

December 23, 2019 Community Meeting Minutes

Members present: Michelle, Jim, Mark, Lucia, Kim, Muffie, Andre and Chris

Phoenix Shambhala Day Activities

Decisions made: we will celebrate on March 8. This date was chosen because Shambhala Day is a Monday, Wednesday is CIEL, and the weekend of February 28 – March 1 is the Yarnell retreat, which often draws Phoenix participants.

We will follow our typical all-day celebration schedule: Shambhala Sadhana, brief public sitting, potluck lunch, Sadhana of Kindness, and we will add the recorded broadcast at 10:30 am and a hike at the end. Jim and Mark will coordinate the hike. [Note: the schedule has been published [on our website](#). – mmw]

March 7 we will have a Dance Party at the center (Andre to bring the dance tunes for dance party).

There is a center photo due January 31 to be included in the center roll call – we decided to take the picture on a Sunday in front of art piece that Diane helped create.

Dorje Kasung Update and new leadership

Lucia announced a change to the leadership of the Dorje Kasung. Lucia and Mark provided background – about a month ago Lucia decided to transition out of the Rusung role.

The Kasung are still following the form related to Chain of Command (rather than the team leadership procedure established in our [previous meetings](#)). It's an important form to them and a core principle of Kasungship – it demonstrates surrender of ego. Lucia stated that she reached out to LaDawn as Kenchung to see if she wanted to become Rusung. She declined due to personal time availability but was willing to remain as Kenchung. Lucia and Mark then reached out to Lynn as a potential Rusung; Lynn agreed to become Rusung for a one year term, then to check with LaDawn again.

Mark described the Regional Command that he leads and includes all centers in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and SMC, and Texas. Everyone was appreciative of this background presented by Mark and Lucia.

The members present offered Lucia many thanks for holding the space during this difficult time in the larger sangha, and welcomed Lynn as our next Rusung!

Mark, Lucia, and Lynn will schedule the Changing of the Guard Ceremony and inform the community so it can be publicized.

Term limits for team leads

Discussion around term limits for leads turned into a conversation about succession planning and membership. The team leads need to recruit and cultivate successors and then mentor them during the coming months/years. Those present also noted that the traditional term for leaders is three years. If leaders are in a role for three years we can review to see if they want to continue or if others are ready to take the lead position. Michelle noted that she started doing social media/marketing work for the center six years ago but currently only Pavel and Chris are on the marketing team and are unable to take

on any of her work. Michelle will continue to cover these areas. Andre has been Chagdzu for a few years now and Steve has continued to do the center accounting for about ten years.

Possibility of returning Chogyam Trungpa's photo to the main community room

Those present shared their ideas and feelings about this topic. There was a general consensus that we are comfortable returning CTR's picture to the main community room and adding another piece of artwork, such as a banner of Yeshe Tsogyal, to balance the space on the large south wall. The previous council placed an order for a Yeshe Tsogyal banner – we are researching the status of this order. A decision was made to further discuss this topic at the next community meeting so that we can inform and have input from as many members as possible prior to putting up any photos.

Brief finance update from Andre

We are pulling \$300-400 per month from savings to meet our expenses. Andre is going to break down the Heart of the Buddha classes for the finance reports and provide a more extensive finance review at another community meeting. We discussed various classes that could be offered, making the point that those students who have taken Shambhala Training curriculum are those who typically become members and support the center with volunteer time as well. Efforts need to be made by all members to engage those sitting with us regularly about Shambhala training and becoming members.

Next Community meeting is January 26, 11:30 am – 2 pm

[Note: in a conversation with Barbara on 1/12/20, she noted that we have been scheduling Sunday community meetings at 12:30 to accommodate book study. However, she does not think that enough people are attending both community meetings and book study to make this adjustment worthwhile, and recommended that we return Sunday community meetings to the 11:30 time slot. I spoke to other team leads and we agreed to this change. –mmw]