

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple—Annual General Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2025 - 12:30 PM

-----ZOOM LINK-----

<https://tinyurl.com/4e5n4p5v>

Meeting ID: 883 8496 7421

Passcode: 090284

AGENDA

12:30	Call to Order	Randy Matsushima
12:35	Opening Gassho	Rev. Diana
12:35-1:00	Sakura Square Redevelopment	Randy Matsushima w/ Others

PowerPoint presentation on redevelopment update. What might be coming forward. Current building is always being patched with repairs. Coming to a point where we can't keep patching. Rev. Hayashi shares his ideas on what the Temple will look like and be. There is a cultural aspect, a community aspect, and a religious aspect. We are not letting go of the history of the Temple but wants to add different values in order for the Temple to grow. We should provide various avenues in a good balance to bring back more people. Goal is to have a good balance so everyone can fit. When people feel they fit somehow, then they become part of the Sangha.

Charles and Joni, members of the ECE (Executive Committee) , represented both the Temple and Sakura square in the redevelopment of the entire block. Jon Campbell, Rev. Hayashi, Gayle Gota, Donna Inoye, Joni Sakaguchi, for Sakure Square Kenzo, Stacey, Kevin Yoshida and. Another group that has another group that's been involved, the Temple Design Committee and many other people. A Lot of people in the community are involved in keeping this moving forward.

What is the vision and values going forward and viable in the long-term as well as sustaining Japanese culture in a financially stable way?

Denver came up with a plan to revitalize downtown which is providing us an opportunity to move forward. The focus is a new Temple and Community Center, there will be other components to this but it will have the focus of the first two aspects.

So, what's next. This project has been in the works for a while, but there is a need. We've been spending alot of money into Sakura Square and the Temple but this is not sustainable. More expensive repairs are coming. The City of Denver is putting \$575 million dollars into redevelopment. The plan is to apply to attempt to get some of this money for this project. The estimated cost to redevelop is \$25-35 million - this includes a new Temple, cultural retail, parking, plaza for Cherry Blossom and Obon and community center.

Three buckets of funding - the City (DDDA), Private and additional revenue streams. The value of

our block since the pandemic has dropped and this is the gap in funding. We also need to think about the maintenance of the new building complex which also needs to be considered. It will probably take 2 years to work with the City alone and then working with the City on plans and probably another 2-3 years of constructing the new space.

Question on who else is working on this -advisors, etc. Team from the City, Brownstein (legal firm advising on legal side), CRL (lobbyist) to get our message across to the City Council, SideCar a PR firm, a PR firm in LA, Kenneth Ho, a developer on development strategy, and Kelly Yamasaki, architect..

We're still in the decision making phase, but this news of the DDDA and redevelopment from the City has provided an additional incentive and opportunity to move ahead.

1:00 -1:30 Regular Business

Administrative Reports

Alison Nishi

Spoke about the Temple website, added a calendar to home page, with Links to other information, restarted the bookstore with a breakdown of the sale, More details in the packet below. Working on email lists, doing online classes With a lot of interests, getting people requesting information from the kiosk in The lobby, working on consolidating what other board members have been Taking on for the last couple of years, trying to improve some efficiencies, Deposits are not taking place a couple time per week, working on updating a lot Of our records/information. Memberships are slowly going up, #'s are listed below.

Ministers' Report

Ministers

Provided data on services performed, on side note, there were no weddings. Trying to figure out how to promote weddings. Created small setting for Chat & Tea, working well so far. Started a meditative listening session in the Nokotsudo. Have been seeing some good attendance and bringing in new People.

For more details, see minister's update in this report.

Treasurer's Report

Zak Umetani

Reviewed 2024 and 2025 budgets. More details in the report.

Announcement of 2025 Board Meeting Dates

Courtney Ozaki

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• February 23
(Annual General Meeting)• March 16• April 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• August 17• September 21• October 19 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May 18• NO June meeting due to CherryBlossom Festival | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 16• December 21 (<i>potentially will cancel</i>) | |

BDA / Dharma School / YBA Report**Wendy Thompson**

Nothing more to add outside of what was in this report for these groups.

Endowment Report**Kevin Yoshida**

This is where long-term funds are parked and invested. It is a long-term approach. Ultimately the Board controls this endowment, but the committee oversees it.

1:30-2:00 Other Business Discussions /New Business Randy Matsushima

Gayle Goto - Spring Bingo/Springo - this will be replacing the raffle, along with some other fund-raising opportunities, such as the Colfax Marathon, relays and 5K, etc. Encourage outlying Temples to be involved and help with these events, with food, etc. For Cherry Blossom, people will still get food tickets in the mail, but no raffle tickets in the mail. The goal is to have these events replace the raffle - too labor intensive.

Randy nominated Gary Yamashita for the Temple Board.

2:00 – 2:30 Open Discussion Session

This session is dedicated to member and director questions or discussions of committee reports not addressed above submitted for this meeting.

Adjournment Closing Gassho - Rev. Hayashi