
Portland Friends of the Dhamma Special Board Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2015

PFOD Center, 1404 SE 25th Ave, Portland

Directors Present: Greg Satir (President), Sakula Reinard (Spiritual Director), Rachel Telesmanick (Treasurer), Charla Chamberlain

Board Officers: Tena Hoke (Secretary)

The meeting convened at 6:40 following a five-minute meditation.

The agenda was approved.

Greg led a discussion of the qualities of a good member of the Board of Directors. The following qualities were identified, with the purpose of this list not being to exclude potential Directors but rather to assist in understanding the role of Director.

Community Membership

- Regular attendance for approximately one year, or more
- Participating in at least one of the weekly groups
- Available and reliable

Group Dynamics

- Good listener/communicator
- Know or willing to learn consensus decision making
- Ability to see different points of view; curious and seeks to understand other points of view

Spiritual Intent

- Committed to the Thai Forest lineage
- Committed to integrating the teachings of dhamma into their own practice/life
- From our ByLaws: “[Directors] must be dedicated to furthering the mission of Portland Friends of the Dhamma and have a personal commitment to the Five Precepts as taught in the Theravadan tradition.”

Charla led a discussion of several issues related to leadership development:

What roles do we have to fill? Following is a list of the major roles in PFOD.

Spiritual Director – filled

Assistant to the SD – future role, not defined yet

Board Members – Greg is term limited out; Rachel is leaving at the end of 2015, Charla & Sakula will continue. (There was discussion of the ideal number of Board Members. The answer depends partly on which officers and committee chairs are not Board members but are actively participating in Board meetings, how committed the Board members are, and on how strong a back field we have. Five to eight Directors is probably about right.)

Board President – Charla willing to be mentored by Greg into this position

Board Vice Chair – open

Program Committee – Sakula chair
Operations Team – Sakula chair
 Stewardship – Greg chair
 Kitchen leader – open?
 Caretaker – Charla chair
 Communications – Sakula acting chair
 Web site – not defined yet
 Facebook – Jason
 Library – open, not defined exactly where this role goes in the hierarchy
Finance Committee – Treasurer is chair
Building Committee – Alistair is chair
Development Committee (aka fundraising) – future role, may go under Treasurer
Secretary – open (or Tena could continue to fill)
Treasurer – needs to be filled at the end of 2015
 Bookkeeper – paid position filled from outside the organization
 Deputy Treasurer – open, needs definition before filling
Teachers – by invitation only

Mentorship for potential board members? From the above list it is clear there are a number of non-Board organizational positions that would be good training for Board membership. There is more work to be done to develop a system of mentorship. We need better definition of the path to greater responsibility within PFOD, and we need to create more opportunities for leadership roles at entry level positions.

What distinguishes these roles from formal board members?

- Schedule/Time commitment
- Specialized knowledge
- Level of knowledge/experience with PFOD
- Level of community involvement

How do we fill these roles? To fill these roles we need to create the right conditions for involvement, and we need to offer more opportunities for people to get to know one another. Ideas offered: community teas, open house, day-long, and events that involve sharing meals.

Upcoming consensus and facilitation workshops. Charla will invite the following to attend the April 25-26 trainings: Kristen, Stephanie, Patti, Ric, Marcia, Paul, Sukho, and Renee. In addition, all Board members, officers, and Program Committee members are invited.
