

SM Community Meeting
Sunday, December 13, 2015

Facilitating: Jackie Miller

Minutes: Sarah Ross

Present: Judi, Linda, Jim W, Erica, Mary G., Jackie D, Hugh, Jim M., Phred, Kay, Mauriko, David L. Anna Marie, Jack

Agenda

Welcome/Intros

Ground Rules

Treasurer's Report - Hugh

Board Report - Jim M

Teacher's Council - David

Announcements

TO DO

- January meeting Agenda item: new Board member elections
- Jackie Miller will follow-up with the board on the issue of moving SM email groups to a non-umich server
- Jackie will bring correspondence with prisoners back to a future meeting for further exploration.

Ground Rules: the agenda is light, so we can try to practice pausing between speakers.

Treasurer's Report - Hugh

- November and December are combined
- Turner is paid through the end of the calendar year (2015)
- SM fiscal year runs Aug - Aug
- Suggestion to find local inexpensive support for SM taxes

- Deposits \$1085.00
 - Dana \$332.00
 - Continuing Class(s) \$130.00
 - Rec & Ed Class(s) \$513.00
 - Retreat Dana \$110.00

- Expenses
 - Retreat Food Reimbursement \$418.00
 - Turner Senior Center \$972.00
 - Misc. Retreat Reimbursement \$100.00
 - Rec & Ed Income Sharing w/teachers \$120.00

- Accounts:
 - Checking: Min Balance Funds Available
 - \$4513.00 \$1000.00 \$3513.00
- Saving: Min Balance Funds Available
 - \$266.00 \$100.00 166.00
- Total Funds available \$ 3,679.00

Jackie: Bringing awareness to using the talking plaque

Board Report - Jim M.

**Still Mountain Annual Board Report
Nov, 2014 – Dec, 2015**

Jim MacBain

- Current members are:
 - Jim MacBain, President (formerly, Su Hansen for two months at beginning)
 - Hugh Danville, Treasurer
 - Anita Sherman Moran, Secretary
 - Judi Green, Member-at-large
 - Yair Rivlin, Member-at-large
- After much dialog with various Still Mountain (SM) members and a number of written drafts, established the SM Bylaws, the rules for how the organization operates and is governed.
- Sought out and acquired insurance for the organization, the teachers and board. (Note that this insurance does not cover offsite retreats. This must be purchased on a case by case basis.)
- Established a savings and checking account with the Bank of Ann Arbor. (We continue to be in good shape financially. The practice of not creating a lot of debt obligations such as building rent or paid employees is a good one.)
- Worked with a number of people (Carola, Jackie Miller, Hugh, Simon, Jim M.) to establish a SM website which is used to promote SM, announce classes and retreats, and solicit donations. Also established an email group communication system for official and social functions within the sangha. In the process of establishing a SM calendar.
- Finally, recruited Board members for upcoming year to replace Yair, Anita, and Jim M. Candidates are Sandy Norton, Kay Mahan, and Elias Baumgarter. They will take their positions on the Board when and if their nominations are approved at the January

Community meeting. Since we have three slots and three candidates, the Community may approve this by “acclamation” as opposed to balloting.

These candidates would begin serving on the Board with Judi and Hugh in January. (Elias is on travel until April, however.)

- Challenges for the Future:
 - o Attracting active members
 - o Fine tuning the website

Additional comments on Board report:

- SM will need to make sure that next year the insurance will cover off-sight events / retreats
- Thanks to outgoing board members: Yair, Anita and Jim M.
- There be an orientation for the new board, there is also overlap between new / current board members

Clarify email options for sangha members

- Remind sangha periodically (quarterly) about the stillsocial email and how to sign up for it, then continue to use that for event/activity announcements
- New members can get on the list by emailing stillmountainmeditation.org and requesting to be added to the list
- Jackie Miller will follow-up with the board on the issue of moving to a non-umich server

PAUSE TO BREATHE

Teacher's Council Report

- Ideas that have clarified over the last two years since SM was first conceived:
 - o Teachings will be grounded in Buddha Dharma exclusively
 - o Having a focus is a kind of taking refuge
 - o All teachings that are offered will all be endorsed or authorized by SM as an organization
 - o Within the Buddha Dharma there will a range of teaching focuses/approaches
- David is considering taking vows (lay ordination) through his relationship with Joan Halifax
 - o This won't change his interest / commitment to exploring and supporting a full range of buddhist teachings / perspectives at SM
- There will be a non-residential Spring retreat offered by Mary and David the last weekend in April (29 - 1) at the Steiner Anthroposophical Society building
 - o Friday evening - Sunday afternoon / no meals
- David is feeling a need for more clarity around how decisions are made in the community meeting
 - o for example the discussion around the issue of white only affinity groups has raised the question of how the community meeting would make a decision for

issues that don't clearly fall under the responsibility of the board or teacher's council. How would this group come to a decision?

- This will need to come to the community meeting for further discussion
- There will be 9am Sunday morning class beginning in January
- David received an invitation for SM to join the Buddhist Insight Network. He will follow-up and register SM on their website

Announcements

- Linda - White elephant potluck / xmas party! All have been invited at SM and Susan's group and Deep Springs! Saturday, Dec 19th, 6pm at Linda's house. See flyer
- Anita and Jackie are volunteering with a buddhist group at the Jackson prison. Some members of that group have asked for someone to correspond with them about practice issues.
- Should this be something that teachers do?
- Anybody with a practice would have something to offer. David did this for about a year with someone. Jackie will bring this back to a future meeting for further exploration.
- Turner is closed over the Holidays, but we will still meet on Sundays!