

Still Mountain Community Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2017

AGENDA

- Intros/Guidelines
- Standing Board Report
- Elect new BOD Officers
- Standing Treasurer's Report
- Frequency of Community Meetings - Discussion / Action
- A2 Mindfulness Gathering - Discussion / Action
- Announcements

Standing Board Report/ Election of new BOD members

- Judi Green is stepping down at the end of her two year term on the BOD - THANK YOU, JUDI!
- Hugh Danville is continuing on as Treasurer - THANK YOU, HUGH!
- Gayle Turner accepted a friendly nomination from the floor and was affirmed as the newest Still Mountain BOD member! THANK YOU, GAYLE!

Standing Treasurer's Report

- All is well, the coffers are full enough to meet our financial obligations
- A microphone and amplification system was purchased including a wireless, hands free mic for use at classes and on retreats

Frequency of Community meetings

- Judi offered to read the comments from the July meeting where this topic was first discussed by the group and the summary from the December meeting where the discussion was taken up again

DISCUSSION

- I feel the loss of the post-sitting sharing when we have a community meeting, I get to know people through the sharing more than I do during the community meetings
 - The group could meet when needed rather than regularly scheduled meetings
 - The post-sitting sharing is important and valuable to me. Does this group still need to hold business meetings every month? Could be less frequent and cancel if no need. Please announce cancellations ahead of time
 - Having a regular schedule for the community meeting is helpful for remembering. Could the meeting be shorter and more focused, longer if needed?
 - Why not experiment with less frequent community meetings and see how it goes
 - I experience a sense of ownership / connection with the sangha at the community meetings and this comes from my experience at the community meetings
- Monthly meetings are valuable to new members as a way to get connected and involved. This is a tight knit group and that felt formidable to me as a newcomer. After 1.5 years I am starting to feel more comfortable.
- More people come when there is a community meeting

- As a new member I've learned a lot about the sangha at the community meetings. If you do it less frequently do it every other month, not every 6 months
 - The community meeting makes the sangha visible and self-governing
- As a new member I felt like I got integrate faster from coming to the community meetings
- The Community meeting helps ground the sangha and keeps all different aspects of SM (BOD, TC) connected and aware of the sangha as a whole
 - Whatever frequency, let's be regular about it. I am grateful for this opportunity to do group decision making
 - 2x a year is not frequent enough, I will lose the sense of connection, also it would not be enough connection with the BOD / TC and sangha business. Every other month would be ok
 - I'm hearing 2 things: 1)the need to stay informed and connected with the BOD and TC, 2) the need for social connection and getting to know each other. Perhaps social piece could be met in other ways outside of community meeting
 - There are fewer issues that need the whole group's input; maybe quarterly meetings would be ok. We could get to know each other more effectively through structured discussions of issues that are of interest to us
 - We could meet once a month and alternate between community meetings and structured discussions
 - I am practicing my listening.. ,I hear the need for people to meet regularly. What is the purpose of a community meeting, it is different than social gatherings. It's a time to come together and consider and make decisions about important things, but this is not what I experience. Not everyone comes and we don't always talk about important things. I see the need to meet and practice discussion as a group, but the monthly format isn't meeting my expectations. Also, I don't like the term governing when talking about SM, we can figure things out without "governing" ourselves. Some kind of meeting once a month but not monthly business meetings
 - The microphone discussion was important to me even though it seemed tedious or trivial to some people. I had to make the purchase and I wasn't comfortable doing that without knowing what the community was comfortable with.
 - The meeting would go better if the presenters were prepared and followed through. There are a lot of important topics we could talk about as a sangha but they don't seem to get on the agenda, I don't know why. Maybe less frequent community meetings would make attendance go up and have deeper conversations
 - As a new member I didn't know anyone here prior to coming to the Sunday sits. The community meetings have really helped me get to know people and the sangha. It was hard to keep coming until I felt connected. If you're not on the BOD or TC it's hard to now whats going on in the sangha. The unspoken message of the community meeting is that we are a community through challenges, etc.
 - This is a challenging process to figure out together. I would be ok with a community meeting every other month and a social meeting on the months in between
 - The community meeting is unique. Sangha members feel a sense of responsibility to attend, the group is larger on those Sundays when there is a meeting. When we meet as a group we have to be intentional about how we structure our interactions and this takes work. If we don't do it this intentionally this group will end up reflecting the larger social dynamics around power / influence. Even the microphone topic was an example of being inclusive. What if we had a business community

meeting every other month and had a discussion meeting in between, while reserving the possibility of using some of the discussion meeting to conduct business if needed.

- CONCLUSION

- The group identified and supported the value of maintaining a regular monthly meeting schedule in order to provide a consistent contact point for new and existing members
- The group expressed an interest in and willingness to experiment with holding business community meetings every other month
- The group expressed an interest in and willingness to experiment with having some kind of structured discussion / sharing on a specific topic on alternate months with the caveat that part or all of this meeting could be used for business if needed.

IMA2 Gathering

- Should David proceed with organizing a potluck gathering hosted by SM for IMA2 members?
 - The group gave a big thumbs up
 - David will ask for volunteers to make this happen; Please contact David if you are interested in supporting this gathering

Announcements

- Please contact Elias Baumgarten if you are interested in discussing and planning activities to reach out to and support the members of the mosque next door to Turner Senior Center.
- February Retreat at Steiner House Feb 26 - 28, info on SM website
- May retreat with Shaila Catherine at Colombiere, May 6-13, info on the website
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