

Board Meeting Minutes

Chair: Elizabeth

Minutes: Kenneth

- Call to order at 11:35.
- Attendance: Elizabeth, Kenneth, Lisa, Judi, Karen, Walter, Hugh, Arlene
- Approved minutes from last meeting.
- Reports:
 - President - no report
 - Treasurer
 - Zoom bill is being paid automatically through PayPal.
 - A double payment for insurance was refunded.
 - Mail came to Turner center for us, it turned out to be marketing mail.
 - Teacher Council (Karen)
 - Ken Morley has volunteered to be on a small committee to advise the Giving Project.
 - Tech Liaison (Kenneth)
 - Monthly change report was sent via email
 - We found and tested software that can replace Google Groups for StillSocial. The author has given us permission to use it for free. This will give us additional privacy, since Google will not be collecting all our information.
 - Elizabeth moved to migrate from Google to an in-house solution, Walter seconded. Affirmed unanimously.
 - **Kenneth will perform the migration.**
 - Arlene would like to be added to StillSocial. **Kenneth will add her.**
 - Zoom Best Practices Guide is still in progress.
 - Hybrid meeting planning committee (Lisa)

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- A meeting was held on the third Sunday of March. Yair, Sunil, and Arlene were there. Carole B. is also interested but did not attend.
- We expect to be dependent on Turner Center as far as when we can resume.
- We talked about criteria: screening, mask use, distancing, etc.
- We will check with Turner regarding technology that they have available as well as policies, etc. Sunil requested info from Turner. We will get that information soon.
- How do we navigate multiple people in the room with a computer?
- We will meet again on the third Sunday of April.
- Some people have suggested meeting outside. This might work but there are logistical difficulties such as weather and technology availability.
- We have the concept that Turner is the right place for us to go back to, and it may be. It works well. But we want to keep open the possibility of looking at other locations.
- Judi: Is there a possibility that if everyone is vaccinated we can meet more easily?
- Lisa: That is one of our questions. Policies have yet to be defined. We will find out.
- Walter: Any place would require Internet connectivity. There is also a big difference in a meeting with people in a circle versus a grid. It is worth considering how we will arrange the room and set up cameras/microphones so that everyone in the room can participate.
- Lisa: Those are good discussion points, and we are bringing up these possibilities in the meetings.
- New Business:
 - Hugh: Shaila Catherine has offered to do another retreat with us in 2023.
 - We will have a discussion with the Teacher Council
 - She proposed three options
 - We can manage the retreat and invite her. We would set prices.
 - Her organization can run the retreat for us. They would set prices.

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- We could share the responsibility. They would set pricing, but we would share in surplus to create scholarships or whatever other expenses we have.
- We have plenty of time to think about this and work out details.
- Hugh is also gathering information about possible locations and times for a retreat.
- What is the process? Should the teacher council decide or the Sangha? the Board?
- Who else might we want to have a retreat with?
- Discussion about community meeting and discussion Sunday scheduling and format
 - There has been evolution of how these are used. How do we feel about the effectiveness and usefulness of these two different meeting format?
 - Judi P. has volunteered to help organize community meetings.
 - David had been in charge of discussion topics in the past
 - Organized discussion has been valuable
 - Suggestion to structure discussions again either under David's lead or possibly a teacher facilitator.
 - **Elizabeth will contact David for next steps.**
 - We will discuss more after we hear from David.
- Ongoing issues:
 - Giving Project
 - we are working on ideas on how to proceed.
 - teacher council has suggested that a small group be created: 2 members of the sangha, a teacher (Ken Morley), and Board member, and David. The group will come up with a process to make a decision.
 - The guiding principles of the small group would be thoroughly informed by the dharma.
 - **Judi volunteered to be on the committee as a Board representative.**
 - We would like to recruit others from the sangha.

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- Walter: intense decisions are going to be part of our lives for a while into the future. I am concerned that the chaos we are dealing with may overshadow or distort this difficult decision.
- Judi: It may not need to be a difficult decision, and not making a decision does not feel right either.
- Arlene: very interested in the process. There is a complicated hierarchy between teachers, sangha, Board, etc. Are some people more capable of making decisions because of their background or experience?
- Judi: Different roles have different responsibilities, not necessarily different levels of capability. SM is more like a circle than a hierarchy.
- Arlene: It is nice to think of SM as a circle.
- Elizabeth: we attempt to be transparent.
- Suggestion to send an announcement. **Kenneth will draft an announcement and send it with Elizabeth's input. We will post the announcement on the website as well as the email list.**
- job descriptions are on the table
- Community Meeting is April 11.
 - **Judi P. will take minutes.**
 - **Walter will facilitate.**
- Arlene: How do people get on the Board?
- Elizabeth: The sangha holds elections once a year. People who want to be on the board are nominated. The sangha then vote to choose members. The Board then elects officers to serve as President, Treasurer, etc.
- Next meeting is Sunday, May 2, 2021.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:08.