

Victoria Insight Meditation Society
Minutes of the Council
July 21, 2011

A meeting of the Victoria Insight Meditation Society council was held at the home of Joan Glover, Victoria, B.C. on July 21, 2011. The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. with a short meditation.

Present:	Brock Brown	chair
	Joyce Elliott	programmes
	Joan Glover	treasurer
	John Hilditch	secretary
	Rod House	communications

1. **Approval of the agenda:** The agenda was approved as pre-circulated.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the June 23, 2011 meeting.** It was moved by Joyce Elliott that the minutes be approved. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes:** A beginners' course and incorporation will be discussed as separate agenda items 7 and 8.

Information Updates:

- **Study Group:** Rod has communicates with Heather outlining the council's recent discussion. It was moved by Joyce Elliott that a small committee be formed, lead by John Hilditch to communicate with Heather and facilitate the study group, reporting periodically back to the council. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
- **Social Night, June 25:** Thirty-five to forty people attended. It was agreed that it was a very successful event, and thanked Eric Bedard, June Fukushima and John Hilditch for their organizational efforts. We may plan for this to be an annual event, perhaps in a smaller venue as a pot-luck.
- **James Baraz's Visit:** James visit with council was much appreciated. Our discussion was spacious and reflective; he reminded us of the need to return to our guiding principles. He also spent time individually with our Community Dharma Leader trainees. His dharma talk was well received.
- **Meeting with Heather:** The council asked John to discuss with Heather an appropriate time to meet with her in September or October.

- **September Residential Retreat:** At the present time there are only 15 registered and concern was expressed that there may not be enough register to cover the costs of the retreat. If we withdraw before August 4 we would lose only our deposit \$540. The gradient voting system was used to assess support for continuing plans for the retreat. With the proviso that additional dana be requested if it appeared that the retreat would lose money, Joan Glover supported continuing and the remainder of the council members endorsed continuing.
- **Howard Cohn one-day retreat:** Registration for this retreat, planned for August is full at 70 registrants, with 10 on a waiting list.
- **Ajahn Sona week-end retreat:** Plans for this August 27 – 28 retreat are well in hand.
- **Retreat advertising:** We have sent information on the residential retreat to several sanghas, including BCIMS, DIY, Salt Spring, Nanaimo, Courtenay and, through Linda Chan, Mahasangha.
- **Communications and Website:** Rod reported that we have bought a 3-year contract for a web-site. Our website name is victoriaims.org and our related email address will be info@victoriaims.org. Rod reported that the work-load has eased and he is more comfortable with managing the technical aspects of our information system. John Hilditch moved that the plan to hire an information consultant be put on hold, pending more information and developments. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented. Brock Brown moved that we purchase Constant Contact as our list-serve company for \$126 per year. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented

New Business:

4. **Request for a teacher – Tara Brach:** Brock has received this request from more than one sangha member. He has inquired and learned that her traveling plans are on hold.
5. **Financial Report:** Joan presented a financial report. As of July 19 we have \$2,511.11 in our reserve fund and \$7,126.79 in our chequing account. The financial report is attached. John moved that we accept the financial report. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
6. **Ajahn Sona visit finances:** Although the council supports the concept of “no fixed dana request” we agree that, in our present financial state we agree on a fixed amount request for this retreat. Brock suggested \$40 and the council agreed. A dana basket will be put out for the Friday evening talk.

7. **Course Proposals:** Brock has developed plans for a 4-week beginners' course in the fall, for which he suggests a \$50 fee. Margo McLoughlin is planning a 6-week course on the refuges and precepts in early 2012, for which she suggests a \$75 fee. Rod House moved that, as support to our Community Dharma Leader trainees, the proceeds of these courses be given, after rent is paid, to the course presenters. Brock Brown abstained; the motion received the endorsement of the remaining members of council. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
8. **Incorporation:** Our submission for incorporation was returned with suggestions for changes in our constitution. We have asked for an extension of the deadline until August 15. Items 3, 4 and 5 must be expressed as "unalterable". Joan Glover moved that these changes be made. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented. In addition, to meet the federal requirements for a charitable organization the purposes need to be more specific. The council asked the constitution committee to reconvene and make the required changes in time to meet the deadline.

The council discussed the choice of the most appropriate accounting software package to use, considering that we may eventually wish to become a charitable organization. Joan Glover moved that, if necessary, we purchase Simple Accounting for about \$200, and that Brock and Joan be authorized to make the decision. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented

Meeting termination: The meeting terminated at 4:10 p.m.

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on August 9 at John Hilditch's home for the purpose of signing the modified incorporation submission. The next regular council meeting will be held on August 29, place to be determined.

Secretary: John Hilditch

Chair: Brock Brown

