

Still Mountain Community Meeting Notes
10/11/15

Present: Jackie, Hugh, David, Jenny, Donna, Mary, Karen, Sarah, Peg, Mariko, Jackie, Jim, Judy, Anita

Agenda:

Welcome/Intro

- Intros, names and something fun that we did this week

Review Ground Rules

- Review written ground rules

Treasurer's Report

- Emailed for insertion.
- **Deposits \$890.00**
 - Dana \$375.00
 - Rec & Ed \$525.00
- **Expenses \$0.00**
 - None
- **Accounts:**

Checking:	Min Balance	Funds Available
\$3366.00	\$1000.00	\$2366.00
Saving:	Min Balance	Funds Available
\$266.00	\$100.00	\$166.00
- **Total Funds available: \$2532.00**

Plans for 10/18

- Sunday sitting will still happen, even though many regulars may be at the retreat.

Announcements

- There are still a few commuter spots available for the retreat next weekend. Retreat is Friday-Sunday and is on a dana basis.
- This Thursday will be a cooking day at Sara's house for cooking for the retreat food.
- David will be commuting to the retreat and offered carpooling.
- Hugh will help Mary load her car for the retreat.
- Buddhists for Racial Justice, contact Jackie for more information.
- Rita Grosse will be in town at the Zen Temple next weekend. Google for her events.

Community Chaplaincy

- David is in a 2-3 year chaplaincy program and has been given permission to share what he is learning in his program with the sangha.
- Standard programs are 1 year internal work (examination of personal issues such as unmet needs, old perceptions, etc and then discovering the use of boundaries) and 1-2 years reaching out to the community (going into the charnel grounds).
- David is reaching out also to resources in the community
- The thought is to provide community service, but with a certain intention, not necessarily teaching in class format.
- "Feed the hungry ghost" without proselytizing.
- Respite volunteering and hospice volunteering are good examples of similar activities.

- To move forward, possibly establish a personal preparation process, as well as a preparation and planning process for the sangha as a whole. In addition to an ongoing partnership/mentoring process within the sangha.
- The process seems very well conceived and if we are going to do it, might as well do it well.
- In terms of projects, the thinking is that it does not have to be just one project, but there could be several projects. But there needs to be a continuous feedback and monitoring process.
- The first year includes really digging into the lay precepts. Looking into unmet needs so that the chaplaincy does not become about meeting personal unmet needs. Deep examination into mental categories and models about race, gender, etc, that prevent us from participating fully.
- The thought is that there would be a group here to do this internal work, as well as focus on how to do this work specifically.
- Why not just go and do the project? It could be that we do the internal work concurrent to doing the community work. Just that there is some internal work done to prepare people for the work and to prevent potential issues.
- The internal work is very well known to people who are familiar with community work clinically as social workers, psychologists, etc.
- Due to time and real life constraints, establishing a concrete process, requirements and limitations would be helpful. Time constraints can be hard to estimate and can come on unexpectedly.
- Perhaps getting together and discussing current volunteer experiences from a Buddhist perspective would be a good start.
- This would be different from the teacher training program.
- Current individual volunteer efforts: Hospice, Washtenaw literacy, Meals on Wheels, Ann Arbor Ferguson, Radical Washtenaw, prison, Buddhist recovery work, Hope Clinic, Respite, Music and Memory, Elle's Place, Mediation with small claims court, Threshold Choir, mental health volunteer, community activism for health at every size and body positivity.
- Do we have enough people to do all of the things we want to do?
- How would it be decided which projects to do? Perhaps brought to the teacher's council for approval (in accordance with by-laws). With caution, so as not to concentrate power in any one group.
- Utilize volunteer opportunities that people are currently doing OR Develop new program with new process, or find a third way to meet needs of those who are already very busy with community service and needs of those who might like to begin. – **Tabled for decision making at the next community meeting.**