

**Phoenix Shambhala Meditation Center
Council Meeting
October 8, 2018**

Present: Del, Lynn, Andre, Pavel, Michelle, Muffie, Kim Kelso, Stuart, Noah. Amy and LaDawn joined via telephone.

Decision on Unified Giving

1. Lynn reiterated questions raised at the Harvest of Peace community meeting: 1) Is this meeting confidential? 2) Will we take notes during the meeting? She reminded everyone that, although what people share at an open Council meeting is inherently not confidential (because it is a public meeting), we agreed that if someone requests confidentiality about something they choose to share in the meeting, all would honor that. She also reminded us that we agreed to take notes only about decision points during the meeting and to write the Minutes as a summary afterwards.
2. Andre reviewed the state of the Phoenix Center's finances, the \$200 monthly contribution we make to Shambhala Global Services via Unified Giving, and support that Shambhala Global Services provides to our Center. (Please see the [agenda](#) for a review of this information.)
3. Lynn facilitated the discussion to address further questions, and attendees presented their preferences. Michelle conveyed statements made by four community members who were not in attendance.

Decision by Consensus*:

In recognition and appreciation of the support provided by Shambhala Global Services, we choose to continue making a monthly contribution of \$200. We also intend to closely monitor the actions of the incoming Interim Board, including their level of transparency in issuing financial reports; we understand that they will provide contact information so that we can communicate with them regarding any concerns we have about how the Unified Giving funds are used. We will then revisit our decision about continuing this contribution at a future meeting, tentatively planned for Shambhala Day 2019; this could come sooner depending on the state of our local finances, the results of the investigation into Sakyong Mipham's conduct, and/or the actions of the incoming Interim Board.

** Consensus decision-making, as the council is employing the term, involves carefully considering the input of all group members and deliberatively crafting an outcome that best meets the needs of the group as a whole, rather than personal preferences. Though unanimity is desirable, it is not required; rather, the goal is to arrive at a decision that most (if not all) members believe best meets the needs of the group, and that all can accept without blocking.*

A key aspect of consensus decision-making is the deliberative process itself, wherein group members freely express thoughts, views, ideas, and concerns, listen to the contributions of others, and allow their own perspective to evolve based on heartfelt dialogue and consideration of the common good. Comments submitted by group members in absentia are, of course, welcomed and included in deliberations, but it is crucial that decisions emerge from this collaborative ground, established iteratively by those present.

The Phoenix Shambhala Council reiterates its commitment to ensure that our deliberative processes include enough space and time for all concerns to be aired before moving toward the decision-making phase.

More information on consensus processes, and the importance of active participation, can be found here: www.ic.org/wiki/consensus-basics

It has come to the council's attention that some people feel pressured in the case of a consensus decision to go along with the group, so we reiterated our intention to make sure that everyone feels their concerns have been addressed.

Next Steps for Shrines

Del reported on the plan for carrying out the decisions made at our September meeting regarding the moving of photos from the shrines and community room. (Please see the [minutes from the September meeting](#) for more on these decisions.)

- The shrine photos will be removed from the 2 main shrine spaces by the end of the month of October.
- A shrinekeeping group of 3-4 people interested in ongoing shrine keeping will be identified who will work with the space committee on creating a new space for the 3rd shrine space. The shrinekeeping team should be formed by mid-October.
- The shrine keepers will work with the space committee on creating the third shrine space to include a space for visiting teachers / director's space. This group will also manage the removal of the Sakyong and Sakyong Wangmo's photo from the community room, and the relocation of these photos to the new shrine space. They will also handle the moving of Chögyam Trungpa's photo to a different place in the community room.
- Opportunities will be made available for any community members who wish to practice in the shrine room(s) before and after these changes are made.

Next Council Meeting

Monday, November 12 at 6:30 pm

Planned agenda:

1. Stuart will discuss moving forward on previously agreed-upon space changes; fundraising for these changes will also be discussed.
2. Andre will discuss our financial forecast.
3. Michelle will suggest restarting our Meet the Sangha blog series.