgoing board member to another.
- Secretary position still under review, and finding other possible solutions.

BLUE

- Monthly movie nights are becoming better known. At most recent screening there were 20 attendees inclusive of community members and extended local community.

- Amherst Arts Night Out demos are being organized to promote summer programs.
- Webcast equipment will be updated thanks to the generous donations of grateful members. Research is currently being done, and proposal will be presented to the Gakyil.
- Blue is working with instructors of all disciplines to develop open and transmission based programs.
- Four to six guests, of which two monks and two nuns who are visiting with a monk from Wooster College will attend Divination Soup.
- Inquiries for summer accommodations are being referred to Geko.
- Dormitory needs to be prepared for two possible Chöd retreat participants. Dormitory updates were discussed.
- Blue would like Gakyil approval to purchase curtains for the Gonpa that are neutral in color and paid for by webcast donations. Red said that adding curtains to Gonpa windows is part of Schoolhouse Renovation Project and requires approval from Community to begin implementation. Blue said that Gonpa curtains are crucial for all program needs.
- Removal of Gonpa carpet was discussed.
- Community members would like Gonpa to be decluttered. Red asked that requests be sent to them directly. Geko said there are storage issues that need to be addressed. Red agreed to look into this.
- Blue and Red discussed the need to create an inclement weather plan to be implemented when needed during the summer programs. Informal meetings will be set up to work on this plan.
- In looking ahead to busy summer season, platform repairs & potential land preparations for outdoor KDKSOV by the VH were discussed. Pond cabin roof repair was also discussed, as well as general preparations of land facilities.

Dedication of Merits