

Minutes of October 24, 2011

Location: Leslie T's house

6:30 PM

Board members present: Laney R., Leslie T., John R., Diana D B., Andrea W. Chris B., Hannah M, Karen Z., and Bob S.

Brief check-in & norms: compassion, humor, and golden rule

Minutes of August Board meeting: approved

No consent agenda items

Action items:

1. Transition related processes

Report on December celebration:

Leslie reported on summary of meeting with MGO and Bob Stahl regarding the plans for the transition:

December 10 MGO will offer daylong teaching

December 11 1:00 to 4:30 celebration, with time to transition to Dharma Punx meeting

The Sunday event will include rituals to honor MGO's work as guiding teacher, then an opportunity for the community to express recollections, memories, and appreciations, followed by social celebratory time. Also included will be symbolic passing of the baton to Bob Stahl, as the new guiding teacher.

- Key priority now to get invitations and announcements out, including invitations to Spirit Rock Teachers' Council, , Gil Fronsdal, and a group of individuals that MGO has requested be included.

Spirit Rock will be sending a proclamation, delivered by Gil Fronsdal.

Others to help with organizing committee

Facilitation: Leslie

Communications: Bob get materials to Julia P. and Anna Z.

Food organizing: Lael, Mary Lou, Anna O

Opening & Closing: facilities coordinators with other volunteers as needed; in coordination with food organizers

Technical: Chris

Ritual content: Mary Grace and Bob

Community input: Diana will get guest book to hold mementos, memories, photos, that people bring to the event

Gift: MGO requested no personal gifts and rather preferred a donation to Spirit Rock from the Center. All agreed wholeheartedly.

Plans were discussed to put a note on the invitation, inviting people to donate to the Thousand Buddhas Donation in MGO's honor, in gratitude of her many years of service.

A basket will be put in the Center, notice on the website, and information included in the invitation.

2. Communications

This item concerns the upcoming community meetings and survey. The vision for this process was names: to develop relationship with community, increasing the awareness about the programs and offerings at the center, and also educating the community about the fundraising aspect that is part of this relationship.

A brief preliminary survey as preparation for the meetings is done and ready to go as the first step in the communications process.

Because of conflicting scheduled events, it was decided to move the community meetings to the week of January 22. There was also some conversation about the delicacy of managing the whole transition and change, and the best way to involve the community members in these meetings. Board members agreed that the community meetings be sangha driven, rather than board driven—a time to hear what community members want to talk about, want to see at the center, what would bring them out more?

Meetings will be held the week of Jan 22:

Sunday nite at Dharma Punx

Monday nite sit

Tuesday noon sit

Thursday nite sit

Laney said that Mike Dively and Laney will facilitate meetings, and would like to have 2 board members present at each meeting. Leslie and Karen expressed interest. To be continued.

Other recommendations that emerged during discussions:

- **Move January board meeting to January 30**
- **Request that website etc include eachers' names, listed for sits, so that people know which teachers will be present for any particular sit.**
- **Given plans for the Dec 11 event, what to do about Holiday Party? It was decided to come back to the question of the holiday party and volunteer recognition at the next meeting. Bob will talk to MGO to see if she would like to be involved in the appreciations of volunteers from the last year at the Dec 11th event .**
- **Also to be discussed at future board meeting: planning a welcoming ritual for Bob as the new guding teacher.**

3. Name Change Discussion and Actions

After extensive discussion and Council, it was decided to hold off on moving forward with all the name change action items until there was more clarity about the narrative/story that will be shared—this is regarding the who what when where why behind the reasons for changing the name.

Essentially, before implementing the name change (eg changing the website, signage, ,legal documents etc) it was decided to request that the teachers council begin to communicate to the community the story of the change so as to minimize iimpact of current uncertainty and so the community members feel better informed". By the beginning of 2012, all the name change implementation actions would then be set in action. The use of any new logo would also be tied into these changes (see below)

Actions:

We will request MGO's assistance in developing the announcement and rationale, indicating her full support and role in this process, so this is seen as consistent with her leadership and vision. This announcement would also indicate the full support of both the board and teachers council. All teachers would then set this communication into motion, sharing it at all the sits prior to

the actual January roll out . Bob and Karen are available to help on this letter, as Mary needs.

Order of announcements:

MGO helps craft announcement and sends to teachers

Teachers announce name change at sits..."we'll be having a new name....here's what it is and why...."

Followed by website listing and email announcements

MGO will announce the name change plans during the Dec 11 event and bless center into the future.

Discuss name change at January community meetings, as needed

And, beginning in the new year, all the physical action items from Leslie and Chris' s September 21 listing of new name launch items. (see e-mail.)

Leslie thanked everyone for the complexity of managing this change.

4. Logo Report

Laney reported on the new logo recommendation. Recommendation from the committee to go forward with the logo & lotus & rocks

Rationale: s...yin yang, male female, awakening enlightenment, santa cruz, not a religious symbol, open and accessible, and elegant, but not heavy-handed...

Actions: In general, board is in support of this choice and will be getting copies in e-mail soon. There was a request to increase the type size in the second line, so the word community is clearer /more visible

5. Teacher's Council update (Karen –check date for the event with Bob – I thought it was 18th?)

Nov 19 will be a meeting of all teachers, regular sit leaders, subs and long time teachers to build teacher's presence at center. Need for expanding of council to include new teachers.

Dan's wife is recovering from back surgery. All sent her metta for healing.

6. Recognition: Board agreed to thank Skip Regan for the tremendous amount of work he put into the building of the new website.

Board meeting ended with appreciations, improvements, and the breath.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Zelin