

Still Mountain Community Meeting Minutes
4.17.16

I. Group introductions and ground rules

II. Treasurer's Report (Hugh)

We have event insurance for the retreat – \$250 instead of \$500. We are doing good and paying our bills. We have some money sitting in checking and we need to have a discussion as to different buckets. Should we specify as to what money goes where, e.g., funds designated for bringing someone in from the outside. These are the various considerations.

III. Board Report (Sandy)

We have decided when to meet which will be changed – we also decided upon quorum rules. We also talked about Board requirements. We agreed that board decisions will be made by consensus and, if not, postponed until the next community meeting. We initially identified some functions of the Board:

- a) Financial and legal considerations
- b) To maintain website
- c) To implement financial decisions of the Teachers Council and Community Meeting
- d) ??

The Board would like community's approval of the functions identified thus far, and next community meeting would like to receive input from community members on any additional Board functions.

Discussion: Recommend that the list of functions be left open-ended, i.e., additional duties as needed. Sandy will send an email to the announcement list outlining these Board functions and seeking further input at the next community meeting or by email.

Proposal: Does the Community Meeting approve the four functions so far identified by the Board?

Consensus: Yes.

IV. Prison Pen Pal Project (Jackie)

Proposal of a prison pen pal project, if volunteers are interested. The Board agreed to Still Mountain getting a Post Office Box which is a prerequisite for the effort. Pen pal guidelines have been developed, adapted from similar programs.

Proposal: Can the project move ahead, or are there potential concerns that require further discussion when there's more time? Questions were raised and further discussion will be held at the next meeting.

V. Further thoughts on Community Chaplaincy (David)

Aside: There are currently two community meeting facilitators and if anyone is interested in becoming an additional facilitator, please let the organization know.

David commented about his own practice in prisons as an example. What would constitute a community chaplaincy project within this sangha?

Proposal: The group could very informally support this effort and the projects would be posted on the website so people could see and support them. It would give the rest of the group the opportunity to support those individuals who were involved in community chaplaincy.

Discussion: Several people were interested in hearing more about projects that were not in the general knowledge of the sangha. Transparency would be good, and it would present a picture of the members of the sangha to the public visiting the website.

Several people wanted more clarity about which kinds of projects would be connected to the sangha and how. What are the core projects of the Sangha as opposed to various projects that members are already involved in? Can those already existing and ongoing projects potentially receive support and accountability through Still Mountain, without being encumbered?

There were questions about the meaning of “chaplaincy” and how it is different from volunteering. David indicated that there might be confusion regarding the word chaplaincy and perhaps that should be fleshed out more. The term “community engagement” was raised.

VI. Kalyana Mitta group(s) in Still Mountain

Term from early Buddhism, primarily a support group. Sign-up sheet passed around for those interested. David can help get things started as needed.

Discussion: No kalyana mitta groups have yet been initiated under Still Mountain. The currently constituted groups were initiated in other organizations. Each kalyana mitta group has its own format and function. They are sometimes difficult to get started; a good plan may be necessary. Many folks indicated that it is a truly valuable effort in their experience.

David will email the announcement list with information regarding formation and function of a Still Mountain kalyana mitta group or groups and help coordinate those who have signed up.

VII. Announcements

Erica will open the building on May 1, the weekend of the retreat.

The Buddhists for Racial Justice group will meet again and discuss what future steps could be. It is a self-organizing group. Jackie will email out a Doodle poll to the announcement list with potential dates for the next meeting.

Reminder that there will be a pot luck with Insight Meditation Ann Arbor at their location at Newport and Miller at 6:30 (meal begins at 7pm). David will send an email reminder.