

DRAFT
Community Meeting Minutes
6/14/2015

Agenda

- Check in about ground rules and minutes- Sarah
- Board Report - 5 mins, standing item
- Treasurer's Report - 5 mins, standing item
- Teachers Council Report - "10 mins", requested by David Lawson
- Update on Mindful City Movement - "a few minutes", requested by Mariko Foulk
- Retreat update / check-in - 20 mins, requested by Sara Itoku Ahbel - Rappe & Sarah Ross
- By-laws introduction and request for input - 20 mins, requested by Jim MacBain
- Review / Approve (?) Community meeting Ground Rules - 10 mins, follow-up item from May 17 meeting, Sarah Ross

TO DO

- Jim will send out an email to the whole sangha with the by-laws as an attachment asking for any questions to be submitted at or before the July Community Meeting.
- Jim will update the class listings on the website
- Sarah will send out a Doodle poll to set-up a meeting of the retreat committee
- The discussion of the ground rules will be taken up at the July community meeting
- The teacher group will consider getting input from the Sangha regarding outreach and the questionnaire results. This may come to a future Community Meeting.

Facilitator: Sarah

Present: Jim M, Simon H, Erica D, Hugh D, Mariko F, David L, Jackie M, Yair R, Judy LG, Bilha R, Mary G, Peg T

Minutes: Peg T

- **Check in about ground rules and minutes: Sarah**
 - Peggy agreed to take minutes
 - Sarah asked the group to review the ground rules generated at the May meeting. The group agreed to give them a try during this meeting.
 - The group agreed that there would be a later discussion of the ground rules to finalize and agree on them after giving them a try.
- **Board Report: Jim**
 - The board has nothing new to report
- **Treasurer Report: Hugh**
 - We have two bills, the rent and the liability insurance.
 - After those two are paid we have about \$1,400 in savings.
- **Teacher Report: David**

- Nine teachers attended the International Teacher Conference at Omega.
 - Many teachers are working with how to embrace the three major traditions and some have moved forward on how to work on this.
 - Another major topic was that Sangha's need to actively working on issues of diversity and inclusiveness around race and income inequality
- The teacher group would like to offer two retreats a year. The first one will be offered this fall at Howell for a weekend retreat.
- Shila Kathern (sp?) will be coming to offer a weekend retreat over the first weekend in December of 2016. She will come in the second half of the year of 2017 for a week long Jhana (deep concentration) retreat.
- The class circles offered by David are off for the summer. The class will start back in the fall on Thursday evenings only.
- The Canton Monday sitting is going well as is Mary and Bilha's class at Turner and Erica's rec and ed class.

Teacher Report Questions/Response:

- Jim posted an announcement on the web for the October retreat. There is no way to register yet. The website ported to a new hosting service and needed to be reformatted, some of the current class listing were lost. Jim will update.
- How is the advertising and publishing discussion going in the teacher group? This has not been addressed as yet, but is on the agenda.
- It was suggested that the teacher group get input from the Sangha regarding outreach and the questionnaire results. We need to not let this go. This may come to a future Community Meeting.
- There was a quesiton about the marketing document that the Sangha generated and Linda wrote up. This has been sent back to the teacher group until a volunteer steps forward for this.
- Jackie announced a community event: There will be a bar-b-que at Wheeler Park on June 27th from 12-4p, sponsored by "Black Lives Matter." She offered that that event would be willing to put out Still Mountain material. That group is in need of funds for buying food.
- **Mindful City**
 - Mariko reported on a book written by a congressman: "Mindful Nation" and some local organizations are exploring Ann Arbor becoming a Mindful City. As an effort toward this, she said there will be a mindful meditation meeting at the Ark Tuesdays 12:00 to 12:30 as a pilot from 6/16 to 8/18.
 - The Mindful City is a secular organization and anyone could join that group. They will list Still Mountain as a local resource but won't post our class offerings / retreats because SM is Buddhist.
- **October Retreat - Sarah and David**
 - The retreat runs Fri evening through Sunday lunch on Oct 16-18 at Howell Nature Center. David and Bilha will be leading the retreat. It will be a silent

retreat and open to all level of practitioners. A more specific description will be sent to Jim to post on the web soon.

Retreat Questions / Comments:

- Do we need a minimum number of participants to cover the costs and how are expenses going to be managed - David said that we would like to offer this retreat on a dana basis.
- It was suggested that attendees should be told the cost of the retreat so they would know how much to offer.
- Hugh, Peg and Mary are working with Sara and Sarah on retreat coordinating. Mariko, David, Erica and Bilha all offered to help with tasks as they come up. Sarah will send out a doodle poll to set-up a retreat committee meeting.
- It was suggested that we should have an on line registration, the retreat committee will consider the options.
- It was suggested that the registration would be opened up to Sangha members first, then to the larger community. The retreat committee will consider the pros and cons of this and explore possible options.
- Looking ahead to future retreats keep in mind that that retreat sites are often booked a year or more in advance.
- The Still Mountain group on the Insight Timer App could be possible interested retreatants.
- Keep in mind that many people who come to retreats aren't looking for a sangha.
- What does the deadline for registration really mean? Does it mean no one can sign up after that if there are spaces?

● By Laws for Still Mountain: Jim

- The by laws for Still Mountain were worked on by an initial planning group before the organization was incorporated. The group had consultation from an attorney and worked with a blank template that had all the legal language. The committee submitted a draft that had not been fully completed to the Board after the non profit status had been acquired. Jim as president of the board worked on the by laws to get language to be consistent and complete.
- Copies of the current by-laws were handed out and Jim gave a summary of what they address. Everyone was asked to review the document and submit questions / concerns to: stillmountainmeditation@gmail.com before the July Community Meeting.
- Jim will send out an email to the whole sangha with the by-laws as an attachment asking for any questions to be submitted at or before the July Community Meeting.
- The board would like to respond to questions and if possible, finalize the by-laws at the July community meeting.
- The teacher group needs to address language for that section of the by laws or to leave the language as it is. David said he would make sure this discussion happens.

- **Ground Rule review / approval**

- The meeting was out of time so the discussion of the ground rules will be taken up at the July community meeting.
- The group used the “talking stick” technique during this meeting and did an evaluation of how it went:
 - some felt it worked well
 - some said it felt a bit awkward, but it helped them to really listen
 - sometimes multiple people wanted to jump up to get it.
 - We need to figure out how to handle question / answer items, this felt the most awkward. Maybe the ‘talking stick’ isn’t the best for this.
 - It seemed to have made the process more efficient.
 - We are working to become aware of our urges to talk and to listen to the group needs. The process is what is important to pay attention.
 - We need to slow down to make it work.