

Victoria Insight Meditation Society
Minutes of the Council
September 26, 2011

A meeting of the Victoria Insight Meditation Society council was held at the home of Rod House, Victoria, B.C. on September 26, 2011. The meeting commenced at 1:10 with a short meditation.

Present:	Brock Brown	Chair
	Joyce Elliott	Programmes
	Joan Glover	Treasurer
	John Hilditch	Secretary
	Rod House	Communications
	June Fukushima	Member at large
	Isabelle House	Guest

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** It was moved by Joan Glover that the agenda be approved as pre-circulated. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
2. **Approval of the minutes:** It was moved by Brock Brown that the minutes of the August 29, 2011 meeting be approved. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
3. **Reviewing and Posting minutes:** It was agreed that additions and corrections will be accepted by the secretary for one week following distribution of draft minutes. The final version of the minutes will then be sent to Rod or June for posting. Minutes for each calendar year will be available on the website with a link to archived minutes.
4. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **New Council member:** The council welcomed June Fukushima as a new council member. She will be responsible for communications while Rod is unavailable during the winter months.
 - b) **Correction of bank account balances:** Joan pointed out that the bank account balances provided for the minutes of the August 29 meeting are incorrect. As of August 15 there was \$2,513.99 in the reserve savings account and \$6,103.58 in the chequing account.
 - c) **Introduction to Buddhism Course update:** Brock reported that 25 people registered for the Introduction to Buddhism course; 2 of the 4 weekly sessions have been given. *Brock Brown withdrew from the meeting at this point.* Brock has offered to return \$200 of the collected course fees to the sangha. It was moved by Joan Glover that the council confirms that, as a stipend for teaching the course Brock be given the net proceeds of the course fees (less the cost of renting the facility). There were four votes in favour of the motion and no

negative votes. June Fukushima abstained from voting. The motion was declared Implemented. *Brock Brown returned to the meeting at this point.*

d) **Information updates:**

- **Ajahn Sona Retreat August 27, 28:** The retreat was very well received; 57 people attended. The surplus of dana after expenses was \$192.77. The council thanked Brock and June for registering and managing the retreat.
- **September Residential Retreat.** Rod and Isy reported that the retreat was very successful. Twenty-seven people attended. They received many positive comments about the retreat teaching, setting, facilities and management. The financial aspects are not yet complete but it appears that registration fees covered expenses. The council thanked and congratulated Rod and Isy for their initiative and fine work. Isy will present a more detailed report to council which will include a recommendation that a retreat at the same facility be offered once or twice in 2012.
- **Cheque signers:** The following council members have been given the authority to sign cheques on the new bank account: Brock Brown, Joyce Elliott, Joan Glover and John Hilditch. Two signatures are required for each cheque.
- **Study Group:** The first session of the next study group, held on September 25 was very well attended. The book “Kamma and the End of Kamma” by Ajahn Succito is being studied. In Heather Martin’s absence John Hilditch offered to facilitate the next meeting on October 30.
- **Study of the Majjhima Nikaya:** Concern was expressed that the council had not responded to Eric Bedard’s inquiry about interest in this study. The council will offer help in advertising this study group if requested. John will talk to Eric about this.

New Business:

5. **Treasurer position:** Joan Glover has resigned the position of Treasurer. She explained that she believes that the position requires someone with greater book-keeping skills. She will continue in the position until a replacement is found. She also recommended that an accountant be hired to set up the financial system with appropriate, easy to use software. The council thanked Joan for her fine work as Treasurer and expressed regret about her decision. She agreed to remain on council. Brock Brown moved that a professional accountant be found to set up our financial system. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented. Council members will make inquiries to find a suitable accountant. Through the newsletter and through asking sangha members personally we will attempt to find a sangha member qualified and willing to take on this role.

Council members will send June information for a newsletter article that asks for people with specific skills to consider volunteering.

6. June Fukushima moved that our **year end** shall be December 31. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.

7. John Hilditch moved that our **Annual General Meeting** be held in April 2012. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
8. **Financial Report:** Joan Glover presented a financial report for the period of January 1 to August 15, 2012. Our total bank assets on this date was \$8,617.57. John Hilditch moved that we accept the financial report. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented. The report is attached.
9. **Proposed Expenditures:**
 - i. Joan Glover moved that we purchase Quickbooks. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented.
 - ii. Joyce Elliott moved that we authorize the purchase a P.A. system for use at our retreats, the cost not to exceed \$1,200. The motion received unanimous endorsement. Brock declared the motion Implemented. Rod and Brock will look into the purchase of a P.A. system in consultation with Bruce.

The council agreed to defer consideration of financial support for the CDL participants and other suggestions for use of our funds until our financial system has been set up and we have the advice of an accountant.

10. **Retreat Operations Report:** Joyce presented a detailed report and chart of retreats held and planned in 2011. She asked that Brock meet with her to prepare a retreat plan for 2012.
11. Suggested dana for Joanne Broatch's retreat will be \$40.
12. Margo has offered to give one-day retreats in 2012. Brock would like to invite Beth to offer a one-day retreat in 2012. Howie Cohn will offer a one-day retreat in August, 2012. The council is grateful for the offers and is in support of these teachers being considered by Joyce and Brock in their planning.
13. Concern has been expressed that silence is not maintained during the time before the Sunday evening sits. After discussion the council is of the view that it is desirable to allow time to socialize and meet new members of the community. The time before the sit is an ideal time for this; silence will be maintained during the break, after the sit, before the talk.

Brock and June will host a pot-luck dinner at their home on October 8 in recognition of all those who have volunteered for the sangha this year.
14. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the council will be held on October 11 at 1 pm at John Hilditch's home.
15. The meeting terminated at 4 pm

Brock Brown, Chair

John Hilditch, Secretary