

Policies Extracted from the Minutes

1. Peer Talks on Zen Buddhism

The original proposal was that these these talks, question and answer, and discussion will be:

- offered once a month on Saturdays starting at about 10:40 AM and they will be here in the zendo.
- take the place of the usual Saturday morning orientation on that one Saturday per month.
- last a maximum of 40 minutes.
- be informal and relaxed - after a short talk by the presenter for the morning it will be a chance for both peers and new students to meet, ask questions, make comments on practice issues, etc.
- be widely announced before the event on the e-mail tree, flyers at ZDS, made a regular part of the ZDS calendar for a trial period of six months.
- people who would be willing to give of their time to give these talks would sign up ahead of time on a list.

The prerequisites for a person giving these talks would be:

- have been a member or associate of ZDS and practiced at least fairly regularly at ZDS for a minimum of six to eight years.
- must consider themselves to be practicing in the 'Diamond Sangha' Zen Buddhist tradition or a tradition closely associated with the 'Diamond Sangha' tradition.
- have a regular sitting practice at home and be studying with Pat Hawk Roshi; perhaps studying with another recognized Diamond Sangha teacher might be acceptable as well.
- On months when Pat Hawk Roshi gives talks or Q and A this could replace the peer-delivered talk.

The peer talks are to continue indefinitely: they have passed an initial probationary period and a review by the Board at the end of this time.

2. Tuesday Sits

The mid-day sits on Tuesdays are to continue indefinitely: they have passed an initial three-month probationary period and a review by the Board at the end of this time.

3. Communications from the Board of Directors and Members

3.1. ZDS Board of Directors Require Approval to Mention their Affiliation

This policy prohibits any current members and alternates on the ZDS BODs from 1.

using their official titles on the Board, or 2. mentioning the fact they are on the ZDS BODs, or 3. stating that they are representing ZDS, within any communication that they may issue to outside agents, people, or organizations, or to members, associate members, friends, or others associated with ZDS, without the expressed approval of a majority of the BODs at an official Board meeting where there is a quorum, or by other means of communication where the majority of the Board of Directors is in agreement. A violation of this no-use of title, association or representation policy can result in removal from the BODs, following the procedure for doing so in the Bylaws of ZDS.

3.2. The Right of non-Board members at ZDS to Express their Opinions

This policy affirms the right of non-ZDS Board members and others associated with ZDS to freely express their opinions to outside organizations, agents and persons while at the same time identifying themselves as members of ZDS, signing their names for example, as "John Smith, member, ZDS", without any ZDS BODs approval. Non-ZDS Board Members and others associated with ZDS are encouraged, as a courtesy to the ZDS, to state in their communications the following sentence: "The words expressed in this communication are solely and completely my own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of Zen Desert Sangha, its members, or its Board of Directors".

3.3. Required Disclaimer for Board Members and Alternates

This policy requires any current any current member or alternate of the ZDS BODs, who releases a communication whereby he or she identifies himself or herself to be a member of ZDS, but not as being associated in any way with the BODs, to put the following statement at the beginning of that communication: "The words expressed in this communication are solely and completely my own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of Zen Desert Sangha, its members, or its Board of Directors". This requirement may be waived for any specific BODs member in general, or for specific or general communications that a BOD needs to take as part of their job as a Board member by a majority vote of the BODs at a BODs meeting.