Baltimore Shambhala Meditation Center

Governing Council

Minutes

January 11, 2016

7 PM to 9 PM

# Approval of December 12, 2016 Minutes

## Robin presented an addendum to the December 12, 2016 minutes, giving further information about Lisa Williams, whom she has offered as someone who could help our Center work with racial issues.

## With this addendum, the Council Approved the December 12, 2016 Minutes.

# Pillar of Protection

## Evan Mayfield, our new Rusung, gave a presentation on Kasung initiatives for the coming year and beyond. The overriding goal is collaboration. We don’t view protection as a function of the Kasung, alone. Instead, the practice of protection is something that every Shambhala warrior engages in. We can think of protection and its application to particular Shambhala elements – the teachings, the teachers, the container in which the teachings are presented. On a deeper and broader level, though, the practice of protection is expressed in the Shambhala Protector Chant we recite every day, and in the full collection of protector chants included in our liturgies. From this perspective, we are protecting against the corruption of the teachings. But more than that, protection is a positive force. When we consider the four pillars of our Kalapa Governance Model, we relate to these as drala energy. In the original presentation of three pillars, government, practice and education, and protection, these derived from the three roots--Yidam, Guru, and Dharmapalas. The fourth pillar is a manifestation of Yün. Consequently, the four pillars of the Kalapa Governance Model really are four manifestations of drala energy, with protection being one of those. Therefore, protection is something that every Shambhalian engages in, and we look to the Rusung to lead not the Kasung alone, but rather the entire community in the practice of protection.

## Baltimore has a unique opportunity to foster the practice of protection throughout the mandala. The Kasung are organized by Regions, Regiments, and Centers.

### Chris Szendroi leads the Drala Region, which extends from Philadelphia down to Florida.

### Roger Farwell is the Regiment Commander of the Miwang Regiment, which includes Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington DC.

### Evan Mayfield is the Rusung of Baltimore.

### Consequently, we have here in Baltimore three levels of Kasung leadership.

# Pillar of Government

## Annual Planning

### Baltimore Shambhala leadership will engage in an annual planning process over two weekends in January, the first being Saturday, January 16 and the final one being January 30.

### In the first meeting, we will contemplate our mission and vision. From that, we will consider presentations from different functions in our Baltimore Shambhala mandala.

### The intervening two weeks between this initial session and the final one will provide an opportunity for Shambhala leaders to develop specific implementation proposals, which we can review in our final meeting on January 30.

## Shambhala Day February 9, 2016

### We reviewed our plans for Shambhala day. These plans emphasize an opportunity for people in our community to come together in a celebratory fashion.

### Tentative Schedule

#### 7:06 Dawn – 108 gongs and Lhasang

#### 8:00 Opening Chants and Shambhala Sadhana

#### 9:00 Pancake and Mimosa breakfast

#### 10:00 Community gathering

#### 11:00 I Ching Reading

##### Blessing and distribution of Practice Books

##### New Member pins, swearing out Ceremony

##### Elixir of Life Sadhana

#### 12:00 Catered Lunch

##### Membership Reflection

#### 1:00 Sakyong’s Shambhala Day address

#### 2:00 Desserts /Toasts/Sparklers!

#### 5:30 Tea, snack and lite family style meal

#### 6:00-6:45 Elixir of Life Sadhana and closing chants

#### 6:45-7:45 Replay of Sakyong Shambhala Day Talk

##### Simple craft and Membership Reflection

#### 7:45 Dessert & Safe Sparklers

### It does seem that, over the years, we've lost much of our connection to the importance of Shambhala Day to our community. Typically, people would take off from work, and almost the entire community would come together to celebrate. People would even come during snowstorms to attend Shambhala day.

### Chris will develop a letter to the community describing the importance of Shambhala Day, encouraging people to take off from work to attend this celebration.

### Normally we have a deep cleaning day before one of our community events. This time, though, Lisa has planned more of a sense of organizing different parts of the Center.

#### We will begin work on archiving the several years’ worth of audiotapes of different talks.

#### Practice and education will aspire to review the contents of practice closets before Drala Day.

#### Lisa will be reviewing things that are broken with a maintenance representative from the Marylander.

### On Shambhala Day, will begin leading our members through a reflection of the different ways that they are involved with and support the community. We can begin this in person on Shambhala Day with those who attend and through email and Survey Monkey surveys for those who don’t.

### We decided that our governing Council meeting will take place on February 15 rather than February 8, so that our Governing Council members can arrive on Shambhala Day at dawn fresh and ready to participate.

### We also decided that the Open House following Shambhala day would feature the Sakyong's address.

## Director of Culture and Decorum

### Lisa Wenrich will step down as Director of Culture and Decorum on Shambhala day.

### We have someone who is interested in taking on the role of Director of Culture and Decorum.

#### The Nominating Committee will try to meet with this person soon.

#### We will submit this person to Wendy Friedman, for a formal appointment from the Center of the Mandala.

#### We hope we can undertake the steps by Shambhala Day so that the person can take the Oath of Office at the same time Lisa takes her Retirement Oaths.

# Pillar of Finance

## Financial Report

### The Baltimore Shambhala Meditation Center achieved a surplus of $12,800 for the month of December and a surplus of $17,000 for the year 2015.

#### These results include a $5000 payment to the Center of the Mandala in December.

#### We received a $1000 contribution from the Lotus Garden community in December.

### We have $66,400 in checking and savings.

## Fundraising

### We received $4,351 in Sun Fund contributions in December and January thus far.

### Chris will prepare an update to our membership once the Sun Fund effort is closed.

### Robin, John, Chris, and Beth Herman will strive to meet this week to clarify the mechanics of how we will acknowledge those who have contributed to the Sun Fund.

### The Fundraising Committee will meet in the future to map out our fundraising strategy and communicate that to everyone so that our stakeholders receive clear and consistent communications around fundraising.

## Chagdzö Position

### Jud Williams has stepped in as our Interim Chagdzö for a brief period of time.

### Chris’ review of all of our members could find no member who had an extensive financial background who hasn’t already been tapped for the Chagdzö position.

### The Council decided to seek a permanent Chagdzö among those in our community who have a good sense of wealth from the Shambhala perspective, who can help our community stay true to the principles of Lha, Nyen and Lu, and who has an appreciation of Yün.

## Restricted Funds

### Our Balance Sheet shows $17,000 of our $66,000 in available cash to reside in a restricted fund account.

### We suspect that this fund was developed at the time of the fundraising that occurred many years ago as the Center sought new space that ultimately resulted in our acquiring and building out space in the Marylander.

### Tom Abrams is interested in seeing if we can identify the transactions that set up this account.