



October 25, 2016

Greetings from Des Moines Zen Center~

Our community is growing and as we evolve as a sangha so do the needs of our physical space. The Des Moines Zen Center Board recently voted to create a temporary committee, the Future Location Committee, to evaluate our current and future space requirements and recommend a plan to meet the needs of our expanding sangha. No direction has been set regarding location, size, ownership, or renting. We are in a period of exploration as to what our next steps might be. Part of the exploration involves you.

We will be holding two space "programming" workshops to help define the Des Moines Zen Center's 'wants and needs' for its future home. Before we imagine physical solutions, we first want to understand what programs need to occur in the Zen Center space. Programs examples include a space for sitting meditation, a space for socializing over coffee and tea, a kitchen and a bathroom, a place for our coats and shoes, a garden, a nursery, a library, a residence...Think of programming as collecting ten pounds of manure before we form specific plans--which will be like putting the manure into a five pound bag. Luckily we are only concerned with collecting the manure at this time. Still, it's a messy process. We are going to work together to define the unique needs of the Des Moines Zen Center.

After needs and priorities are defined at the programming workshops, the Future Location Committee will compile the information and translate it into more detailed descriptions including size estimates, rooms and equipment needs. The Future Location Committee will continue to seek your feedback in future discussion as we begin to consider possible next steps. Ultimately a recommendation will be presented at the annual meeting in March.

We encourage all of you, even if you have only been here once or not at all, to join us for one of the programming workshops and help the Sangha create a vision of its future home.

November 13, 9:00 - 11:00

November 30, 6:45-8:00

Note: Same format for both, choose one, however, you may come to both.

Please do chat with members of the Future Location Committee to learn more about this process and to share your thoughts:

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