

Gaden Relief Projects Board of Directors Meeting
18/07/13
Minutes

In attendance:

Ven. Zasep Rinpoche, Evan Zaleschuk, Conrad Richter, Matthew Richards

Regrets:

Matt King

Minutes:

Gaden Relief Projects has decided to renew the lease for the Russian truck used for the medical project in Mongolia. It is a three-year lease. GRP will add \$6000. to the \$10,000. now in budget for this Project. Ven. Zasep Rinpoche will get an official letter from Bold and Manla Tus, completed and signed that this project be able to continue.

At our last Board Meeting, GRP made an official decision to focus its vision and efforts on Mongolia and Zangskar, Ladakh. With this in mind, GRP has decided to formally take another Mongolian Buddhist Institution under its wing. Tugsbayasgalant Nunnery in Ulan Bator will now receive our support. Ven. Zasep Rinpoche, on his Summer 2013 trip to Mongolia, will use some of the funds earmarked for our Mongolia Project [\$16,000.] for new kitchen facilities at the Nunnery.

Rinpoche will also continue our Mongolia Project by taking a medical mission to Olmondelger, where they will visit an old folks home two hours out of Ulan Bator. They will use up to \$10,000. of the specific funds to set up a Buddhist shrine at the old folks home, do healing work and give Buddhist teachings for the people there. Rinpoche will write up an official report with pictures about this trip.

GRP has decided to formally end our relationship to the Mongolian Buddhist Monastery, Delgeruun Choira. It's Spiritual Director, Ven. Zava Damdin Rinpoche is now quite a renown Lama in Mongolia with many strong benefactors and the monastery is now well supported. GRP has decided to transfer any left over funds in the Delgeruun Choira Project account to the Tugsbayasgalant Nunnery account that they put to use there for their needs.

Conrad Richter asked all Board Members to submit personal stories and testimonies concerning Gaden Relief Projects for our upcoming newsletter celebrating GRP's 25th Anniversary. Ven. Zasep Rinpoche will mark this anniversary by a celebration of GRP with a slide show and pot luck dinner in Toronto at Gaden Choling Temple on Friday, November 8th at 6:30pm. Evan and Matthew will come to Toronto from Vancouver to attend this event.

Rinpoche informed GRP that presently, Tashi Lhapug Monastery in Tibet is not doing very well as an institution. For the most part, the monastery imploded as viable community a couple of years ago with many of the monks leaving the monastery to move to Zadoh city to found another community, one closer to the population of that region. There are now many 15-20 monks left at the original monastery. Rinpoche feels that GRP should hold off for now with any support for Tashi Lhapug. When Matt King returns to Tibet, GRP may be able to take the \$15,000. of raised funds for health care for the remaining monks who stayed at the Monastery but in the meantime we should just wait and see what happens to the community there.

The GRP Board finished the meeting with a call for more projects that would attract interest and excitement from people that we get more support and participation from the community at large - projects with specific goals and fundraising targets but neutral in regards to geopolitics. The Board felt that the Gobi Bear project would be an example of this and worth further attention and investment.

Meeting Close