

Shambhala Center of Lexington

Council Meeting Minutes 9/1/2015

Present: Lucia Gilchrist (Director), Barbara Navin (Rusung), Cheryl Coover (scribe), Randy Pratt, Judith Broadus (SHWB), Neil Griggs (Chagdzo), Mary Whetsell, Susan Smith-Sargent (P&E), Craig Sargent (P&E). Gary and Shelley Heinz were to describe their shastri roles but could not attend.

Welcome new members Randy (Community & Culture Committee-CCC), Barbara (Rusung), Craig Sargent (temp P&E till Shambhala day), Mary W, Liaison to the Center of the Mandala. They were briefed on how meetings are conducted.

Handout: Document from Anna Weinstein about Shastri roles in Center governance. Shastris and the head of Practice and Education interact.

Last meeting summary:

Announced Joe Fiala stepping down from Culture and Decorum. Lucia will be working with Zoe Drake on recruitment of leaders. There was a discussion of procedure for approval of programs not in the Shambhala curriculum; the CCC committee will oversee, director and P&E will provide date, committee will decide if appropriate and send to council for approval. Susan has the form we used previously for program approval. The committee should choose someone to be a point person. The person who proposes a program is by default the coordinator unless they find someone. At this point we discussed the need for a central calendar function (possibly other than Google Apps).

Mary asked if anyone could take responsibility for planning Nyida days. Lucia felt that needs to be several people, as they involve many responsibilities

Items in process:

- developing interview questions for members, to connect better with members. A fairly standard set of things about persons we'd like to know
- date set for leader training
- parking space rental question, no action yet
- Shambhala Sadhana practice on full moon,

Agenda

Summary Reports

Center Liaison Mary- has talked with Susan Chapman, who would like to lead a weekthun in summer. Possible dates were discussed, also whether or not we have friends or clients to take program fliers. There is also a need to fully supply both buildings with chairs and cushions, and someone to make a list of items needed. Mary also asked about expense allowances for program food, etc.

Finance

- finance documents were delivered to Halifax on time

SHWB

- trying to stay in touch with people who are troubled.
- 3 dates on calendar for Community as Path this fall

Rusung

- Had Essential Heart of Kasungship in April, no action since, would like to contact coordinators or teachers about need for Kasung presence at programs [add this to coordinator manual?] Visiting teacher programs would be top priority
- A national Kasung event is coming up.

P&E

Schedule in place for most part, very pared down compared to last year

Susan will step down by HOP. Met w/Zoe as they are having trouble finding a replacement person, Craig is interim P&E director.

P&E has several components and should be split between at least 2 people. We really need a Sarva person (coordinator of coordinators) as well. (Zoe is searching for P&E and director)

Lucia suggested dividing responsibilities for different groups of classes. (Levels, IELs, etc)

- Zaida will be returning and so is Michael Shadoan maybe? Suggested they have a gap period before asking them if they would like to help.
- Lucia asked about replacements for Sarva. A couple of names mentioned but we need coordinators for programs to occur soon. She will call them.
- Discussed Sangha Sunday program in development. Decided so far not to include Shambhala Sadhana, date for that not firm yet (recommended for full moon but could be any time, and move Sadhana of Mahamudra practice to new moon) Susan suggested holding off on Shambhala Sadhana until January, since our SOM schedule is set thru December. Lucia suggested getting in touch with people who might not be tracking the schedule, discussion with Bob Crabtree is needed

CCC

Randy – Mary has been hosting meetings at her house once a month. Karl Lindstrom is consulting through September, working on concepts for MY and a newsletter. Julie Walton is the graphic artist. Lucia: Karl has proposed doing the Gallery hop next year. Lucia wants to evaluate it first; have we gotten what we wanted out of it, and what are the costs? Would we rather just have art shows and receptions instead of the hop. Staffing has been a problem, volunteers are limited. Plus we need empty usable space for programs at times. Do the shows fit our vision statement? It seems that some have not. Craig: two months is too long for exhibits but we get a lot of people at the opening nights.

Mary: wants list of SG and MI and a list of who's attended (?) for last year

Council membership recommendations-Lucia

Discussed past structure of council which had groups which were to meet in months between council meetings; these groups have shifted since then. Finance is still OK, Community Engagement is not active currently (Roz sends requests for speakers, there have been none

lately). We had representatives for the Pillars of Governance, but no Membership and no C&D now. Many groups were represented. The Council was too big. (The last meeting had 3 people and got a lot done!) Think about structure, do we want a Membership person on council, or report to SHWB or director? Barbara suggested grouping under Pillars. ["Please report to your Pillar."] If three people are doing P&E, only one should attend.

- No progress on recruiting director. Co-directors were unworkable and there was confusion in sangha about who was director. Lucia is willing to be assistant to the new director. Deadline is Shambhala Day.
- Scribe position. Anyone willing to do regularly? CC cannot always attend. Mary recommended adding more people to Open Sit on Tuesday sit so CC can attend. (Agreed)

HARVEST OF PEACE Sunday Sept. 20 starting at 1AM with the Shambhala Sadhana, Shelley Heinz will lead. Fundraising will be held after that.

Recognition of new members.

Brunch 11:30 potluck-might be earlier

Gary Heinz to take Shastri oath

Recognition of persons stepping down (Susan, Joe released from oaths)

Member vow that we developed-new ones get scroll

Sakyong's talk at the end-recorded

Children's activity recommended

Lhasang - Evan? proposed but not likely due to number of events

UNIFIED GIVING - International would like us to meet our target from last year, which includes the one time donations we made last year, additional needed is \$7,302 through Shambhala Day. This includes the amounts members are giving directly. Caroline Mandelker will solicit people directly who have given in the past. Would Council members be willing to call people and discuss this with them? Randy said we would be provided with talking points and literature before HOP.

Course Leader training in March, particularly is for centers who don't have teachers, who can we recommend for participants from Lexington? It will be held online. Includes discussion group facilitators. A lot of prep and study. There are prerequisites -not sure what they are. Mary recommended it for Guides. At other centers Guides co-teach IELs. Who will be in the discussion about this - Gary, P&E. They can make recommendations. Action: Susan to contact Gary. Invite a third person if you feel you need one.

Continuing homeless issue with the back yard. Vincent wants to put a Tiny House in a corner of the lot, for a prototype of what churches all over town could build. (Not for people to live in here, it's intended as a demo for people to come see)

Handout: Lucia passed out role descriptions for membership coordinator and Culture & Decorum. (This is a Mandala-wide description for C&D but we want a local, different position)

Mary: Signage? Subgroup for signage? Group to report at next meeting. Christine Kuhn thinks she can fix our current sign.

Rob Roberts is setting up a date to work on the side yard. The driveway will be out of service during that time. He was advised to set up a date for April too. Susan may have found a yard service in a “thumbtack” on Angie’s List.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15. Next meeting: Nov. 3.