

# Notes from MRZC AGM Discussion – June 2017

## 1. What have you appreciated about Mountain Rain this past year?

- An inclusive and compassionate practice community in Vancouver
  - Having been away, saw the difference in having a steady and mature sangha and appreciate the kindness of the practitioners and the sangha family connections - feel that this is family, sense of intimacy and connection - people see me for what I am.
  - Feeling of community, intimacy, honesty, shared values; size of the community is good
  - K & M always supportive, great help in crisis, Dokusans as support
  - Always someone here at the zendo who is warm, welcoming and compassionate,
  - I know I can contribute as much as I can without pressure to do more
  - Like the way the Council works, informal and positive
- Varied and valued practice opportunities
  - Regular opportunity for practice; variety of practice options
  - Retreats and dharma talks are incredible; recordings very helpful
  - Jukai group process
  - Appreciate the Sea to Sky retreat
- Our Teachers
  - Bringing on Kate and Michael on as guiding teachers
  - Like that we have our own guiding teachers
  - What I have appreciated this past year is seeing the newer and younger sangha maturing and moving into positions of leadership
  - Appreciate the teachers' quality, and that we have teachers who are on-site, nearby

## 2. What would you like to see in the coming year?

- Do more, do less, do the same as we are doing now (mixed views)
  - Maintain what we are already doing, a lot of the same, especially retreats
  - Continue with ZenYU/needs long term coordination; maintain connection between old and new
  - Explore ways to engage more and to support other people.
  - Keep doing what we are doing, don't add too much more; less busyness

- Ideas for New/Different Activities and Programs
  - Encourage others to give talks; lots of experience in the sangha community
  - More diversity in sangha; accessibility even for people who don't have much time or resources
  - Planning around classes, wider advertising
  - Would like to see a revitalization of the practice community and family practice/I could help
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- Formalize policies and practices
  - Get business in order
  - More things written down rather than verbal (ie. job descriptions, policies, practices)
  - More financial security (ie a contingency fund and budget, endowment fund established);
  - Solidifying relationship with the landlord for stability in the longer term
  - Sustainability is important; will MRZC survive beyond 10 years?
- More Support for Our Teachers
  - Support the well-being of our teachers
  - Assistant for teachers, help with web development
  - See whether anyone is getting burnout (teachers/volunteers etc)
  - Need more volunteers helping out; would like to contribute more than I do
  - Prepare people for succession, to assume responsibilities; for example workshops by newly ordained people like Susan

### 3. What would you like to see in the next 3-5 years?

- Expand our space
  - More people came after we expanded our space (ie to Wall Street). A bigger space means more opportunity to offer more retreats and more events.

- A bigger place for weekend retreats, more rooms, our own place/not rented
- Longer term residential practice, especially for young people; who will take over as we age?; need to encourage others to lead and teach
- More space for young children/explore this possibility
- Expansion (maybe next door), contingency fund
- Do we want to continue with this space or expand? Or perhaps consider a move, such as a move to Mission?