# The Caretaking Committee of the Honey Locust Sangha met on July 9 2017. Members present included Mark Watson, Colleen Brown, Beth Draper, Gina Matkin, Amanda Zasada, Dave Watts, and Patrice Watson. These notes were made by Patrice Watson. No visitors were present.

# The financial committee made a report and recommendations:

## Establish a prudent reserve of $1500 to meet unexpected and/or temporary expenses such as up front retreat costs. Agreed by the CTC.

## List regular expenses. This list was agreed by the CTC.

### Monthly rental to Yoga Path $200 for Monday night. Agreed by the CTC.

### Annual meetup cost of $180. Agreed by the CTC.

### Rental to Yoga Path of $30 per hour for sangha groups. Agreed by the CTC. Currently the groups using the Yoga Path are CTC ($60), women's group ($60), book group ($45).

### Dana to the teacher of the monthly e-talk of $60. This is a change from the current practice of $10 per participant. We also proposed adjusting this amount if the typical attendance changes. This proposal was tabled pending OI and CTC decision about future e-talk participation. We also prefer to hear from Mike McMahon prior to making changes since he worked out the current practice providing dana for e-talks.

## Develop a financial mission statement to guide future spending decisions. Agreed by the CTC. Patrice agreed to draft a statement to begin this process.

## Transparency of sangha financial practice is important. We will publish monthly financial reports such as lists of expenditures. These will be published on the web page and in the sangha book. Some copies will also be placed in the Dana basket. Agreed by the CTC. We request the treasurer to develop a report which is useful and not overly troublesome to publish.E. Reform of the method of collecting dana for retreat teachers was considered. Retreat teacher Dana will be kept separate from the registration fee. Explanation of teacher Dana will be provided prior to registration, with an opportunity (but not a requirement) to pay Dana at the time of registration. Agreed by the CTC.

## It was recommended that we develop a checklist for the Monday night facilitator to mention, including the library, non-monetary Dana opportunities like flowers and set up. Agreed. We request that Mark develop a checklist.G. It was recommended that we clarify policy on scholarships, which are an appropriate occasional expense for the sangha. They will be approved on a case by case basis by the CTC or if less than $200, by the OIs. Scholarships include covering individual fees for sangha events, covering expenses for sangha members to attend retreats and other practice events, and books for oi aspirants. This was agreed by the CTC.

# Moving on after all the recommendations of the finance committee, the CTC considered additional agenda items.

## Right speech and the dana basket sign. Patrice suggested that the current dana basket sign does not give a complete explanation of how dana basket money is currently spent, and that it should be revised. Others noted that the sign could also be used to inform sangha members of the fact that donations are not tax-deductible. Agreed by the CTC. We requested that Patrice draft a revision.

## Tax exempt status. Sangha members who had consulted informally with lawyers and/or reliable websites said that we are a tax exempt organization automatically by virtue of being a religious group. However, we are not a 503c entity and so donations to us are not tax deductible. The question was raised, Should we obtain 503c status? That decision was tabled.

## We discussed a difficulty which arose at a recent meeting. Visitors were present and a CTC member felt it was not appropriate to discuss some particular thing in the presence of the visitors. Unlike members of the CTC, visitors have not made a commitment to practicing together in openness and acceptance of all views. We agreed that discussion and decision making should always be done in closed session (ie, with only CTC members present). But we want to be open to input from non-members. So we agreed to publish our agenda on the web site, to announce upcoming meetings, and to request that any sangha member add agenda items by contacting Gina or any CTC member. If the sangha member wants to explain their views on the issue they can do it by email or in person with any CTC member. If they want to present their views in person to the CTC they can do so by prior arrangement/ appointment at the beginning of a meeting; they should plan to leave the meeting after the presentation.

## On the web site 'who we are' page there is some language about faiths with a specific reference to Christianity. It seemed to some of us that this leaves out other persons associated with non-Buddhist religious groups like Jews and Muslims, sounding an exclusive note that we don't like. Also some of us wanted to remove illusions to Buddhism as a faith. We agreed that the section should be changed, and asked Gina to draft a revision for consideration at the next meeting.

## We discussed our committee's commitment to open and forthright discussion, even in the face of conflict and difficulties. We renewed our vow to this ideal. We agreed that we would cultivate openness by pausing after each decision and asking, is the sangha in harmony?