

BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND INC. (IA29696)



*An Umbrella Organization Representing Buddhists and
Buddhist Groups And Institutions In Queensland* ABN 69 825 774 318
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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: April 29, 2007 **TIME:** 12:00 noon

VENUE: Karuna House – Windsor

ATTENDANCE: Kim Hollow, Rachel Hannan, Donna Imeri, Chee Weng & Jim Ferguson and visitor – Minister James Wilson of Jodoshu Group.

QUORUM: Yes **APOLOGIES:** David Wee and Maeve Hollow

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Ferguson **SECRETARY:** Rachel Hannam

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the December meeting were confirmed

Moved by Jim Ferguson Seconded by Kim Hollow Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

none

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

IN-

- a. Into Great Silence movie preview invitation at Dendy George St. for Tuesday May 15th.
- b. Membership renewals from Diamond Way group, Dewachen, Cittamani Hospice and Ayra Tara Serling;
- c. Positive Blue Card notices for Helen Woo, Christine Ooi and Jenny Le Neuve and withdrawal of application by Ty Nguyen;
- d. New Blue Card applications from Sein Maung and wife;
- e. Request from Jeta Gardens for further endorsement of their next funding submission;
- f. Invitation for next Multicultural Festival at Roma Street for October 15;
- g. Optus phone account;
- h. Qld Gov't Dept of State Development's Cultural Diversity Business Development Program invitation;
- i. Auditor's positive report requiring a minor amendment to some dates that are being corrected;
- j. Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre promotion of upcoming events;
- k. Great Stupa/Jade Buddha project information;
- l. Living In Harmony Grants 2008 invitation;
- m. Dalai Lama tour - update information.

OUT-

- a. Letter to Qld. Health's Statewide Multicultural Team on Buddhist dietary preferences and comment on animal rights and product testing on animals;
- b. Letter to Phoenix Printers thanking for donation of business cards;
- c. Several changes to BCQ website incorporating a lot of "What's New" information;

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:

Jim mentioned the need to have the auditor confirm his preparedness to act as auditor for this year, which Kim will follow up.

Regarding the Multicultural Festival on October 15, Jim feels we should support this for the third year in a row, subject to continuing support from Pureland etc for books etc to distribute and on that basis we should agree to do so.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Jim Ferguson

Accepted

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

\$1304.73 in the bank plus \$50.00 petty cash is the balance before payments presented including the auditor's fee of \$100 – approved for payment, and Jim presented the missing invoice from last month and a receipt from SmartyHost for web hosting. Jim also presented \$20 membership from Trisha Roberts of LOBSA. Jim also claimed postage reimbursement of \$2.30.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Rachel Hannam

Accepted

4. BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

A. DALAI LAMA IN AUSTRALIA TOUR – JUNE 13 IN BRISBANE

Jim updated the progress in the personal delivery of invitations to the Boondall event, which has now be completed in conjunction with Jan Pether. Jim mentioned the invitation from the organisers to supply up to 5 slides for display at the Boondall Entertainment Centre. If there is no related cost it was agreed to provide the slides.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Rachel Hannam

Accepted

B. MAY1 – MULTI-FAITH SEMINAR : BUDDHISM UNDER CIVIL LAW

Jim advised that he finalised the paper to be presented and it now has a full 15-minute duration. Jim also mentioned that they have just announced that an honorarium of \$100 will be to him by the facilitator and due to the whole day being given, he will retain it to cover his time. Kim indicated that he will be attending. Jim also mentioned he had Minister James Wilson review the paper after including the committee's comments also. We may mount a copy on the Council website in due course.

C. 2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We have 8 paid memberships so far, which is quite grim – however we accept what is offered and don't worry about those who choose not to contribute from the 66 centres mailed out to either by email and/or post. The Dharma School has been wound up.

D. BUDDHIST EDUCATION IN QUEENSLAND PROGRAM (BEQP)

Jim confirmed that everyone had received overnight emails from Kwee Choo announcing the creation of the Buddhist Education in Schools Service, or B.E.S.S. – timely and just ahead of the meeting due after this meeting with the B.E.Q.P. participants. Jim gave some background information on other discussions between him and FABC President Brian Ashen

in recent days. The meetings discussions then examined issues including the possibility of a cultural shift between Asian and Western views, of the original BCQ founders perhaps displeased that the current Council was more successful than when under their guidance, and other inter-tradition rivalries. The general consensus was that, for whatever reasons that are clearly unknown, the group comprising Kwee, Rahu and John Cartwright have arbitrarily elected to exclude the BCQ from further contribution to the BEQ Program and desire to establish an autonomous entity to deliver that program under the banner of B.E.S.S.

Jim reminded the committee of the scenario he presented to the very first meeting of interested parties at Chung Tian where the BCQ expressed no desire to control or manage the BEQP or its funds and nothing had changed, yet Kwee had openly declared that we desired the exact opposite and that this was the basis for our exclusion. It was then agreed by all committee present at this meeting that, on the information and actions to date by Kwee, Rahu and John, they seem seems to have another, undeclared, agenda that clearly excludes the BCQ.

The other issue raised by the B.E.S.S. principals is the open invitation to also establish a "Queensland Sangha Association", as the Queensland arm of the ASA. This is no contest to the BCQ since we are already affiliated with that association. This was confirmed by Minister James Wilson

Kim read Brian Ashen's recommendation to this Council that we seek formal endorsement by both the FABC and the ASA as the official representatives of dharma centres in Queensland, and to then seek a meeting with the Qld Minister for Multicultural Affairs to re-affirm this role and finally to repeat this with the Minster for Arts and Education.

After further discussion it was agreed that the BCQ invite contributions from the people attending the next meetings and to act on the resolutions derived from that meeting, however to offer to that meeting the following resolutions of this committee, that –

- a. the BCQ recognise B.E.S.S. upon their incorporation and formalisation of their management structure;
- b. request of the B.E.S.S. a full disclosure of their plans and objectives and endorsement of doing so in the best interests of the dharma, before considering any such endorsement; or
- c. we seek a round-table meeting of temple abbots, etc to find a common ground between all the parties.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

It was also agreed that the BCQ seek formal endorsement of it's role from the FABC, the ASA and the State Government

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

none – deferred to next meeting

MEETING CLOSED: At 1:10 pm

NEXT MEETING: May 26 at 9:30am at Karuna Hospice Services, prior to the A.G.M.

Signed by President: _____ Secretary: _____ Date: __/__/07