

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: 17th September 2005

VENUE: Karuna House

ATTENDANCE: As Per Attendance Book

QUORUM: Yes

APOLOGIES: Tan Sarath-Chandra

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Ferguson

SECRETARY: Lynn O'Connor.

Jim passed a comment on the fact that, owing to not being able to form a quorum for the August Committee Meeting, the Minutes that were accepted were for July. Also, some committee members thought that the meeting today was to be at 1pm. When, in fact, it was at 10.30am. Jim also stated that as we all took on this obligation, we should do our utmost to attend each and every meeting we have.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was no business arising from the previous Minutes.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved Jim Ferguson

Seconded Chee Wong

CORRESPONDENCE

Firstly, Jim explained that any correspondence that is undertaken on behalf of the BCQ must be handed over to the Secretary for tabling at meetings. Chee Wong handed over some emails from Chung Tian Temple.

Correspondence was read out and tabled.

BUSINESS ON NOTICE

1. There was a group discussion on the upcoming Multicultural Festival. Basically, we talked about who would be available to help, what handouts we could have there and which groups were coming. It was explained that we could not sell anything and we could not accept donations.
2. Chee Wong is going to obtain a loan of Buddhist Flags from the Cambodian Temple. Jim has organized a banner for the BCQ, he is also willing to set the stall up and take it down after the festival but would appreciate any help that can be given.
3. It was proposed that the BCQ immediately pay the Public Liability cover being offered by the M/Cultural Festival Organizers, the cost being \$75.00 for the day.

Moved Kim Hollow

Seconded Jim Ferguson

Motion Carried

MEMBERSHIP – Jim asked if all Committee Members groups are financial members of the BCQ? Lynn O'Connor stated that the three representatives of the Brisbane Buddhist Vihara would have to tender their resignations as the BBV was undecided as to whether they would be joining the BCQ. The committee for the BBV said they will decide at their next meeting, which is going to be held at a date to be decided in October. Jim stated that it is part of our policy that anyone who is on our committee must be part of a financial member of the BCQ. Jim has put on record that the committee members groups have until the end of the financial year (31.12.2005) to become financial.

As we represent all Buddhists and not just groups, we need to look at the structure of memberships in the near future and to discuss and decide about giving voting rights to Individual members. We need to frame up a new resolution at the next committee meeting, to put before a Special General Meeting and then submit it to the Office of Fair Trading.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS – Jim proposed that Form 2 (Centre Form) and Form 3 (Individuals/Sangha Form) both be accepted as our correct membership forms.

Moved Terry O'Connor

Seconded Chee Wong

Motion Carried

BROCHURE – Form 1 be endorsed as the current Brochure to be freely distributed to the general public.

Moved Jim Ferguson

Seconded Kim Hollow

Motion Carried

PUBLIC LIABILITY – As we have already approved the payment of Public Liability, we now need to pass a resolution to pay whichever is the lesser of the two quotes we have.

Moved Terry O'Connor

Seconded Rachel Hannam

Motion Carried

MEETING ATTENDANCE – The subject was raised by Terry O'Connor because Tan Sarath-Chandra was again unable to attend today's meeting, due to the fact that he was going to attend his father's Dhamma class. Terry objected to this, as Tan lives with his father he could have the lesson at home. Terry felt that being on a committee and not attending meetings was inappropriate. It was pointed out that this is a personal issue and our agendas are all different. Jim read out what he had written on the bottom of the Agenda for this meeting. This stated that "Member's are reminded the committee can only function through the support of its member's. Full attendance is encouraged at this meeting." Also, Lynn O'Connor raised the same issue regarding Siri Fernando, he also has not been attending meetings. Kim Hollow suggested that we may need to choose another day for meetings.

MOBILE PHONE – A mobile phone was donated by Jay Maharage, we need to get a new battery for it. The battery will cost \$10.00. Jim proposed that we get a new battery.

Moved Jim Ferguson

Seconded Chee Wong

Motion Carried

PRESS RELEASES AND MEDIA CONTACT – Jim stated that it is very important that anything that is done to represent the BCQ or opinions given on behalf of the BCQ must be documented and put before the committee.

- a. Anything that requires a vote at some other function must first be put to the BCQ committee and voted on.
- b. If it is a representation, then a report must be given at the next committee meeting of the BCQ.

Moved Jim Ferguson

Seconded Terry O'Connor

Motion Carried

WEBSITE AND INTERNET – Josh Birtles (of Karuna Hospice) has offered to look at updating and maintaining our website. It was proposed that Josh Birtles be asked to do an upgrade to our website to make it more user-friendly as soon as possible. His concept is to be presented to our next committee meeting for approval if ready.

Moved Kim Hollow

Seconded Chee Wong

Motion Carried

FUNCTIONS PARTICIPATION – Jim gave a brief rundown on the Three Worlds Interfaith Forum. There were six members of different Philosophies represented, Jim represented the Buddhism. The topic was, "What is the most valuable human quality?" The night was a great success.

The Holy Relics Exhibition was well represented by the BCQ. There was a donation of \$100.00 donated on behalf of the BCQ.

Woodford Folk Festival Namgyal Monks is now out of our hands. Tenzin Choegyol is now managing the tour.

Karuna has the Namgyal Monks coming three times. First is to consecrate the ground for the Stupa. Secondly, to consecrate all of the Precious Objects that will go into the Stupa. The third time is to Bless the Stupa and commemorate it. This will all take place from January to March 2006.

The Monks may also be doing a Sand Mandala at the Brisbane Conservatorium at Southbank in late January 2006.

Basically we are no longer needed or invited to take part in their tour.

NEMBUTSHU SECT – Deferred to the next committee meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

FABC REPRESENTITIVES – The proposal is that Kim Hollow be accepted as one of the two representatives for the BCQ at future FABC meetings. Rahu Sarath-Chandra is to be removed as a representative as he is not a member of the BCQ. A formal note of thanks for his past participation is to be sent to Rahu from the BCQ.

Moved Jim Ferguson

Seconded Lynn O'Connor

Motion Carried

MEETINGS TIMES AND DAYS – We need to get the meeting times and days sorted out so that they suit all members. We are given a months notice of the meetings and this should be sufficient. All committee members do need to come to the meetings.

PASTORAL CARE – It was suggested by Terry O'Connor that the Multi-faith Forum be more direct in the pursuit of its Mission Statement. It should provide a wider range of services, embracing more philosophies for those in need, instead of creating the appearance of a bias towards mainstream religions. Some discussion was held on this topic.

NEXT MEETING

DATE: 29th October 2005

TIME: 10.30am

VENUE: Karuna House

MEETING EVALUATION

Chee Wong – Good Meeting
Jay Maharage – Encouraging
Terry O'Connor – Constructive

Kim Hollow – Productive
Peter Lester – Relaxed and productive

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Moved

Seconded

REPORTS

TREASURER

GENERAL BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING

DATE

TIME

VENUE

SECRETARY

CHAIRPERSON