

Phoenix Shambhala Council

Listening Session on Council Priorities

February 9, 2019 2 - 3 pm

Present: LaDawn, Lynn, Michelle, Chris, Muffie, Jim, Diane

LaDawn began with discussion the purpose of meeting: What do we do here? What are our priorities? What are our aspirations? What are the tasks that need to be done? How do we do this with the resignations of our Center Director and P&E Director, and with a lack of support from the Center of the Mandala.

Our March council meeting will cover these issues more as a working session; today we'd like to give this opportunity to express our ideas and aspirations before we "get to work."

Center priorities that aren't currently covered, as identified by the council:

Practice & Education

Filled roles (temporarily)

- SPMI/Guide Circles – scheduling, agendas, and communication (Kim); tracking (Michelle)
- Shambhala Sadhana scheduling (Barbara)
- ROTA – (Chris)
- Open house scheduling – (Chris)
- Way of the Moon – kindness circles (Lynn, coordinating with Kim)

Unfilled roles

- Program scheduling (Lynn and Michelle with act as coordinators temporarily)
- Coordinators/staffing (WIEL and Level I – Del will take care of these until March governance meeting)
- Teacher invitations – housing, etc. (on an as-needed basis)
- Communicate with Charlie Goetzl – P&E contact at Center of the Mandala (Del will retain until March governance meeting)

Center Director

- Facilitate coordination among pillars (Council, P&E, Kasung) – Council as a whole
- Receiving communication from Shambhala Global Services – Michelle and Andre
- Facilities management (landlord, bills, cleaners, etc.) – Lucia, with Steve handling bill payments; we will ask if Barbara will resume this when Barbara returns in mid-March
- Interact with other groups at center (Kunzang Choling and Dharma Punx) – Michelle, coordinating with P&E
- Communicating individually with members – Lynn

Chöppön – Del will train Lucia

We opened the listening session as an open space format: everyone expressed their feelings in a container that preserves anonymity and without cross-talk.

Some ideas that the group expressed (and wished to be recorded) include:

- Focus on community, warmth, openness, compassion.

- We're interested in programs – not necessarily Shambhala Training – but involving similar topics as our community focus: Mahayana, kindness circles, paramitas, death and the bardo.
- When it comes to governance, we want it to be informed by our principles, including the paramitas and natural hierarchy (lha, nyen, lu). Note that this does not mean “hierarchical” in the western view, but more of a flat and inclusive structure.

Do we need another listening session on priorities? Is an email announcement the best way to plan a meeting? Should Lynn talk to people individually as part of her Membership duties? Should we announce it at Shambhala Day and invite people to respond: “Who is interested in another meeting? Or talk to council members and/or contact us by email.” Michelle will add this to her announcements on Shambhala Day.

Some next steps:

- Lynn will look into the death & the bardo class.
- Lynn and Muffie will look into the Mahayana classes.
- Michelle and LaDawn will look into the paramitas class.