

**Victoria Insight Meditation Society (VIMS)**  
**Minutes of the Victoria IMS Council**  
**March 19, 2012**

A meeting of the VIMS council was held at the home of Joyce Elliott, Victoria, B.C. on March 19, 2012. The meeting commenced at 1:10 p.m. with a short meditation.

Present:        Brock Brown            chair  
                  Joyce Elliott            programmes  
                  June Fukushima        communications  
                  Joan Glover            treasurer  
                  John Hilditch          secretary

Regrets:        Rod House

1.     **Approval of the agenda:** item 5 was expanded to include other retreat items. It was moved by Joan Glover that the agenda be approved as modified. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
2.     **Approval of the minutes of the February 6, 2012 meeting.** It was moved by John Hilditch that the minutes be approved as circulated. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
3.
  - **Margo McLoughlin's 6-week course:** "Living Wisely, Loving Well: The Refuges and the Precepts as a Path to Freedom". This course was very well received. Sixteen people began the course and 4 joined during the course. The fee was \$60 to \$90, on a sliding scale. Two scholarships were provided but one was unable to attend because of illness. Fees collected amounted to \$1,125; after rent of \$150 was paid the remaining \$975 was forwarded to Margo. Margo provided the council with a detailed report of her course.
  - **Margo McLoughlin's One-day retreat, February 26:** The retreat was well received. Thirty-nine registered but there were 5 no-shows. Average dana per person was \$16, giving a total dana of \$550. Projected net surplus is \$50.
  - **Review of 2011 Financial Report and Bank Statements:** John will ask Sandra Joy to review these with Joan and himself.
  - **VIMS document binder:** John provided a suggested list of documents which could be included in the binder. The council approved the list, adding insurance. The council agreed that the binder should include items relating back to November 2010 when the current council began functioning.
  - Brock reported that **Insurance** with Coast Capital has been renewed.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** The VVC accounts are now closed. As of February 29 our accounts held: in the Chequing Account: \$6,790.19, and in the Savings Account: \$2,531.81. We designated \$4,646.88 as being in the General Fund and \$4,675 as being in the Discretionary Fund.

As of March 16 the balances are: General Fund: \$2,709, and Discretionary Fund: \$2,955. Included in the recent expenditures are the support to our C.D.L. participants, Margo McLoughlin and Brock Brown. Brock has asked that his support be sent in two cheques to Spirit Rock as his dana offering.

5. **Retreats:**

- Sandra Joy, manager of Heather Martin's Beginners' Retreat asked that we discuss **our responsibility to the retreat participants**. What happens if a participant suffers a serious medical or emotional crisis? Should there be a protocol? As a first step the council will assign a back-up for new managers. Joyce will initiate discussion with Heather on the matter of a protocol and what it should contain. On the basis of their discussion Joyce will bring a draft protocol to council.
- The council, using an email vote, decided that we would not extend an invitation to **Arinna Weisman** to offer an evening talk in June in conjunction with her retreat in Nanaimo. We understand that Arrina is changing the time of the year she offers a Nanaimo retreat from the fall to the spring, however her visit this year would be too close to Ajahn Sona's one-day retreat in June.

The current **registration process** is unwieldy and difficult to use. "Event Marketing" is offered through Constant Contact, our web-site program. It was moved by Joyce Elliott that we purchase a one month trial of Constant Contact's Event Marketing for use for Brock's one-day retreat. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.

6. Visiting teachers often travel without their own sitting gear. Joan Glover moved that Brock and June be authorized to purchase a **cushion and a zabuton for use by visiting teachers**. The cost is not expected to exceed \$200. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.

7. **Annual General Meeting:** June circulated a description of the process and the agenda as legally required. Brock suggested April 20 as a possible date, with a second choice of April 27. The AGM could precede a regular council meeting. He asked that members email him regarding their availability on this date. Rod House will have returned to Victoria by this date.

June Fukushima moved that Sandra Joy be invited to become a member of Victoria Insight Meditation Society. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented. Sandra has agreed to join the council as treasurer; Joan Glover has tendered her resignation from council.

Included on the agenda is an item "Directors Reports" Each member of council will present a brief report on the activities in which they are involved.

8. **Sangha Meeting:** The suggested date for this meeting is June 2. The meeting will be for the purposes of information sharing with an opportunity for sangha members to ask questions and have input. Brock suggested that in addition to the sangha meeting we explore other means of getting information, such as a questionnaire.
9. We discussed the offering of **scholarships for courses**. For beginners' courses we cannot use our usual selection criterion of active involvement in the sangha. Some issues remain unresolved but will be revisited when another course is offered.
10. The council thanks **Grace Golightly** for her gift of several beautiful photographs of the Spirit Rock Centre..
11. Our website has the facility for **posting items** that sangha members believe may be of interest to other members. The Communications group will discuss this, perhaps developing guidelines for the type of postings that will be accepted.
12. Brock reported that **Ajahn Sudanto**, the abbot of a hermitage in Oregon in the Thai Forest Tradition may be available in July to visit our sangha and give an evening talk. June Fukushima moved that Brock offer an invitation to him. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
13. The **next council meeting** and the **first Annual General Meeting** will be held at Brock and June's home. The date of April 20 was suggested. Council members will inform Brock of their availability so he can confirm the date.

The meeting terminated at 4:00 p.m.

Brock Brown, Chair

John Hilditch, Secretary