

Minutes of Formal March 13, 2019, Gakyil Meeting

Present: Al Daggett, Ed Matheny, Nancy Paris, Miranda Shannon, David Hayes, Emily Luhrs, David Leskowitz, Dominik Niceva.

Moderator: Nancy Paris

Minutes: Ed Matheny

December 2018 minutes approved.

General Discussion:

Yellow needs to get together with Shang Shung Bookstore staff and those responsible to discuss the future of the bookstore.

Schoolhouse furnace will be replaced on April 1 & 2. Moran will do the job in two days and stick to the price they quoted. The rebates will inure to the benefit of the Gar. The Geko has given the documentation of our tax-exempt status to Moran. People using the building will be informed regarding furnace repair on those days. Yellow stated that the general membership should know about the furnace replacement, as it is a major expenditure, and a major step forward in the preservation of the schoolhouse. Blue will write a notice, run it by Yellow, and then send it out through the members list.

Blue Agenda Items:

Steve Landsberg Chod course was well attended and very well received. Yellow asked if it was possible to get written feedback for courses like this, and Blue has asked one of the people attending to provide a written description of their experience. Blue already gets considerable feedback verbally. Blue wants to create a course/retreat survey to participants feedback. This project is on the back burner because Blue was told by SSI that they were going to send a survey template. Blue is waiting to receive the survey template.

Yellow Agenda Items:

Account Balances as of March 14:

Checking: \$30,256
PayPal: \$15,167
Reserve: \$74,087
Khandroling \$3,422
Vajra Hall: \$4,226
Dzamlingar: \$6,232

Gakyil moved and seconded that John Shannon, the current bookkeeper, be hired as Tsegyalgar East's Administrative Manager, covering the secretarial duties, plus oversight of the bookkeeping, at his current salary. Three Gakyil members voted, one member abstained due to being a relative.

Yellow and new Administrative Manager communicated with Lowell Laporte, who has been doing bookkeeping for SSI (they are very happy with his work), and he is on board with being our new bookkeeper. Administrative Manager will work with him to acclimate him to our financial situation and how we have handled our bookkeeping. They will be working together to streamline the process to save us money in the future.

It was then moved and seconded that Lowell Laporte be hired, d/b/a as Lowell Laporte Accounting, as Tsegyalgar East's bookkeeper at \$35 an hour, which is about half the rate that Ed Margola's firm was charging. Lowell will be under the supervision of the Administrative Manager and the Yellow Gakyil. The motion was carried unanimously.

It was also moved and seconded that Mike Leete of Ed Margola's firm will review our bookkeeping on at least an annual basis, creating year-end reports and 990 tax filings. Leete's review would be the ultimate review. We will not be continuing the monthly review from Margola's office, which cost us \$800 per month. Mike Leete is on board with this change. The motion was carried unanimously.

Yellow reported that we received \$10,000 for the shed that blew over, with a \$5,000 deductible and a \$5,000 net. The \$5,000 net could either all be spent on a new shed, or it might be split between a new shed and facilities at the pond, which include repairing the roof that had a tree fall on it, as well as repairs to the Vajra Dance platform. We will go to the Community to get input on what to do about these things. We will want to fix these things before the retreat starts from insurance proceeds and/or fundraising.

Geko Report

Geko has been picking up students for a School of Tibetan Medicine intensive, and preparing for the course with Mariano Gil, and he confirmed that the new furnace replacement starts April 1. Moran will re-adjust the estimate to reflect our non-taxable status, but has not sent that to him yet. He was asked to send the revised invoice to the Gakyil when he receives it.

Yellow Report (Continued):

The 2019 Membership e-mail was sent out. The Treasurer is finishing the final financial report on 2018, and will have that completed shortly.

Tsegyalgar Booking Manager/Membership Coordinator Agenda Items:

As of March 14, together with Khundroling, we have 119 members:
102 Tsegyalagar and 17 Khundroling;

85 ordinary, 14 global sustaining, and 3 meritorious members for Tsegyalgar; 14 ordinary and 3 global sustaining for Khundroling.

Membership Coordinator suggested that it would make sense for new Administrative Manager to take over as Membership Coordinator. There will be a Zoom call between Yellow, Administrative Manager, and current Membership Coordinator about this. Yellow observed that it will take the new Administrative Manager a while to get the new bookkeeper up and running, and after that he can take on the membership piece. Current Membership Coordinator was fine with that, and wants us to let her know when Administrative Manager is ready to take it on so that the responsibility is transferred.

Regarding Dzamlingar House, for tax purposes, Dzamlingar wants to have all the income for the houses go to Dzamlingar itself, meaning we will no longer have the TEH PayPal account. All the bookings for Dzamlingar House will be paid to Dzamlingar itself, and that money will be deducted from our debt toward the House.

Yellow will take care of wiring the funds to Dzamlingar, which has to be done by a People's United Bank signee.

There will be a Zoom conference of Yellow and Tsegyalgar House Booking Manager to get the Dzamlingar financial picture sorted out, so that Yellow understands this better.

Tsegyalgar House Booking Manager noted that we are shareholders now, and we have to figure out what this means for tax purposes.

Since we started renting in October 2017 up to the end of 2018, we have made \$65,736 in rental income, and a total profit of \$39,000 after expenses. We have already wired some of this profit to them, but we owe them the rest.

Also regarding Dzamlingar, Naomi Zeitz has asked to extend her stay one more year, and the Gakyil approves.

There was also a discussion of how the Gakyil can support the Geko with the current vacancy in Red. Yellow suggests that the Geko report to the Gakyil as a whole. Coordination and support on programs and events will be through Blue, and Yellow can work with Friends of Red and the Geko for coordination and support on other aspects.