

Community Meeting, 14 June 2020

Present: Barbara, Chris, Mark, Muffie, Kim, Alan, Diane, Lynn, Michelle

We started with a brief check in.

Report on Code & Conduct meeting from Mark

- Working group of the Process Team hosted “Preparing the Ground” meetings to discuss forthcoming updates to the Code & Conduct policy. A survey from last year showed that many people in Shambhala were dissatisfied with the current way of reporting misconduct. The new policy is two pages, simplified, and more enforceable, with a schedule for timely response. More emphasis on Care and representing both sides of a complaint. There will also be an appeals process.
- Three principles were emphasized: More accountability, more transparency, more inclusivity.
- The new policy will apply to everyone in Shambhala, not just leaders and teachers, and globally. (Kim notes that in an earlier meeting, she was told that it would also apply to the Sakyong and the Sakyong Wangmo.)
- Timeline for next steps: Share final documents in June and July. Endorsement by the Board and feedback from community in July and August. Further discussion with the community (and potential revisions) from September to January.
- Some brief discussion among the group about how to communicate the new policy to the community and how to respond if people come to us with a complaint. Further discussion to come.

Plans for reopening, presented by the Lynn and the Kasung

- Lynn prepared a draft for reopening procedures and questions to consider. There are three preliminary questions to consider before we make plans:
 - Criteria: do we want to see a 2-week decrease in new cases before we reopen?
 - How to calculate the benefits and risks of being open in person vs. open only virtually? What’s most important to us?
 - If we reopen the building, who will show up? Are some of our community members still unwilling to meet in person at this time?
- Suggestion: start watching for the next three weeks, make sure the cases are trending downward, then send out a survey to see what the community wants to do? (“These are the new procedures we are considering. Feedback? Will you come?”) Lynn will draft a survey.
 - We will start monitoring now, with July 5 as the earliest date to send out a survey. Cancel the July 1 Open House.
 - What data source to use? <https://www.azdhs.gov/> Choose Data Dashboard and drill down to Maricopa County (although we should watch other counties for unexpected rises). Lynn and Andre can watch the data, but everyone is encouraged to keep an eye on what’s happening.

- Once we know that plans are in place and people want to come back, then we will work on specific logistics.
- Could we continue to offer video sittings in addition to in-person sittings? This could be beneficial, but would require twice as many ROTA assignments.

Review of finances

- See the [report posted online](#)
- Membership is up slightly. We do have 3-4 new members. Donations are also up, even though we're not open for in-person visits.
- Questions: Who's checking the mail? Someone needs to visit the Center to check. (Andre volunteered to go by once a week.) There may be some missing payments, including from Kunzang Choling. Chris and Michelle should follow up with them to see if they're sending or dropping off checks, and where to.
- Sharing revenue for Levels: There was some previous discussion about sharing some of the revenue for online classes attended by members of other Centers back to their Centers. How much to send to those Centers? Limit it to Southwest/SoCal Centers or all Centers? (We had attendees for Level 1 from out of country, and this creates tax challenges when transferring money.) Group agreed to 30% for regional centers, but this may require further discussion and coordination with other centers. We need to communicate this back to Tucson and Albuquerque.
- Mid-July we should schedule another discussion with Richard about the rent. Can we go back to paying full rent in August? Discuss this at the next meeting.

Generosity transfer: how much do we want to continue to contribute?

- Andre will have to follow up with Steve on our contribution. We decided to lower the amount to \$100 but we may not have made the change after deciding two months ago. We will need to talk to our bank to make the adjustment.
- Is it possible to not be on automatic payment? We will also have to talk to the bank about this; Andre will coordinate with Steve.
- Once this change is made, we should pay \$100 for the next 2 months. Discuss this amount again in August.

P&E Update from Chris

- Fearlessness in Everyday Life will be scheduled; dates to come.
- LA will host an online Level 2 in August; we will share this with our recent Level 1 attendees. Chris will finalize with them and discuss whether/how much money they will share back to us if we attend.
- If we continue on this rotation, we would host Level 3 in October.
- September program – Three Lords of Materialism with Melissa Moore – will be scheduled online. Details to come.
- There was some previous discussion of Refuge and Bodhisattva vows in September; these are currently on hold. We need to see whether these vows can be offered online.

- We had previously booked a director for a December weekthun. Chris will follow up on this; it may or may not be online, and it may or may not be a weekthun.
- We may need to do a “temperature check” and see how many attendees we might have for acharya-led events before committing to the expenditure.

Next meeting

- Monday, July 13 at 6:30 pm
- Agenda items:
 - Update on reopening: report on data and/or survey results.
 - Discuss whether we can go back to paying full rent in August or whether we can ask Richard for further discounts.
 - For August agenda: Review contribution to SGS.