

BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND INC.

AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING BUDDHISTS THROUGH BUDDHIST GROUPS AND INSTITUTIONS
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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND

MEETING DATE: November 4, 2006

TIME: 9.40am

VENUE: Karuna House – Windsor

ATTENDANCE: As Per Attendance Book

QUORUM: Yes

APOLOGIES: Donna Imeri

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Ferguson

SECRETARY: Rachel Hannam

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of September meeting confirmed

Minutes of October meeting confirmed

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by David Wee

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

n/a

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. email: National Inter-Faith Festival – seeking participation from BCQ for input
2. email: Ann Small – Assocs Forum – meeting invitation Nov.8 and other dates.
3. email: Gold Coast C/Council – Harmony Day 2007 – meeting Nov.8 planning – Kim f/up.
4. phone: Pine Rivers Community – information on Buddhist family support services in Pine Rivers
5. email: Gold Coast C/Council – Interfaith Festival 2007 – meeting Nov.15 – Kim f/up
6. email: Multicultural Affairs Dept – moving to Ann St, Brisbane
7. email: Lady seeking Buddhist welcoming ceremony – to pass to Jim
8. email: BCC – Community Grants – closing Jan 07 – we should apply – Jim to f/up
9. email: Chod Retreat Centre, Vic. – advertising program for information.
10. email: World Buddhist Leaders Council – India – invitation to attend Dec.18
11. email: Aust. Diamond Way Sangha, Vic. – course invitation – Feb 07
12. email: James Ryan – invitation to Summer Mindfulness Program on Straddie – end Nov. & 07
13. email: NSW Charity Fundamentals – course details.
14. email: Ipswich City Council – Grant Opportunities – already passed closing date – Sec. reply
15. email: inquiry from MCF seeking Buddhist Youth Groups – none known other than Chung Tian
16. phone: several since MCF seeking info on centres etc.
17. mail: Premier's Dept – re MCF – info on stallholder details
18. mail: Open Arms – re Dalai Lama visit 07 – brochures etc.
19. mail: Australian of the Year Awards – invitation to award Dec. 06 – Kim to attend
20. mail: Living in Harmony Grant – unsuccessful this time - 561 applications received
21. mail: Kalachakra A/asia Foundation – invitation to Ularu ceremonies in 07 for HHDL tour
22. email: noted that there are several FABC emails that are to be discussed under Business on Notice.
23. phone: seeking Buddhist Flag – came from Cambodian temple, Tibetan centres have Prayer Flags.

OUT: none

Moved: Jim Ferguson

Seconded: Kim Hollow

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Jim mentioned that not winning the Living in Harmony grant was good experience and we should pursue smaller grants actively to establish a track record so next time we seek a large amount we have some credibility.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Jim delivered some cash donations received from the Multicultural Festival, totalling \$12.60. Last month's balance of \$666.07 was depleted by Optus, Regional Insurance Brokers leaving \$69.12 plus the \$50 petty cash. David asked what we need per year to operate and Jim said he had previously prepared a budget that requires about \$1,200 per year to break even, or about \$100 per month.

Moved: Kim Hollow

Seconded: Chee Weng

Accepted

BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

- a. **Multi-Cultural Festival 2006** – A great success! Thanks to Rachel for her trailer that Jim and son-in-law filled to the top with 60+ cartons of books from Pureland, Mandala Books and Karuna, together with a few filled from other centres, totalling an estimated 1.2 tonne of materials. At the end of the evening there were just 22 cartons left to be returned to Pureland, suggesting we distributed some 800kg of books and DVD's etc.. The absence of trinkets this year changed the dynamic of those taking books with more genuine people taking away books. There were many inquiries about the Dalai Lama's 2007 visit and seeking centres and several hundred BCQ brochures were given out. Several other centres provided valuable staffing including Ven. Thubten from Karuna, and from Qld Zen Centre, Dharma Metta Garden and Langri Tangpa Centre. Inquiries of note received included from the gay community, persons suggesting we offer food, more children-based information, the Dalai Lama visit and persons seeking more information on meditation etc. The only thing that disappointed was the fact that Tenzin Choegyal had the Namgyal Monks doing a sand mandala on the site that was unknown to the Council and it would have been preferential for us to have been at least advised of that event. We need to contact him to develop a line of communication in the future. Jim also understands that they received funds either as performers or via a donation box at their location, the latter if true, being contrary to the rules for other exhibitors. Jim proposed that special note of thanks be sent to Ms. Nga Nguyen from Langri Tangpa Centre and Jim's son-in-law Nathan Hallett for their help making the day such a success and to the Ven. at the Cambodian Temple for donating the flags. Also letters to be sent by the Secretary to Jenny and other centre members who helped on the day.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

- b. **Dalai Lama in Australia Tour 2007** – Jim advised that he has been approached by Priscilla Maxwell as Qld. State Manager for this tour, for the BCQ to take up the role of Qld dharma centre liaison on their behalf and we now need to confirm that function even though Jim has already been in advanced talks in the interim. Jim mentioned that the HHDL visit coincides with the state budget and the State of Origin football match and his public talk will also impact on peak hour traffic flow so it is probable to be held at the BEC at Boondall. Discussed the difference between a public talk and a teaching or transmission and what HHDL will be doing in Australia. Explored the logistics of the visit and discussed taking on that function for them since it should benefit both the tour and our own place within the Buddhist community, which will require some commitment for postage and manpower. Kim raised the limited funds available and Jim mentioned we are already committed to mail cost for our membership renewal and other previously approved mailings, so initially those costs are not impacting directly. Jim also

introduced the new initiative that Karuna is launching - Kindness Week - that will continue each year after HHDL's visit, coinciding with the same week as his visit. Jim proposed we perform that function with Open Arms.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

- c. **Alan Carter's Stupa Proposal** – Further to past discussions on this matter, and following circulation of his proposal, Jim said he had not discussed David's concerns with Alan. Jim proposed that included in the December mail-out we circulate the other centres for their endorsement and since they are common to all traditions, even if slightly different at times, they should be recognised by all groups equally. The Tibetan tradition has expanded the design to standardise the design to be comparable to a mandala with ascribed symbolism to each element of the design. David again mentioned the community reaction to certain Muslim activities that he does not want Buddhism to be affected by any potential Buddhist backlash. The proposal was put to support in principal but to seek other centre's support.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

- d. **2007 Membership Renewals** – Jim proposed the need to send out our renewals early December and we need to then include the Open Arms information, Stupa proposal, our brochure, a cover letter of changes, and achievements and plans to encourage membership support.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Rachel Hannam

Accepted

- e. **Ratify new version of Information Brochure** – Jim introduced the new version printed for the Multi-Cultural Festival that included the bank details and coded "Fm.1-0609-3" is submitted for ratification. Kim added we should send a formal thank you for the printers donating 400 extra brochures for free.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

- f. **FABC issues** – Jim expressed his concerns about the direction the FABC appears to be taking, overstepping their goals. It is noted that we don't even have a copy of their Constitution – Kim does have a copy which will be distributed! Kim added his concern that emails appear to still suggest that Graeme Lyall, while resigned, still exerts a strong influence on FABC matters, quoting emails from Mohini where she states the Graeme has given her a draft. Jim then also added the apparent lack of involvement in discussion threads being invited from Qld. Only becoming advised after matters have already progressed more to a decision point rather than open forums. Kim and Jim agreed they also seem to be becoming embroiled in political issues when we should not be expected to take a side on some issues. The other point is funding to attend their AGM – this Council does not have the funds to meet that cost and Jim personally does not, and if Kim were to attend he would have to meet his own costs. Chee mentioned that Graeme is backed by Master Chi Kung and there appears to be a conflict between them and Chung Tian – such issues not being helpful to the Qld. Dharma centres working towards mutual support. Kim also added that the FABC should consider refocussing more on supporting state Councils activities and then being the National body only where 100% relevant. Jim also mentioned the Tibetan-nun killed leaving Tibet, while deplorable, and for whom the Councils should have sought prayers etc. the FABC's comment was more political than spiritual, endorsing the Australian Tibet Council view (valid it was) but may have been handled better. David added the letter to John Howard may have been misleading by purporting to represent ALL Buddhists when that is clearly not the case – we/they are only proportionally representing Buddhist practitioners. It is proposed that Jim will prepare a formal response to be distributed to our Council and on agreement sent to the FABC expressing our concerns about their communication process, decision-making process and overall operations, focus and loyalties.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- a. **New Council Letterhead** – Jim proposed we change our letterhead to more closely match that of the FABC. Agreed to provide draft for approval at next meeting.
- b. **New Website** – Jim mentioned that Josh is planning to give us this weekend to update our website, but content is still lacking. Donna in absentia has suggested a look-and-feel similar to the NSW site would be okay. Agreed to give Josh as much direct support as possible and see what he comes up with, but basically striving to revamping existing content and adding those links already provided and then bring back to the next meeting.
- c. **Blue Card for David** – Kim has agreed to provide the form and will process it ASAP
- d. **Other Grants** – David has spoken at length with a person at Jupiter’s Casino re their grant process and she has provided a kit. She explained what can and can’t be provided. Jim further discussed what qualifies for funding etc. and we should try to connect with the other Gambling Grants and other sources. Jim reiterated his feeling that we need to first chase smaller amounts to prove ourselves, even taking our big project, which is essentially quite sound, and break it down into smaller stand-alone bits of perhaps closer to \$2000-\$5000 each. Jim will distribute his past notes and will setup some concepts for discussion.

NEXT MEETING:

DATE: December 2, 2006 **TIME:** 9.30am **VENUE:** Karuna Hospice

MEETING CLOSED: 12:10 pm

CHAIRPERSON.....

SECRETARY.....

DATE: