

Phoenix Shambhala Council Meeting

December 3, 2018 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Present: Del, Andre, Michelle, Pavel, Muffie, Lucia, Loretta
LaDawn by Zoom.

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

1. Check-In – Facilitated by Del

Optional reports on how we're doing. We hope this helps us learn to have conversations with each other and accept wherever we're at.

2. Posted Agenda Items

Shambhala Day Planning

- Tuesday, February 5, observed on Sunday, February 10. Year of the Earth Pig.
- We will start planning at this meeting, then open it up to the rest of the sangha for input. What does the community want to do? Do we feel it's appropriate to be celebrating?
 - Food. This is always a draw.
 - Shambhala Sadhana. Does anyone have an aversion to this?
 - Protector chants, in addition to those done as part of the Sadhana.
 - Rain of Wisdom selections, and/or Rain of Blessings.
 - Improv games, other games. Keep these child-friendly, and make sure we reach out to sangha members with children/grandchildren so they know the children are invited.
 - Offerings: stories, poetry, music, etc.
 - Financial update for 2018.

Council Process with Meetings (Open Sessions and Working Sessions):

Explain the process and ask community for input and feedback.

- Community Council Meetings will be open.
- Council members will also meet to have "working sessions" - spontaneous sessions to allow us to handle specific issues. (See Amy and Stuart's announcements, which required some changes to the remaining council members' duties.) The remaining six members will ask each other if we agree on these decisions so we have equal input. This information will be announced at next Council Meeting and included in minutes. We want to remain transparent and not create a sense of secrecy.
- Report on November working session
 - Del and Andre will be receiving directors' emails while Amy is on leave.
 - Lynn will resume her duties as membership coordinator, and is looking for someone to train as an assistant.

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- Barbara is working with Richard on billing for the heat.
- Michelle suggested using sources other than CTR and the Sakyong for quotes in social media graphics. Send any quote suggestions for her to consider.

3. Additional agenda items

New Years Eve party at the Center?

- Del would like to have a party with offerings, with Chris coordinating.
- Muffie would also like to do the Sadhana of Mahamudra around 9 pm.
- Encourage uplifted dress.
- Offer both cocktails and nonalcoholic drinks.

[Update: the New Years Eve party has been [posted](#). Join us on December 31 starting at 6 pm.]

Improv Comedy Workshop

- Pavel has been promoting this in Sarpashana and to contacts outside Shambhala. He is also promoting on Facebook. How else can we promote?

Updates: Andre

- Andre is working with Steve on getting the membership report to see if there are any changes.
- Q3 financials are now on the [website](#).
- He will give a brief report on Q4 in January but won't have complete numbers for December.

Updates: LaDawn

- Still working on bringing in diversity programming.
- On advisory board for the Center for Mindfulness at ASU, and its Social Justice subcouncil.
- Has participated in a call about the Process Team. She doesn't yet know whether she's on the Process Team.
- Community care: can we organize visiting for Mary Ann, who has been ill? Lucia has been communicating with her.

Question: Pavel

- Can we record talks (such as Friday night Level 1 and others that are open to the community) and post them online? This could serve as promotion and bringing us more into a digital setting.
 - We can look into this. Del will talk to Pavel more about this.

Question: Loretta

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- The 2019 Advanced Assemblies schedule has been [published](#). Are some programs missing?
 - Del: The three assemblies taught by the Sakyong (Sacred World, Rigden Abisheka, and Scorpion Seal 1) will not take place in 2019, as the investigation into the Sakyong has not been completed at the time the schedule was finalized. The Scorpion Seal assemblies that have been scheduled will be led by Acharyas.

Updates: Del

- Practice & Education has been quiet. It's hard to fill classes.
- Heart Sutra is coming Dec 7-9, and Kim will do it again in Tucson.
- WIEL will be offered in February.
- Flagstaff wants to do MIEL; scheduling to come.
- Weekthun in the spring with Holly Gayley, focusing on mahayana practices with vows given at the end.
- Level 1 possible for the spring, although registrations have been low for recent Level 1 classes.
- Ocean of Dharma book group to come at the Center, with Muffie, restarting with volume 1.
- Kindness Circle planning to come. Del hopes to schedule an open house in January to introduce the program. [Note: the [Way of the Moon open house](#) has been scheduled for January 13.]
- We've had an income dropoff without the large programs. Should we "pass the hat" (red box) as in Sarpashana? Bring attention to the box? Need to stress that this isn't required.

4. Next Steps and Agenda Items for January 14

Council Agreements: December 3

- Preliminary planning for Shambhala Day.
- Announcements on community Council Meetings and council working groups, with the Council's commitment to transparency.
- Preliminary planning for New Years Eve party.

Next Actions: December 3

- We will open Shambhala Day planning to the community.
- An announcement for New Years Eve will be forthcoming.

January 14 Agenda Items:

- **Shambhala Day planning update.**
- **Andre: Q4 (estimate) financial report.**
- **Lucia: Kasung updates, including community training.**
- **Lynn: Membership update.**

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- **Michelle: Saturday Salon schedule, topics, and volunteers to lead.**