

# Dharma Zephyr Sangha Vision Day

Saturday, January 13, 2018

Prepared by Mary Helen Fein

There were 23 people present. The day was held at the home of Susan Antipa in Carson City. Everyone sat in a big circle to start.

Mary Helen Fein served as facilitator. She first welcomed the group. She introduced herself as a member of Mountain Stream Meditation and said she hoped she could facilitate Dharma Zephyr Insight Meditation Community in their exploration of their vision for the future.

She presented an outline of what the day would be:

Introductions

Past History

Present Situation

Future Visioning

She emphasized that the most important thing was to keep an atmosphere of friendliness towards one another.

Mary Helen then led a five-minute sitting with the focus of the sit being to open to inspiration and guidance for yourself and for the day.

## Introductions and One Word for the Day

We went around the room. Each person said their name, where they were from and what group(s), if any, they were affiliated with. Then they gave one word which summarized what they would like to see for DZIMC, and also what they hope to offer for this day, to the process and for the future of the Sangha.

Mary Helen wrote down names the name of each person and their word. Then, everyone was given 5 round yellow stickers so they could vote for the 5 words they most resonated with. Duplicate words were written on the flip chart so that no one would vote for them, allowing us to see the total vote for each word. (These words are in light gray below.)

This listing technique allowed everyone’s feelings and hopes to be included, but also showed the degree to which each of these were shared by the group.

There were 110 stickers in all, so the chart shows percent of 110. Here is the list:

Order of Speaking	Name	Word	Votes	%
5	Jeff	Community	19	0.17
2	Linda Herrick	Welcoming	13	0.12
22	Harry	Dhamma	12	0.11
4	Susan Antipa	Sustain	9	0.08
7	Jasmine	Inclusion	8	0.07
18	Mani	Priceless	8	0.07
12	David Zahrt	Compassion	7	0.06
21	Denise	Expansion	6	0.05
1	Kathy Schwerin	Support	5	0.05
9	Angela	Infiltration	4	0.04
10	Elvia	Indivisible	4	0.04
11	Lisa	Excitement (re Community)	4	0.04
13	Cashion	Non-Risk-Aversive	3	0.03
14	Christy	Outreach (Infiltration)	3	0.03
20	Susan J.	Vision	3	0.03
17	Candice	Growth	2	0.02
3	Cheryl	Continuation	0	0.00
6	Bob Elston	Welcoming		

8	Colleen	Support
15	Helen	Sustain - Continuation Community (DZ and Greater)
16	Anne	
19	Chas	Community

## History of Dharma Zephyr Sangha

Kathy Schwerin gave a brief history of the Sangha, touching on when it started, who founded the group (Christy Tews, Kathy Schwerin, and Stu Clancy), how it got its name, a list of many very well-known teachers who came and supported the early Sangha. Kathy talked about the smaller groups that arose in the geographic area, meeting places, and many other aspects of the history.

## The Present: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

We rearranged the seating into more than one row so that everyone could see the flip charts at the front of the space. Mary Helen put up 4 pages entitled:

Internal Strengths

Internal Weaknesses

External Opportunities

External Threats

The group called out items and volunteers wrote them onto the flip charts.

At the end, everyone voted with red dots for what they most agreed with in any category.

Here are the results. There were 110 total votes cast, so the chart shows percentage of 110. Also shown are percentage of votes cast in that area (SWO or T).

Order of Speaking	Strengths (Internal)	Votes	% of 110	% of 21
14	Retreats	7	0.06	0.33
1	Long Term Practitioners	4	0.04	0.19
5	No resident teacher	3	0.03	0.14
6	Strong community leaders	2	0.02	0.10
4	No hierarchy (peer led)	1	0.01	0.05
9	Attitude of Lightness/Humor	1	0.01	0.05

11	New Member Packet	1	0.01	0.05
12	Awareness of End of Samsara	1	0.01	0.05
13	No politics (societal)	1	0.01	0.05
2	Wisdom	0	0.00	0.00
3	Network (ing) within	0	0.00	0.00
7	Male presence	0	0.00	0.00
8	Diversity	0	0.00	0.00
10	Website	0	0.00	0.00
	Total votes 21			
	<b>Weaknesses (Internal)</b>			<b>% of 50</b>
4	Lack of diversity - older people	7	0.06	0.14
8	Lack of socializing = clique-y	7	0.06	0.14
9	Trouble introducing new people to group	6	0.05	0.12
7	Networking among sitting groups	5	0.05	0.10
3	Risk aversion	4	0.04	0.08
10	Lack of lay leaders/ info about them	4	0.04	0.08
6	No place to practice	3	0.03	0.06
11	Social media outreach/publicity/communicatns	3	0.03	0.06
12	Caring and pastoral care	3	0.03	0.06
2	No individual practice consultations	2	0.02	0.04
5	Hyper individualism	2	0.02	0.04
14	Apolitical	2	0.02	0.04
13	Awareness of state of the world	1	0.01	0.02
1	No resident teacher	1	0.01	0.02
	Total votes 50			
	<b>Opportunities (External)</b>			<b>% of 19</b>
6	Social and print media	5	0.05	0.26
2	Find place to practice	4	0.04	0.21
7	Pastoral care - elder community	4	0.04	0.21
9	Outreach for relationships w/other groups	2	0.02	0.11
4	Secular mindfulness	1	0.01	0.05
5	Website	1	0.01	0.05
8	Outreach/publicity	1	0.01	0.05
10	Awareness of the basis for religious practice	1	0.01	0.05
3	Technology	0	0.00	0.00
11	Retreats	0	0.00	0.00
12	Different Generations	0	0.00	0.00
1	Networking	0	0.00	0.00
	Total votes 19			

<b>External Threats</b>		<b>% of 20</b>		
	Maintain harmony w/diff feelings w/out			
5	silencing	6	0.05	0.30
1	No place to practice	6	0.05	0.30
4	Hate groups/poisonous political atmosphere	4	0.04	0.20
2	Technology	2	0.02	0.10
3	Secular mindfulness	2	0.02	0.10
6	Different generational values/perspectives	0	0.00	0.00
	Total votes 20			

## Visioning for the Future

People called out areas that they want DZIMC to grow towards. Volunteers listed all items on flip charts. At the end, everyone was invited to vote with blue dots for the areas of growth that they would most like to see happen. There were 104 votes in all, so percentage of 104 is given. Items are presented here in the order of most votes to least.

<b>Vision</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>% of 104</b>
More social group coordinating		
1 (person/tech?)	20	0.19
2 Larger stronger volunteer group	18	0.17
3 Foster/mentor/train new leaders	12	0.12
4 Visioning committee -tactical planners	10	0.10
5 Tactical plan	8	0.08
6 Better communications channels	8	0.08
7 Social media outreach person	6	0.06
8 Invest in tech - Skype	5	0.05
9 Center	4	0.04
10 More non-violent communications training	4	0.04
11 Paid staff	3	0.03
12 Pop up Sanghas - meet up groups	2	0.02
13 Balanced retreats (local/national)	1	0.01
14 Volunteer coordinator	1	0.01
15 Interest groups-Dharma book club	1	0.01
16 Small informal groups	1	0.01
17 Fundraising	0	0.00
18 Development (fundraising) coordinator	0	0.00
19 Sutta study groups	0	0.00
Total Votes	104	

## **Job List**

Kathy Schwerin handed out a list of jobs that are currently being done within DZIMC, with jobs where help is needed highlighted in yellow. She invited everyone to email her if they can volunteer for these items, or just to send her their contact info and skill sets if they want to get involved.

## **Closing**

Mary Helen led a short Metta and Dedication of the Merit. The meeting closed on schedule after about three hours.