

**TIBETAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF ARKANSAS  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
February 14, 2011**

**Board Members Present:**

James Ownbey, President  
Karen Chotkowski, Co-Treasurer  
Jasmine Merced, Secretary  
Geshe Thupten Dorjee, Member at Large  
Bill Symes, Member at Large

**Board Members Absent:**

Sidney Burris, Vice President  
Pam Dramis, Treasurer

**Committee Chairs Present:**

Christy Pollock, Community Outreach

**Committee Chairs Absent:**

Cheryl Maese, Membership  
Georgia Lance, Land  
Kate MacNaughton Lonberger,  
Fundraising  
Students for a Free Tibet Liaison

**Guests Present:**

Nancy Praus

6:33 pm Meeting called to order

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Approval of the Minutes.** Review postponed; no vote of approval.

**Financial Reports.** None. Pam intends to resign as Treasurer and recommends Ellen Druye as her replacement. Both Pam and Ellen need to attend the Board Meeting so that the recommendation can be formalized and the vote taken by the Board.

**Committee Reports**

*Community Outreach, report by Christy Pollock.* Interfaith Harmony Day has been rescheduled to February 18<sup>th</sup> due to recent inclement weather.

*Membership.* No report.

*Land.* Pete Peterson walked through land with Georgia to take measurements and help develop a property description. More work days are needed; it has been suggested that the highest priority be given to the construction of a parking lot.

*Student Liaison Committee for Students for a Free Tibet.* No report.

*Fundraising.* No report.

**HHDL at the UofA.** TCIA will display Tibetan artifacts in glass cases at the UofA. There is a need for description cards. The construction of a Mandala will take place in the Public Library. Sonam Dogsang, a photographer and monk, will have a photo exhibit during the mandala. Chanting will be performed in the Town Center on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 11:30am. The Town Center is providing the venue, tables, and chairs at no cost. TCIA will have a table at the Town Center, as will SFT. Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, monks will perform chanting for TCIA. A larger venue will be needed soon to accommodate our growing sangha. We will be providing room and board for visiting monks; the UofA will provide event tickets and Wal-Mart cards for food. Many Tibetans will be coming to Fayetteville for the event; we are seeking local hosts for places for them to stay.

Nota bene: the UofA has awarded a Tibetan girl a full tuition scholarship to the UofA. We are looking to institute people to become the residential host family for future Tibetan scholarship winners. Congratulations to Geshela for winning a \$900 award, presented by OMNI International.

**TCIA Website.** The revamped website is currently available at <http://artibet.org/>. A link will be made to the Oral teaching website. Christy and Ben have administrative privileges; Karen to be given same privileges.

**TCIA Bylaws.** The following areas of the Bylaws are targeted for revision:

- **Membership (II.1-2).** Of critical importance is to address membership requirements and develop a formal definition of members. Preliminary Board discussions suggested a \$20 annual membership fee and a membership database in order to track active membership. The responsibility of the Membership Committee will be to track members and collect renewal dues. We need counsel on the possible tax-deductibility of membership dues.
- **General (I.II).** A suggestion to add “promote and preserve Tibetan Culture: to this section has been made.
- **Annual Meetings (III.I).** We need to either set an annual meeting or change this section to reflect monthly meetings.
- **Budget.** The Board has agreed that we need to establish a projected budget.
- **Board Elections.** To be addressed in March.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Purchases.** Karen is ordering more books for the Wednesday class. This cost will be approximately \$150.

**Meditation Space.** Dramas Hardwood will soon be unable to accommodate the growing sangha for Sunday meetings, driving a current need to see alternate spaces.

**Event Notice.** A Soup Class, benefiting Tutors for Tibetan children, is scheduled for February 26.

Meeting adjourned 7:46