Baltimore Shambhala Meditation Center Governing Council

Minutes

May 11, 2015

7 PM to 9 PM

# Pillar of Governance

## Executive Committee Formation – Tom and Robin have been forming the Executive Committee and provided a report on their progress.

### Feedback to Membership Committee

#### It would be helpful to revisit the Garuda Newsletter, clarify its purpose, and align its content and presentation to that purpose.

#### Now that the Membership Gala has been postponed, the Executive Committee recommended to the Membership Committee that the group that had been invited to speak at the Membership Gala, The Holistic Life Foundation, be afforded a different opportunity to present to the larger community beyond those who are formally numbers. It would make sense for Societal Health and Well-Being to be involved in this effort.

### Infrastructure and Maintenance Beginning Stages

#### David Atwater has agreed to lead the Center’s infrastructure and maintenance efforts.

#### As it pertains to security, David can coordinate with Chris Szendroi for guidance on protection.

### Finance Committee Beginning Stages

#### The Executive Committee is beginning to develop a Finance Committee.

#### The Finance Committee will evaluate financial process changes proposed for the Center.

#### The Committee will provide ongoing monitoring and oversight of Finances and provide budgets for specific groups and committees.

### Nominating/Vetting/ Committee.

#### Tom Abrams and Michael Flinton developed a set of tasks for the Nominating Committee.

##### Develop a list of key positions. Gail Spiva is working on that.

##### Interview Center leaders to find out what their goals are and place those on the Center webpage.

##### Define the expertise positions require.

##### When positions are open, generate interest and recruit candidates to fill the positions.

##### Conduct interviews of interested candidates.

##### Make recommendations to the Governing Council.

#### As the Sakyong is developing teachings on leadership, one of the things he is emphasizing his mentoring. To the degree that leaders mentor people they are working with, succession will be less difficult and will work well with the Nominating Committee structure. There will be less need for recruitment, and candidates to fill key positions will be well known to people, having worked with them for a time. In this context, the Nominating Committee will give a structure and a process for having a more community-based elevation of people.

### The Role of the Executive Committee.

### Robin searched for material on the Shambhala website pertaining to Shambhala Center Executive Committees, but couldn’t find any. She did find information from the websites of the Chicago and the San Francisco Shambhala Centers. Robin is working toward what would be the best way to structure the Executive Committee for our Center, given what people can give in terms of time and energy and what we need.

## Shambhala Household Lung

### The Sakyong has invited Baltimore Shambhala Center leadership, members of the Governing Council and Executive Committee who have attended either Enlightened Society Assembly or Warriors Assembly, to engage with a recent text he has created, Shambhala Household, specifically from the perspective of what it says about leadership. Most of us received the Shambhala household lung on May 2.

### When the text becomes available, we will work with it. Essentially, we are being asked to contemplate the text, pilot basis, as it presents leadership as a path of inner development for the benefit of others. From our work with the text, we will advise Shambhala International on how to disseminate the teachings further.

## Response to Baltimore City Unrest

### A number of us have been discussing the possibility of providing mindfulness training to the Baltimore City Police Department, attempting to propose that possibility through contact some of us have with the City. Richard Reoch put us in contact with Mark Allen, who, at the Sakyong’s request, is engaged in similar efforts with the City of Louisville, Kentucky.

### Melissa Moore is a very valuable asset to our community, who has provided some terrific workshops on the subject of race. The Governing Council committed to provide more support and visibility to the issue of racism.

# Pillar of Protection

## Center Security – The governing Council had an extensive discussion on the subject of Center security, in light of our recent break-in and thefts, including the installation of a security system and better training and procedures for closing the Center.

## Strengthening the Pillar of Protection

### Recent security events highlight the need for our Center to give more heed to strengthening the Pillar of Protection.

### Chris Szendroi will be mentoring our Rusung, Susana Arriagada, for the next year. At the same time, they will be recruiting and mentoring someone to replace Susana on the next Shambhala day.

# Pillar of Practice and Education

## Director of Practice Transition

### John Lamoureux is learning the ropes of Director of Practice. We will be submitting his name to the International Director of Practice and Education for approval.

### We are submitting his name for approval by Charlie Goetzl, International Director of Practice and Education

## Director of Education Position--Robin Williams is strongly considering accepting the post of Director of Education.

## Practice and Education Calendar

### Eric reviewed the practice and education calendar as it now stands. There are several Shambhala training programs on the schedule.

### In addition, Richard John will be teaching the Imperial Rigden program in October, and Christie Cashman will teach a six-day program on Kyerim in November. This latter program is restricted to those who have attended Rigden Abisheka and practice the Werma Sadhana. As such, it will draw attendance from many different Centers.

### Lisa suggested that we host the regional Culture and Decorum Conference.

## Marketing

### David Baker and Tracy Anadale currently are heading up our marketing and communication efforts. In order to get better traction, we need to integrate their availability with the needs and goals of the Center.

### We also need to establish Governing Council marketing goals, for example, to increase diversity. In addition, since marketing is the first communication we have the public about our teachings, our marketing efforts should have some direction from our senior teachers.

### Finally, we need to work out the mechanics so that our marketing is timely and effective.

# Pillar of Economy

## Chagdzo Position

### Beth Strommen’s medical condition now prevents her from taking on the Chagdzo Position.

### The Executive Committee will proceed to recruit a Chagdzo replacement for Ray Robinson.