



Tseg্যালgar East Gakyil Meeting Minutes
Tseg্যালgar East - via Videoconference
Tuesday, August 25, 2020 | 7:00pm (ET)

Moderator: Miranda Shannon

Meeting Minutes: Nancy Paris

In Attendance: Miranda Shannon, Nancy Paris, Ed Matheny, John Shannon, David Hayes, Adriane Boscardin, Thomas Bringham, Ruben Eduardo, John LaFrance, Malcolm Smith, Dominik Niceva, Anne Stone, Cynthia Thibeau

Guru Yoga

- **General Discussion**

- Scheduling of the Tseg্যালgar East General Assembly (GA) meeting will be dependent on when the International Gakyil (IG) GA meeting happens. They have announced it will be sometime in September. Tseg্যালgar East's GA meeting will be scheduled shortly thereafter, probably in October 2020. The IG GA meeting should be informative.
- Yeshe Namkhai did not allow a recording or transcription of the August 14, 2020 meeting. The IG is supposed to be preparing a communication regarding the meeting. The IG also mentioned that there might be a larger meeting or a webcast scheduled. The IG will let us all know as soon as they know.
- SSI rental arrears & graduated rent payment: The Gakyil has been in communication with Shang Shung Institute (SSI) regarding the rental payment of which they are in arrears by 10 months. The SSI board will be meeting tomorrow and will discuss this issue. TE Gakyil also let SSI know it needs to reinstate the original monthly rent of \$1500 that was last paid in May 2017. The rent was temporarily reduced to \$500 monthly at that time, at SSI's request, and the rent has remained at \$500 monthly since that time. Tseg্যালgar East proposes a graduated repayment plan of \$500/per month through the end of 2020. The rent would then increase to \$1000 monthly as of January 2021 and remain at that amount for the 2021 calendar year. As of January 2022, the rent would increase to \$1500 monthly, bringing SSI's rent back to the original amount paid in May 2017.
- End of Year Fundraiser: The Yellow Gakyil will be doing an end of year fundraiser starting November 2020. It hopes to raise a comparable amount to what was raised in previous years, due to the generous support of the

community, the dynamic approach to programming, and being careful with our resources. Tsegyalgar East's financial picture looks similar to last year's and the year before that. It is healthy and in good shape, but the end of year fundraiser is fundamental to finishing the year in the black.

- Call for new Gakyil in Fall 2020/ Election in December 2020:
The current Gakyil will be calling for new Gakyil candidates at the end of September/early October in order to hold the next Gakyil election in early December 2020. The current Gakyil will not be renewing their commitment, but will be a strong presence throughout the new Gakyil transition period.
- Schoolhouse Gonpa use during fall/winter months is dependent on COVID19 outlook. A close eye is being kept on state mandates. An online signup sheet is currently being tried for reserving practice space at Vajra Hall. This is a trial run for a possible reservation system that can be used for the schoolhouse Gonpa once the weather turns cold. The issue with the schoolhouse Gonpa is that it is not well ventilated, even when all windows open. Careful planning, collaboration, and flexibility will be a must in order for members to reserve practice times during the course of the winter. Programs will remain online for the foreseeable future.

- **Geko Report**

- Repairs are needed at some of the cabins. The ramp and stair railings at Rinpoche's cabin need to be redone. There is a ramp support beam that needs repair and a section by the stairs that is rotted out as well. The Guardian Cabin roof needs to be scraped and painted. It wasn't kept up because it went unnoticed due to its poor visibility. There has not been much storm damage this year. Just trying to keep up with the land, and clear out invasive growth.
- Gakyil asked if Geko needs assistance with finding help to work on cabins. Geko said he will first ask around for help, and if unsuccessful he will then ask Gakyil to put out a message.

- **Administrative Manager Report**

- Status of the garage at Rinpoche's house: Garage was damaged by a storm last year. Partial payment was received from the insurance company, which covered some of the expenses associated with it. The redesign will accommodate the tractor, ATV, mower, and a fair amount of equipment - some of which is used on upper Khandroling, as well as the farm house, thus serving multiple purposes. The garage is being completed through a combination of karma yoga and paid professional labor. Supplies used include already owned and newly purchased ones. The garage is at a good point and is almost finished. The storage capacity it will provide will finally meet the needs of upper and lower Khandroling.
- Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness update: Tsegyalgar East applied for PPP Loan, and qualified for about \$4800. The loan requires that the organization uses 60% of it for payroll. The rest can be used for utilities, mortgage interest and principle. Tsegyalgar East easily met that criteria.

Currently waiting to hear back from People's United Bank, our loan servicer, so that we can apply for the PPP Forgiveness Application. It is an automated process, and it will soon be available. No problems are expected, as it is a small loan and it has been used in the way it was intended. The PPP Loan gave us some breathing room in a year where we were hard pressed to raise money through other means.

- Bookkeeping update: Working with our bookkeeper, we are at a good point in terms of finishing up the first half of the year. We had a number of technical setbacks, including losing power at the schoolhouse, and internet issues, and the office computer breaking down and requiring repair. A very nice laptop was donated, and is set up to replace the desktop computer when it crashes again. The bookkeeper used to be uncomfortable working remotely due to the technological knowhow required, but has recently started working remotely. This is helpful as it has made the bookkeeping process easier at this time, and less people in the office to account for regarding COVID-19 restrictions.
- Membership Status: Members and dollars compare favorably to this time last year. We are up in both categories. We have some new members, as well as some who rejoined after a hiatus.

- **Blue Report**

- All practices and courses continue to be online. We just finished *Welcome to the Community; Opening the Door to Practice* with Steven Landsberg - participants included both people without transmission but who were committed to receiving transmission when it becomes available, and practitioners of long standing. It was very successful.

Our current weekly online schedule includes Yantra Yoga, and the Pranayamas of Yantra Yoga with Paula Barry, Chair Yoga with Naomi Zeitz, Practice of the Precious Vase with Steven Landsberg, Guru Yoga of White A with Mariano Gil, Monthly Dream Yoga practice with Michael Katz, as well as Mandarava practices and Ganapujas,

Both our weekly schedule and our courses have attracted national and international attendance thanks to the variety of the offerings, and because we now provide translation into 5+ languages thanks to Zoom translation channels.

- **Yellow Report**

- **Account Balances**

Checking Account: \$43,682

PayPal Account: \$4,452

Reserve Account: \$60,291

Vajra Hall Account: \$4,227

Khandroling Account: \$3,422

Dzamling Gar Account: \$258

- The account balances stay pretty much constant from month to month. The reserve account has remained at \$60,000. The only withdrawal made from the reserve account was last year, when the schoolhouse boiler had to be replaced. This was a capital expense. All money coming into the PayPal account is transferred to the general checking account. Tsegyalgar East is on sound financial footing, thanks to industriousness of the Blue Gakyil and their successful pivot to online programming in the age of COVID19. Tsegyalgar East has managed to generate enough revenue to keep pace with expenses. The special campaign for the Stupa was very successful and raised close to \$10,000. A progress report on the Stupa Restoration Project will be presented at the General Assembly in October.
 - In 2019, the online course/retreat income was just over \$2000. To date in 2020, the online course/retreat income currently hovers at \$16,000, and nobody is turned away due to inability to pay. Tsegyalgar East is also receiving donations in appreciation of its weekly practices and the courses/retreats it offers. It is heartening that members have a continued interest in events and programs, and are willing to support them in this way.
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- Khandroling Land Conservation
 - Adriane Boscardin and Ruben Eduardo presented their proposal to create a Stewardship Group open to all who are interested in the conservation and habitat of Khandroling, and together create a stable foundation with a long term strategy. The Stewardship Group would be overseen by the Gakyil, and an active hands-on crew and a research crew would submit all proposals for Gakyil approval.
 - The Gakyil received this proposal with interest, and requested that it be submitted in written form so that it can be considered at greater length and a meeting set up to discuss and plan.

Dedication of Merits