

BOD 10-22-17 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES of Sandpoint Sangha / Canary Council

Meeting was held at the home of Valerie Milliron

Voting Members present: Valerie Milliron, Sharon McCahon, Carol Ballard, Louella Schaeffer, & Ginna Maus, which indicates the necessary quorum. Also present: Anna Nystrom transitioning out of treasurer position, Peter Gilmore transitioning out of Outreach Coordinator Position

Elders Present: Janet Sturdevant No teachers present.

Annual Meeting was brought to order by President Valerie Milliron at 10:20 am.

1. The minutes of board of directors meeting of 9-1-17 were approved via consensus.

**POST RETREAT:** It was noted that the post retreat meeting that took place at Cottonwood did not have a quorum, thus 9-26-17 minutes were stipulated to be simply an information gathering session, and were approved with that change. Since not all board members attended the Cottonwood retreat, Louella led a discussion of items of concern noted at 9-26-17 gathering, which was followed by specifics regarding plans for 2018 retreat.

FOR NEXT YEAR, it was **DECIDED:** **A) The chosen Date for 2018 Retreat at St Gertrude's Monastery in Cottonwood is OCT 31st, 2018 - NOV 6th, 2018. This date was approved by retreat teacher Frank Ostaseski.** Regarding date for 2019, we will ask to be "pencilled in" for the earlier of two available options (the week in OCT rather than NOV). As Frank is not ready to confirm before January, 2019 dates will be identified at that time. **B) As afternoon break was shorter this year, next retreat manager will bring it to the attention of the teachers that many retreat participants like having one longer break for rest or hiking, as was the case in years past. C) Reflective tape will be purchased for the office supplies brought to the retreat, set up at coat stand, & at the Orientation, retreatants are to be asked to put it on dark outerwear for walking outside in the dark. Also, the pre-retreat letter needs to alert participants to bring a flashlight. D) At Orientation retreat manager will clarify that branches with fruit are NOT to be snipped from the fruit trees – to be consistent with the requirement "take what is freely given". E) Next retreat manager will consult with Sister Jeanette about morning coffee, to ask that we be allowed to make the first pot, thus eliminating their need to recruit a staff member to come early for coffee making in the Spirit Center. F) As Sister Jeanette noted that the per person cost of the retreat will be slightly increased for next year, Anna will locate any written information provided in this regard, and place a copy in the Retreat Instruction Book. G) Ginna was asked to provide a copy of the insurance form for the retreat book. H) Louella asked permission to update the Retreat Instruction Book as well as to arrange for some supplies to be more "retreat ready". Request was approved, and Janet offered to assist.**

2. Substantial discussion was held regarding past & current **Mission Statement**, and potential revision.

**DECISION:** Sharon made the motion, Ginna seconded, and the board unanimously agreed on the following as potential Mission Statement: " THE SANDPOINT SANGHA IS AN INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY PRACTICING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION AND STUDYING BUDDHIST TEACHINGS WITH THE INTENTION OF CULTIVATING A PATH OF WISDOM AND COMPASSION FOR EVERYDAY LIFE." **Action Item:** Ginna will forward this statement to Terry for discussion with, and approval of, guiding teacher, Frank Ostaseski. **Action Item:**

When a mission statement is approved, Sharon will forward it to Kay for the website, and Valerie will include it in the by-laws.

3. WISDOM CIRCLE: Per prior board meeting **Action Plan**, *'Ginna will bring the facilitator team together to compile Linda and Frank's wisdom circle teaching format, build a team working format and enhance understanding of the task.'* This is in progress, facilitator meeting is planned. The board asks facilitators to honor the sacred space of the entire circle for wisdom to evolve, allowing "what arises" for any one individual to be presented "for the good of the whole". (dyads, breaking into small groups, are not to be used in the wisdom circle)

Agenda Item #6, out of agenda order, prior to lunch: FINANCIAL: Anna will continue to work with Carol (new treasurer) for financial reporting until the end of 2017. Either Anna or Carol will collect and deposit each Tuesday night dana from the basket, with Louella and Peter as needed. Anna handed out a detailed statement of income and expenses to date for 2017. For greater transparency, a financial statement will be posted on the website annually. Anna's report to the board indicated that currently the scholarship fund is adequate. Rental of the Heartwood Center is not adequately covered by Tuesday night donations, so maybe one basket with three dollar suggested donation was counter-productive. About four thousand dollars annually are needed for expenses, in addition to the retreats paying for themselves via registration fees.

DOCUMENTS: Anna provided the following documents to the secretary for storage in the official hard copy records: 1) User Contract-Heartwood Center -copy 2) Certificate of Assumed Business Name – original, which includes "Sandpoint Sangha" as the assumed business name under the entity name of "Canary Council", filed with State of Idaho on 9-7-17 3) Philadelphia Insurance Company / Summit Insurance Resource, Non-profit organization policy, 3-11-16 to 3-11-17 4) Special Events Questionnaire from Philadelphia Insurance.

4. Discussion regarding use of CHANTING in Tuesday night Sangha took place. It was determined that although it is embraced by some and not by others, it is important for the embodiment of the practice, and it has appeared to slowly evolve and expand over a number of recent years. Carol offered a process of leading some chanting in a way that would facilitate a person's understanding of the use of chanting in our practice. This was approved by board members, and will be further discussed by the Wisdom Circle facilitators.

5. Website: Much progress has been made on getting talks posted to the website. Dates of March retreat are noted on the calendar, soon to be followed by posting dates of 2018 Cottonwood retreat. **Action Item**: Sharon will confer with Kay regarding the posting of 2016 financial statement which will be replaced by 2017 financial statement after the New Year, and about 2016 Annual Minutes to be replaced with these 10-22-17 Annual Minutes after approval or corrections by Board of Directors at next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. Thank you, Valerie, for hosting the meeting and providing lunch.

Next meeting of the board members will be held at 4:30pm on DEC 1st, 2017 at the 2nd floor Conference Room on Oak and Third.

Respectfully Submitted, Louella Schaeffer, Secretary