



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: August 7, 2010 **TIME:** 10:00am

VENUE: Sunnybank Hills Library – Sunnybank Hills (again thanks to Chee)

ATTENDANCE: Ven. Lhagsam, Kim Hollow, Chee Weng and Jim Ferguson.

QUORUM: Yes **APOLOGIES:** Julie Khoo, David Wee, Jenny Le Neveu & Maeve Hollow

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Ferguson **SECRETARY:** Kim Hollow

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the July 10, 2010 Committee meeting were not presented and therefore not confirmed and will be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

None – see above.

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

IN-

1. Invitation to attend a weekend function expired.
2. other mail held over to next meeting

OUT-

none

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:

1. none

Moved by Kim Hollow Seconded by Chee Weng Accepted

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The present bank balance stands at \$192.30 and there is no petty cash on hand and Kim has paid the \$30 pre-paid Optus cutover that is to be reimbursed in due course. Both Kim and Jim have attended the bank to have our identities re-verified.

Moved by Kim Hollow Seconded by Chee Weng Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Council's mobile phone has now been moved over to a pre-paid plan, and it was therefore agreed that future recharges of \$30 should be made in a timely way without individual approval necessary to keep the phone accessible. This will be done free.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Ven. Lhagsam

Accepted

4. BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

New BCQ Website – Jim has confirmed with Josh that he will be installing the “reCAPTCHA” verification module on our site to eliminate the auto-hacker. Jim has deleted over 160 errant logins and matching blogs in the past week. Jim also said that apart from these false logins, there are only a few actual interactive members using the site, however we have received more than 27,000 hits in just the past few months. He also said the number of web-generated enquiries for information are being received about one per week on average.

Letters of Appreciation etc. – Jim has yet to finalise the Letters of Support but added that Josh has actually asked for a formal reference to assist him in his future career prospects. This was agreed with great enthusiasm since his efforts have been very well recognised. Jim will pass the drafts to Kim to go out under his signature.

Ajahn Brahm's September Visit – Chee confirmed that there is a lot of planning under way and he is discussing details with GU-MFC. Chee also said the seating capacity for that venue is 200-300 and Kim urged the need to promote bookings to ensure both no overcrowding but also expressions of interest, and to ensure the ability for donations to be received. Chee reminded that his last, relatively un-publicised talk attracted around 300 people at Ellen Grove. Jim said he will place the announcement on the “What's New” page as an “Early Bird” reservation, to be returned by the end of August. This will complement GU-MFCs own marketing processes where it is unlikely we will know how many are coming and ultimately, will be managed by them. Kim queried the provision of PL insurance for this event, and it is believed to be covered by their own insurance processes. Kim also asked Chee to confirm recording options, video and any access and rights to use the recording – Jim briefly mentioned potential copyright issues involved. AB's topic is “***Putting Meaning Into Life***”.

Creationism in Primary Schools – Jim opened the discussion raised by the Sunday Mail journalist about primary school classes on the Gold Coast were receiving teachings in Creationism from some RI teachers. Jim was interviewed for comment and he replied it was worth raising with REAC as to how appropriate this is for such young minds. Ven. Lhagsam offered that such concepts are not acceptable for such young and impressionable young minds, and the fact that those teaching the idea must obviously believe it, but that does not give licence to do so. Jim added that he believed it contradicted the principles of RI insofar as there is not supposed to be any subject that denigrates or challenges other belief systems but rather focus on the merits and benefits of their faith and with due respect for other belief systems. It was agreed that there are a multitude of other religious concepts that could be presented instead. The fact that this contrary view to established science, delivered in the same academic environment, must also lead to, at least, the potential to cause confusion and therefore suffering of the young person.

It was agreed that the BCQ shall seek a formal request to REAC to discuss this issue as a matter of principle.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Ven. Lhagsam

Accepted

2011 Qld Week Funding Application – Further to our last meeting, the committee shared emails on the proposed topic for this event and discovered a number of issues that suggest we should amend our theme, namely:

- Increased difficulty (or impossibility) of securing PL insurance;
- Media (& other) sensitivity to the topic;
- Perceived difficulty to deliver a unified policy position.

The other significant issue realised was the cost of venue hire and those related OHSE compliance issues, whereupon Chee mentioned said his discussions with GU-MFC revealed their willingness to provide their venue in exchange for a contribution allied to the cost of comparable hire elsewhere.

Further discussion then led to the decision to set the new topic/theme as “***The challenges surrounding death in families – a Queensland multi-faith perspective on coping successfully with the death of friends and family***”.

It was further agreed to approach GU-MFC to formally secure their support for their venue during the specified period thereby eliminating the issues of insurance and hire, etc.

Discussion then led to format and guest contributors, which, it was agreed, should invite equal representation by the minority faiths who rarely get a chance to air their views. Therefore, contributors should be canvassed from the Christian, Baha’i*, Muslim, Hindu*, Sikh* and Athiest/Agnostic views and include a Funeral Director’s perspective as well as Buddhist. The keynote speaker could well be Ven. Ajahn Brahm if he was available, but care needs to be given that this is a Queensland-focussed forum rather than national. The other alternative could be a local MC such as 4BC’s Sunday evening ‘Philosophical Hour’ presenter Ian Maurice. Kim suggested including a local case-study of a man who has an inspirational story to share. (*: as options). Timing is also crucial – say 15min for the opening keynote &/or case study, then 20minutes for each of the speakers, followed by a Q&A at the end = at least 100 minutes before the Q&A as a minimum. This then suggests the program will need to be an afternoon rather than evening, perhaps 1-5pm with an afternoon tea/coffee break, suggesting the target date should be Saturday 4th or 11th June 2011, from 1-5pm. Further discussion on actual program and format can be discussed at the next meeting. Chee will liaise with GU-MFC, and Jim will follow up with the funeral director and 4BC.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

None specific to BCQ (Kim mentioned some FABC update and complimented the Premier of Qld, Anna Blight for here very supportive Letter of Support for the ASA Conference.

MEETING CLOSED: 12:00 pm

NEXT MEETING: Meeting Room – Sunnybank Hills Library
Address: Cnr Calam and Compton Rds, Sunnybank Hills
Date: Saturday 21 August 2010 Time booked: 9.30am- 12:30pm

Signed by President: _____ Secretary: _____ Date: __/__/2010