



Meeting of Members

Kwan Um School of Zen / Europe

Warsaw Zen Center / Poland / September 3, 2016

Participants:

Teachers (11 of 13):

Bon Shim (Aleksandra Porter) SSN
Ji Kwang (Roland Whorle) SSN
Joeng Hye (Andrzej Piotrowski) SSN
Jo Potter JDPSN
Ja An (Bogumila Malinowska) JDPSN
Oleg Šuk JDPSN
Arne Schaefer JDPSN
Koen Vermeulen JDPSN
Igor Piniński JDPSN
Jiří Hazlbauer JDPSN
Knud Rosenmayr JDPSN

Zen Centers and Zen Groups (34 of 41)

Vienna Zen Center	Austria
Brussels Zen Center	Belgium
Prague Zen Center	Czech Republic
Brno Zen Center	Czech Republic
Vrážné Zen Center	Czech Republic
Liberec Zen Center	Czech Republic
Olomouc Zen Group	Czech Republic
Paris Zen Group	France
Cologne Zen Group	Germany
Berlin Zen Center	Germany
Dresden Zen Center	Germany
Hamburg Zen Group	Germany
Bad Bramstedt Zen Group	Germany
Budapest Zen Group	Hungary
Vilnius Zen Center	Lithuania
Kaunas Zen Center	Lithuania
Šakiai Zen Center	Lithuania
Warsaw Zen Center	Poland
Gdansk Zen Center	Poland
Krakow Zen Center	Poland
Katowice Zen Center	Poland
Lodz Zen Center	Poland
Plock Zen Group	Poland
Rzeszow Zen Group	Poland
Torun Zen Group	Poland
Wroclaw - Wałbrzych Zen Group	Poland
Košice Zen Center	Slovakia
Malacky Zen Group	Slovakia

Bratislava Zen Center	Slovakia
Piešťany Zen Group	Slovakia
Palma de Mallorca Zen Center	Spain
Barcelona Zen Center / Borisa	Spain
Peak Zen Group, The	United Kingdom
London Zen Center	United Kingdom

Chairman: Knud Rosenmayr

Minutes: Ľubor Košť

Voting rules:

Teachers are eligible to vote with one vote, Zen Centers (ZC) with a total number of members higher than 15 (including) or having more than 3 residents are eligible to vote with two votes, smaller ZC and Zen Groups (ZG), with less than 15 members, have one vote.

During the meeting the **total number of votes was 62.**

Agenda:

1. Formal opening of meeting and approving the agenda
2. Approvals of treasury reports and Council's and European Office's actions (sent in advance)
3. Financial Situation and budget for 2017
4. Approval of the newly elected Council
5. New Website
6. Future European Retreat Center
7. Formal closure of MoM

Ad 1. - Formal opening of meeting and approving the agenda

- Chairman (Knud PSN) welcomed the members
- voting system explained to MoM
- total number of votes is 62
- approving of the agenda:
 - o **Vote:**
 - for 62
 - against: 0
 - abstaining: 0
 - o **Result:** Agenda was approved by the MoM.

Ad 2. - Approvals of treasury reports and Council's and European Office's actions (sent in advance)

- Financial report sent in advance to the European Sangha (by email) and now reviewed again after the request of Polish Sangha Abbot.

- Q&A:
 - o Question (“Q”): Is the German Sangha share of Membership complete? Answer (“A”) by Ji Kwang SSN: Yes, it’s a half year 2016 payment.
 - o Q: Moravia with 0 € share, is this correct? A by Koen PSN: EO didn’t received correct information, the system was that time just in the state of preparation, and anyway now the system is started and begins to work also locally in the Sanghas.
- Jo Potter PSN: Budapest sangha has no membership, nevertheless they have collected 100 € for this stage of membership tithes collection.
- **Vote:**
 - o for 62
 - o against: 0
 - o abstaining: 0
- **Result:** Agenda was approved by the MoM.

Ad 3. - Financial Situation and budget for 2017

- Koen PSN:
 - o **Current cash level** of the School: **6.641.15 €.**
 - o Donation from Novgorod (after closing the ZC): 1.205,13 €.
 - o Donation from Teachers (their honorary) to the budget: 1.190 €.
 - o Exceptional donation from the taenghwa sales: 2.474,28 €
 - o Profit from the winter KC in WBS (Clarification after MoM: this point should be Profit from Sangha Weekend in WBS)
 - o Usage of the money:
 - Head teacher support
 - WBS support (50 perc of “taenghwa” money already went to WBS)
 - o **2017 visions:**
 - **Income: 15.543 €**
 - **Expenses: 15.543 €**
 - o Q from Polish Sangha about the scholarship usage. A: item will be discussed in the Council.
 - o Ji Kwang SSN: International Initiative is led by Kathy Park PSN in Korea – how to develop our school, looking into the future, offering online dharma talks, online interviews – donations are necessary, so KUSZ/Eu will help by 1.000 € for each of the next 2 years. Money is already kept in our account, and will be used later for the particular projects.
 - o Koen PSN: thank you to everybody for their membership payments to their local Sangha, as this makes a great support for the KUSZ/Eu functioning. There was a discussion to get one payment for each country for 6 months period to make the collection simpler in execution and to make the money work behind.
 - o Q&A:
 - Q from Igor Piniński PSN: In future, can a support for the new groups be found? A by Ji Kwang SSN: We’re having that already running – ZCs support (WBS) and new ideas can be discussed as they arise.
 - Q from Polish Sangha Abbot: who made the budget? Was it already following the past line or actual status? A by Koen PSN: Partially from the past, and

partially following new ideas as we already dispose of the money. Ji Kwang SSN: the budget is agreed by the Council.

- Q from the Polish Sangha: can ZCs ask for the support? A by Ji Kwang SSN: Yes, do it, the Council will listen to Sangha ideas. Council should be addressed by the applicants.

- **Vote:**
 - o for 62
 - o against: 0
 - o abstaining: 0
- **Result:** Financial report was approved by the MoM.

Ad 4. - Approval of the newly elected Council

- New Council was elected by the Board of Trustees (the individual teachers).
- Old Council was thanked for their work by the MoM by three full prostrations.
- Ji Kwang SSN:
 - o The execution is done by EO, Members thanked to each of EO member.
 - o Next year Ji Kwang SSN leaves for abroad for 3-4 months, also functions as the vice-head teacher, too many jobs, so the changes in the Council are important.
 - o New Council members are: Bogumila PSN, Koen PSN and Jo PSN.
 - o No speaker is designed yet.
- **Vote:**
 - o for 62
 - o against: 0
 - o abstaining: 0
- **Result:** New Council was approved by the MoM.

Ad 5. - New Website

- New website presented to the Members by Peter Voke.
- Link will be sent to the Sangha for their comments, then to the Council and the Head Zen Master, who will eventually approve the project, and then it will be going to life.

Ad 6. - Future European Retreat Center

- Possible candidates for the Future European Retreat Center are:
 - o Wu Bong Sa (WBS)
 - o Vrazne ZC
 - o Borisa
 - o A new European Retreat Center
- WBS – presented by Agata Sobiecka:
 - o WBS is functioning as a ERC actually from 1988 (exists from 1983).
 - o New Dharma Room from 1998 with an area of 108 m².
 - o Reconstruction yrs. 2017-2018 is planned, in the place of the old building with the actual changing room; the pentagram shaped building could be built with a lot of

facilities, showers, toilets and resident rooms. A digital presentation was shown to the Members.

- o Qs from Ji Kwang SSN:
 - How many retreat participants can stay here? – A by Agata: Depends on the requirements on the quality of accommodation.
 - Will there be any chance for quieter place of retreat in the mountain? – A by Jurek Wójcicki: maybe in the future; first the WBS renovation should be finished, then mountain temple project can be started.
- o Q about the residence training vs. long retreats participants of residents. Agata: Residents no more should move out during the KC as before; they sit retreat in majority, they financially support WBS.
- Vrážné – candidate for ERC? Jirka PSN: why not.
 - o Quietness of nature.
 - o Two main houses, under reconstruction.
 - o When finished, Dharma room area can reach 120 m².
 - o They can build ten toilets, ten showers, house for solo retreats.
 - o More lands and forest areas could be bought.
 - o Good relationships with neighbourhood.
- Borisa – presented by Bon Shim SSN
 - o They're not sure if they can be candidate for ERC as they didn't consider this, she cannot talk in their name.
 - o The place is rented, owner is interested in Zen, the price for the property is overestimated nowadays.
- Discussion:
 - Igor Piniński PSN: let's focus on finishing the projects under construction first.
 - Ji Kwang SSN: it makes sense, but we have SRP retreats all around Europe. We can go this direction, but then we will never have ERC in future. There can be a problem with financing, as we can support just one place. It's important to have a wonderful practicing place, as other schools have.
 - Peter Voke: SRP fragments the European Sangha, scholarship would be good to stop fragmentation as it would allow people to move from one to another SRP place during the event.
 - Bon Shim SSN: maybe it's not a time for one ERC, people practice and work locally. For example, the Providence ZC is almost empty now, it's functioning for the big gatherings 1-2 times per yr., and they're struggling. Good to have some vision, project, but let's go with the flow.
 - Jan Sendzimir: the Zen Center is not just a physical structure. Young people cannot sit more that week because of their university program in US. The same situation is coming to Europe, people choose their week to sit the retreat, and they cannot sit more. It's important to have a practical vision to reflect students' vision.
 - Ji Kwang SSN: Shall we keep this vision of ERC? We will not repeat mistakes from other parts of the school. We will keep the vision. Festival culture nowadays in Europe shows the interest of the young people for something. It's the same like during the 70s, when DSSN came to US, young people are looking for something, they have questions that we had and they come

together to experience something. We can offer them something:
community life, refugee program, European funds program.

- Igor Piniński PSN: we have more and more teachers. If we have one place, only some of the teachers can come and teach there. Decentralisation is better way to get more practitioners and job for many teachers. SRP works very well and let's keep 3 months KC at one place.
- Q from Polish sangha: what is the problem not having ERC? A by Ji Kwang SSN answers: maybe we have no courage.
- Next Q: What is the motivation to start a new ERC? A by Peter Voke: if we have money, WBS would be finished and we could help also to Vrážné and start new ERC. Bon Shim SSN: there's no problem, don't make problem.
- Jo Potter PSN: we need a fund raising to get more money for renovations, finishing and buying new properties. We need the vision, if we have more, then we can offer more.
- Martin Kašpárek (Vrážné ZC): also the ZC's stuff is very important; each place is under their needs with the staff. We should consider, how to help people who keep and care of the ZC running.
- Knud: thanks for all the questions and comments.

Ad 7. - Formal closure of MoM

- Bon Shim SSN: thank you all for coming and participating at this meeting, discussions were so inspiring. Thank you for your work at your local places, it's so important. We all benefit from your work.
- Chairman formally closed the meeting.

September 3, 2016

Written by Ľubor Košút

Approved by Jo Potter PSN