

# Gaden Relief Projects Board Meeting

Wednesday December 9, 2015

## Minutes

Present: Ven. Zasep Tulku Rinpoche, Matthew Richards, Maureen Byrne, Irene Cortes.

Regrets: Matt King, Evan Zaleschuk, Stephen Tang.

The meeting opened with acceptance of the minutes from April 7, 2015, Matthew making the motion for acceptance, seconded by Irene. All were in favour.

Matthew reported on his ongoing meetings with Conrad; Matthew is getting up to speed on the electronic record keeping system Conrad has set up, in order to take over the administration of GRP's online documents and website management. Conrad will continue lending his support for the near future. Matthew then reported that Olivia Chen will produce the GRP Financial Report required for year-end filing with CRA. Additionally a small expenditure of \$40.00 to continue GRP's registration as a charity was paid out. Plans were then outlined for a revamping of the GRP website in the new year. Conrad will keep the current platform operational until a new website is up and running. Rinpoche suggested Tim Mudd and Bill Wells might be of help with creating a new website.

The next item on the agenda was Nepal earthquake relief, specifically how to disburse funds while complying with CRA reporting requirements. Rinpoche had tried to contact a particular monastery to work out the specifics of moving funds to them but received no replies to his inquiries. A discussion about the difficulty in setting up contracts and agents in Nepal followed. Irene put forward the names of several accredited organizations already established in Nepal as possible recipients of the money, Dzi Foundation among them; she also suggested consulting with her friend Norbu who has contacts in Nepal. Rinpoche suggested that Norbu should be advised to email a formal proposal to GRP for consideration. Matthew then suggested another charity operating in Nepal as a recipient for the funds – TRAS (Trans-Himalayan Aid Society). TRAS has projects building latrines in Nepal already in place, is well established and would be compliant with our reporting obligations to CRA. Rinpoche suggested this option be pursued with a donation of \$8000.00. He also asked Matthew to follow up with TRAS to see if they could take a further \$1000.00 and disburse it to a monk that had asked Rinpoche for help for his family in Nepal. Matthew agreed to consult with TRAS about this.

The discussion then moved on to discuss projects in Mongolia. Rinpoche suggested that money could be given to various orphanages so they might buy supplies to deal with the cold weather. Rinpoche requested \$4000.00 for this purpose, which he would bring with him to Mongolia on his next visit in the new year. A discussion followed laying out the specifics for the drawing up of contracts and the disbursement of funds to Rinpoche.

Irene put forward another option for supporting children in Mongolia through a program with Staedtler Canada, the office supply company, making a donating of school supplies. Rinpoche suggested the cost of shipping the donated supplies to Mongolia might prove prohibitive so giving the funds directly to the orphanages might be more efficient and cost effective.

Additional discussion followed regarding the use of social media on behalf of GRP. Rinpoche requested a holiday greeting be put on the Facebook page, perhaps mentioning the year of the Monkey and requesting further funds to continue supporting GRP's projects, including Nepal earthquake relief.

Rinpoche mentioned that his book Tara in the Palm of Your Hand had been translated and would be launched in Mongolia.

After some socializing the meeting adjourned.