

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 December 2005

TIME: 9.36am

VENUE: Karuna House

ATTENDANCE: As Per Attendance Book

QUORUM: Yes

APOLOGIES: Tan Sarath-Chandra, Peter Lester, Chee Wong

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Ferguson

SECRETARY: Lynn O'Connor.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved : Kim Hollow

Seconded : Jim Ferguson

CORRESPONDENCE:

IN: Correspondence was readout and tabled, amongst them were ...

1. Office of Fair Trading requesting more info on the Model Rules (Membership Classes).
2. Community for Children/Young People and Child Guardian, re Blue Card Forum.
3. QLD Multicultural Festival, re Questionnaire.
4. A letter was received from a person about a personal debate with Chenrezig Institute. The issue was tabled, no discussion followed as the matter is being dealt with externally.
5. An information letter was sent by the Buddhist Society of Western Australia regarding the Global Conference to be held there in June 2006.

OUT:

1. All receipts were issued and sent out for membership fees.
2. The OFT was advised of the date for the next General Meeting for the changes to the Model Rules (Membership Classes).
3. Blue Card Forum was notified of attendance by Jim Ferguson.
4. Questionnaire was completed and sent to the QLD Multicultural Festival organiser.

Moved: Jay Maharage
Motion Carried.

Seconded: Terry O'Connor

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. The Treasurer reported that we have \$391.82 in the BCQ account.
2. Reimbursements - \$30.00 to Lynn O'Connor for postage.
3. Petty cash of \$50.00 requested to be held by Lynn O'Connor.

Moved: Jim Ferguson
Motion Carried.

Seconded: Lynn O'Connor

MULTICULTURAL PHOTOS:

Jim tabled some photos that were taken at the Multicultural Festival.

BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

a. Membership Structure - Rule 5, Model Rules. The OFT has requested that we re-define the present classes of membership. We need to come up with a special resolution to put to the next General Meeting with respect to defining just who we represent and the voting rights of the members. A lengthy discussion was held on this topic before coming up with the wording for the Special Resolution. The main feeling is that, if we are going to be true to our purpose then the financial side is secondary. We should be representing Buddhism and all Buddhists in Queensland. The types of classes should be

- 1.** Associate Members - people who are non-Buddhist who may choose to support the Council but do not have a vote.
- 2.** Ordinary Members – people who explicitly declare themselves as Buddhist and they will pay an annual membership fee of \$20.00 with full voting rights.
- 3.** Family Members – two or more of a family unit with the same surname who explicitly declare themselves as Buddhist and they will pay an annual membership fee of \$30.00 with full voting rights for two people only.
- 4.** Centre Members – consisting of three of their ordinary members and the Centre will pay an annual membership fee of \$50.00 each with full voting rights for each of the three nominated members.

Jim proposed that we put to the next General Meeting the Special Resolution to amend our membership structure. Firstly, rescinding our current classes of membership under Rule 4, Appendix b. Deleting Institutional and Ordinary as they stand, and adopting the general precept of Rule 5.1. We would then have Associate, Life, Honorary and Ordinary unlimited members. And that we further, by minutes define, Individuals as that, if they don't make a declaration of being a Buddhist, they can be an Associate member with no voting rights. A Centre shall be a group of three or more ordinary unlimited members. The centre can nominate and pay a discounted rate that gives them three votes.

Moved: Jim Ferguson
Motion Carried.

Seconded: Terry O'Connor

- b.** Website and Internet presence – Josh is still working on the website. As soon as it is available for viewing Jim will let the committee members know where we can have a look at it.
- c.** Policy Manual – Jim will produce a draft and email it to the committee members before our next meeting, for discussion at the meeting.
- d.** Nembutshu Sect – Terry suggested that the issue was long drawn out and has become a very political issue and felt it not appropriate for the BCQ to embark on this issue with the Nembutshu Sect. After quite a long discussion it recommended the topic no longer involves the BCQ.
- e.** We need to become more pro-active with Buddhist Centres and make ourselves known to them. Maybe revisit the idea of having some books sent from overseas for free distribution. In general, if we could all think of some ideas for the future.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1.** Blue Card Forum – Jim attended the forum and found that, as of the 16th January 2006 any organization, voluntary or otherwise, that has anything to do with providing education to young people, the committee of that organization must all be Blue Card holders. Because in our rules we talk about Buddhist youth etc. we all have to apply for a Blue Card. Jim will send a copy of the relevant form and information to all committee members via email asap. Also, technically this means that anyone who takes office at the next AGM should have a Blue Card.
- 2.** Website update – Dakini Sangha, Maitreya Hospice Care Inc both need to be removed from our web listing.
- 3.** Multi-Faith Forum – Terry O'Connor is no longer going to represent the Buddhist community at future meetings of the Multi-Faith Forum.

Before the close of the meeting, Kim advised the committee that Chee Wong's wife has just been diagnosed with a major illness. We all held a few moments of silent prayer for Chee and Kim and wish them both well.

NEXT MEETING:

DATE: 28th January 2006

TIME: 9.00am

VENUE: Karuna Hospice

MEETING CLOSED: 11.15AM

CHAIRPERSON.....

SECRETARY.....

DATE: