

BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND INC. (IA29696)



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

-- Affiliated Member of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils Inc. --
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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: September 1, 2007

TIME: 9:50am

VENUE: Karuna Hospice Services - Windsor

ATTENDANCE: Kim and Maeve Hollow, Chee Weng, Rachel Hannam, David Wee, Jenny Lenevre & Jim Ferguson. Mrs Kira Ang was welcomed as a visitor.

QUORUM: Yes **APOLOGIES:** Donna Imeri

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. Letter from Religious Education Advisory Committee inviting membership
- b. Information from Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre forthcoming events
- c. CCYPCG Positive notices for the last two applicants from the Burmese community
- d. Associations Forum seminar information – passed.
- e. Chorten Newsletter
- f. Australian of the Year Award Nomination invitation
- g. Qld Multicultural Award Nomination invitation
- h. Postcard from Swinburne Buddhist Society in Melbourne
- i. Receipt of Lodgement for MAQ Grant application
- j. FABC change of structure from incorporated association to limited company.
- k. Letter from Jeta Gardens thanking for support
- l. Invitation to Langri Tangpa Movie Fund-raiser
- m. Newspaper article on new Buddhist centre opening on the Gold Coast.
- n. Rachel mentioned phone calls received – from St John's College seeking information on a good Buddhist Temple to visit for their youth – Chung Tian and Langri Tangpa offered.

OUT-

none

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. FABC change of structure was discussed and agreed that the BCQ supports the change.
- b. GU-MFC Year of the Rumi event – Jim attended as BCQ representative and was very well attended. Jim mentioned the core of Sufi philosophy was allied to Buddhism.

- c. Chee urged we consider looking into the funded training programs Jeta Gardens has available that the Council may be able to utilise to expand our services to dharma groups. Agreed that Chee will follow up with them to arrange a meeting between the NCQ and Jeta – maybe at the GU-MFC or other.

Moved by Jim Ferguson Seconded by Rachel Hannam Accepted

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

\$1310.15 at bank and \$50.00 petty cash. \$40 was received as donations from Jenny – a formal thank you was given. \$9 paid to Optus. Internet banking facilities have now been fully established. Phone a/c for \$9 approved for payment.

Moved by Kim Hollow Seconded by Jenny Lenevre Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

Jim moved that the Optus phone account be automatically unless it is substantially different to \$9 per month whereupon it will require separate approval

Moved by Jim Ferguson Seconded by Rachel Hannam Accepted

4. BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

A. MRS. KIRA ANG – VEN. AKONG CHOKTRUL GURMEY THRINLEY RINPOCHE

Mrs Ang introduced the Rinpoche and detailed her efforts to bring him to Australia and her heartfelt desire to share his visit and have him available to to give talks &/or teachings during his brief stay. From the Nyingma tradition his lineage is highly regarded and recognised by all Tibetan traditions.

It was agreed that the Council would approach some local dharma centres with the view of advising them of his availability and the invitation to have him offer a talk or teaching. We also offered to assist in any future planning for a revisit. Jim will also approach the South Bank Corporation for use of the Piazza and the GU-MFC, and Maeve will contact the Gold Coast Council. Rachel also offered her home for a meeting with Rinpoche.

Moved by Jim Ferguson Seconded by Chee Weng Accepted

B. M.A.Q. GRANT APPLICATION

Jim confirmed completion and lodgement of the grant application. Jim explained some points in the projected budget – 1. the “in-kind” value represents the contribution of the committee generally and 2, the web-development value was arrived at by asking Josh for a estimate to do the concept work. He said for \$1,000 he will ensure we get what we want, so that value was used. It was later also suggested that if we are successful with this grant application, we will call a General Meeting to assist launching the grant project.

C. R.E.A.C. MEETING OUTCOME

Jim reported his attendance at the meeting on August 21, of all the faith representatives at Education Queensland. Jim's comment was why Buddhism had not been previously

represented and has asked why. He was very impressed in the quality of contributions from those present and what it offers to support RI in Queensland. He also mentioned that it is Education Queensland's intention that from next year, volunteer RI teachers will need insurance and will have had to have completed a formal training course – the possible ramifications for B.E.S.S. and other teaching groups needs to be explored and if the BCQ can assist in any way.

Jim stressed the importance that the BCQ be represented at every meeting and if he is not available, someone should attend. Rachel has offered to fill the gap wherever possible. The next meeting will be on Wed. November 7, at 12:30pm to 3:30pm and Rachel shall attend.

David mentioned he has introduced the BCQ to Sharon Bailey, who also works for the Gov't in this area.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

D. BCQ REPRESENTATIONS DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS

Kim and Maeve reported their visit to the Jeta Gardens opening and said both it and they were well received.

Jim said the attendance at the GU-MFC Year of the Rumi was excellent. He added that the BCQ has been asked to become an official sponsor (at no charge to us) of Feb. 2008 International Womens' Day special event. It was agreed that the BCQ offer such support for that event. We will also supply our logo for fixing to their publicity material.

Jim also attended the Barry Jones Auditorium at Ipswich at the invitation of a Sakya group and the facilitator is also actively involved with BESS. This was a very successful event with about 150 people and several assorted sangha from several traditions and members of BESS. He said it highlighted the interest of people in Ipswich to connect with the dharma.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

E. 2008 NATIONAL INTERFAITH FESTIVAL

Jim mentioned his advanced notice of the format for the National Interfaith Festival next year. He will be having a meeting with the organisers to help frame the plans for 2008 as well next week. The focus for 2008 is to engage exhibitors in active sessions rather just holding stalls, so there will be both formal talks and on-going sessions within the faith's own area. Jim feels that this is a good idea that could engage many centres over the two days with meditation techniques, awareness sessions and so on. Kim raised the point that we need to ensure we retain focus on the nature of events we become involved with, achieving goals rather than becoming more "talk-fests" of options. Jim said the NIF statistics echoed the census ratios and reinforces the "faith" focus ahead of "culture"-based events. Since we had already approved participation in principle, he feels this will only enhance the festival's outcomes. It was agreed that the BCQ will take the role of auspicing body to invite other centres to join under our banner.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Maeve Hollow

Accepted

F. CHAPLAINCY REQUESTS

Jim mentioned that Prof. Swee-Hin Toh of the GU-MFC referred the State Office of Corrections to us to assist in the provision of a Buddhist Chaplain for Borallan Goal and the emphasis from them was that whoever is nominated must be endorsed by the BCQ. There is

also another request to provide a religious visitor to Wacol for up to 10 inmates, with the same requirement that the BCQ endorse anyone filling that role. Discussion that followed has identified a number of potential sangha who may be available from assorted traditions, and that does not include the Liberation Prisons Project. Maeve will follow up a monk at Kholo, Jim will contact Ven. Namdag and others. It was agreed that this topic is likely to expand and we should seek to establish a group of available persons to satisfy such requests.

G. INCORPORATIONS ACT CHANGES

Jim introduced the need to review the recent amendments to the Incorporated Associations Act from a risk assessment viewpoint, and if necessary, we will have to adjust our rules accordingly, necessitating an Extraordinary General Meeting to be called. Under the new changes, we become a Level 3 Association. A detailed discussion of the various changes was conducted with the following decisions resulting:

- o Public Liability Insurance: Since we may require proof of insurance to use certain venues this will be retained, but will be reviewed again before the 2008-9 Insurance Renewal, the next one due will be paid when due;
- o Auditing of Accounts: Since we are striving to obtain grant funding, such independent auditing would be advantageous and so shall be retained.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Jim Ferguson

Accepted

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

H. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE – SEPTEMBER 21, 2008

Maeve raised the idea of the Council actively supporting this day next year in a significant way. Jenny then expanded this idea to also become more active in local council library events that address multicultural days and festivals – Jim adding the secret is to again auspice such events and then seek the support of relevant and local dharma groups.

I. GOLD COAST GRANT ASSISTANCE

Kim suggests that we set up a meeting with the Gold Coast PR person about other funding sources that may be available.

J. APPROACHES TO TZU-CHI FOUNDATION

Chee mentioned his difficulty in connecting with this organisation despite several attempts.

We would like to make such a connection, so Chee will continue to try to establish some line of communication.

MEETING CLOSED: At 12:00 pm

NEXT MEETING: October 6 at 10:00 am at Kim & Maeve Hollow's home at Biggera Waters.
Bring a plate.

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