

Grounds Minutes

Meeting 11/21/09

Present: Faith Mind, Roberta, Mugen, Lynda, Tara, Rich (Cloud Forest) Jigen, Jotai

Group started with a few moment of silence and centering. We then introduced ourselves.

Faith Mind (FM) explained the meeting format , and we agreed on a time that we would finish.

- I. FM distributed **mission statements** from other groups at ZCLA and we reviewed them and began crafting one for the Ground Group. Points that were considered important, and should be included, were:

The buildings and the soil (provide the containers to) protect the dharma.

The mission of the Grounds Group is to maintain and nourish the life surrounding ZCLA.

This is a place of practice and the grounds support that. We do this by designing, maintaining, working, with elements in a harmonious, mindful manner.

Neighborhood and porous-ness. Sustainable, awakened life.

Aesthetics, experiential, sensory, visual, energetically.

Buildings plantings, vegetation, wildlife.

- II. **Budget:** We reviewed the present budget for 2010. Discussed how we might use some of the \$\$\$\$. FM explained that we have the opportunity to identify projects which need to be done but are not included/covered in the budget. For these we can talk about finding specific donors to fund those efforts. At present there is little or no money for the Pundarika and Nilotpala courtyard projects. These must go through the Grounds Group.

- III. **Volunteer Grounds work:** Started discussing how to get work accomplished. Cloud Forest suggested inviting Sangha members, 4-half days a year to help weed, lift, clean, etc. Everyone though a half day followed by a lunch was a great idea.

Jotai is looking at the ZCLA calendar and seeing when these 4 half days would work within the bigger calendar of events. Lynda volunteered to come up with a more attractive name for the event then "Clean Up".

- IV. **Meetings in the future.** We all thought that every other month, the Second Saturday of the second month would work, So we're looking at January, 9th as our next meeting, 1pm, be there. Then, March 13th, May 8th, etc.

- V. **Walk around:**

- a. Introduced newbies to the Irolo side of the property.

- b. Visited the front of the interview rooms. Mugen made some planting suggestions. Tara brought up the idea of natives. People seemed to like what was presented and had some input. FM and Mugen will meet with Roshi to discuss final decisions.
- c. Pundarika Courtyard. We discussed what needs to come out, and some ideas for what goes in. More sitting space, less planting. The need to balance sitting/plantings/sacred space. Jotai will send out an invitation to BHC for anyone interested in how the courtyard takes shape. He will also direct residents that potted plants are to be claimed and moved by 12/15.
- d. Briefly mentioned the idea for terracing on the East side of the Pundarika lawn. There is some interest there.
- e. Nilotpala: What great changes have taken place there! What work needs to be done. Lynda is interested in appropriate ground covers and she and Mugen will discuss this.
- f. A visit to the Jizo Garden. Discussed taking out some of the older junipers to make room to highlight Pine and to build a seating area. There's some concern that taking the junipers out without a plan for something to replace them and block the view of cars and the workshop roof might be premature. Cloud Forest, Mugen and FM will discuss.

Did I get it gang?

Deep bows, Mugen