

Phoenix Shambhala Council Meeting

November 12, 2018 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Present: Del, Andre, Lynn, Michelle, Lucia, Pavel, Beverly and Ana LaDawn and Kim by Zoom.

Del opened the meeting with a few minutes of sitting practice.

1. Announcements -- Del

- Amy has asked for a leave of absence from the Council until January.
- Stuart has resigned from the Council.
- Council is strong and stable, Programming will continue and finances are stable.
- Council will work together on how to work with Amy's absence and Stuart's departure from the Council and communicate with the sangha in a timely manner. (Note: See the decision made at the end of the meeting to send a letter about changes in the Council to all members and friends within a day or two.) (Addition to minutes: This message was sent to members and friends on November 15 and is archived at [this link.](#))

2. Check-In – Facilitated by Del

- Each person held space and listened to anyone in the meeting who wanted to share what was present for him/her/them.

3. Posted Agenda Items

Financial Update -- Andre

- June analysis is posted on the website.
- Andre asked: What does the sangha need? Is quarterly reporting sufficient? Or is biannual fine? Monthly?
- **Council Agreement: “Yes” to quarterly financial reports.**
 - **Next Actions: Andre – Q3 should be done by December and Q4 by the end of January**
- Question: Was there a carryover agenda item from the October meeting regarding the community's consensus agreement to continue the monthly donation to the center of the mandala?
 - Michelle read the agreement statement from October Council Meeting minutes to clarify that there is not a carryover agenda item, but an intention to watch for financial updates from Shambhala International.

Space Changes to Center -- Del

Del suggested that we put “on hold” any decisions about space changes for two reasons: 1) Amy and Stuart are no longer available for the space committee so there are only two current members: LaDawn and Steve. LaDawn agreed that

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further space changes should be put on hold, in particular since she is also unavailable to participate directly at the moment. And 2) At the October meeting we felt that it was best not to spend any funds at this time.

- Question: When will the “pause” to the space committee and space changes be ended?
 - General Agreement: For the time being.
- Clarification from Andre: Stuart raised \$750 in donations for space changes (specifically for paint).
 - Suggestion from Andre and Del: We will not use the \$750 at this time.
 - Suggestion from LaDawn: To put the money aside and label it as “donation for space improvements.”
- **Council Agreement: We will not spend funds on space changes for now.**
- Request from Lynn: Could we begin to document and be transparent about donations and how we respond to them, e.g. provide written thank you notes to donors that also document the donation?
 - **Next Action: Lynn will get information about donation policy for non-profits and give to Andre before the December meeting.**
 - Del asked for an exception to “no Space Changes” having to do with the new, third shrine and practice space. Under Del’s leadership, the new 3rd shrine arrangement will proceed as it only requires reorganizing furniture and working with materials within the center?
- **Council Agreement: Del will continue to set up the 3rd shrine space without spending funds.**
 - Del needs help moving furniture. Lucia suggested we set up third shrine room and the KHG at the same time.
- Question: Is it possible for people to practice in the third shrine room space?
 - Del: Yes, unless there is a program.
- Question: How will we communicate that the third shrine space is open?
 - Del: Yes, open to suggestions.
 - Suggestion: Add announcement re third shrine room to the newsletter.
 - **Next Action: Michelle and Del will communicate to sangha information about the third shrine and practice space.**

Blog Agenda Item -- Michelle

“Meet the Sangha” blog posts were ongoing since the beginning of the year, but were interrupted by the news in June. Recent posts have been about

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Shambhala news, financial reports, Center events and other topics. Would like to resume Meet the Sangha posts.

- **Next Actions:**
 - **December post: Del will write “Way of the Moon” blog post.**
- **Seeking blog posts starting in January. Kim and Bev agreed.**

4. Next Steps and Agenda Items for December 3

- When / how should we tell the sangha about Amy’s leave of absence and Stuart’s resignation?
 - Suggestion: Send a communication very soon.
 - **Next Action: LaDawn will send a draft to the council tonight or tomorrow. LaDawn asked to also send the draft to Kim for her input. Kim said yes, if the Council was in agreement.**
 - **Council agreement: Send letter to sangha asap regarding changes to the Council**

Council Agreements: November 12

1. We requested quarterly financial reports from Andre.
2. We will not spend funds on space changes for now.
3. Del will continue to set up the 3rd shrine space without spending funds.
4. We will send a letter to the sangha ASAP regarding changes to the Council.

Next Actions: November 12

1. Andre will post the Q3 financial report before the end of December and the Q4 financial report before the end of January.
2. Lynn will get information about donation policy for non-profits and give to Andre before the December meeting.
3. Michelle and Del will communicate to sangha information about the third shrine and practice space.
4. LaDawn will send a draft letter to the sangha about changes to the Council to council members and Kim tonight or tomorrow (Note: Message was sent and is archived at [this link](#).)
5. Del will write “Way of the Moon” blog post. Kim and Bev will write blog posts starting in January.

December 3 Agenda Items:

- Shambhala Day Planning (Tuesday February 5, probably observed on February 10)
- Council Process with Meetings (Open Sessions and Working Sessions): Explain the process and ask community for input and feedback.