

Community Meeting 7/13/20

Present: Kim, Andre, Lynn, Barbara, Cindy, Muffie, Teresa, Michelle

Update on reopening: report on current [COVID data](#).

- We will table this topic for the next meeting. We have not seen 3 weeks of downward trend.

Kunzang Choling update: their sublet and their chairs.

- They are moving their meetings to online only and have given us 30 day notice as of June 26. Chris is coordinating with them to remove their belongings by the end of July.
- Chairs: they have agreed to give us 7 chairs if we can store the remaining 13 for them. They will allow us to use the chairs while we're holding on to them.

Financial update and discussion of August rent.

- [Financial updates have been posted](#) through the end of June.
- We've lost \$100-200 per month in the last few months; this is less than projected. Lack of programs has been offset by the reduction in rent.
- We're still using \$100/month in electricity; Andre will follow up on why this cost is still happening, since the appliances and air conditioning should be shut off. (We did not shut off service due to the high processing fees.) We'll have to check on the Center to see whether some air conditioning is now necessary due to the high temperatures; Barbara will check.
- Kunzang Choling did pay us for the last few months, although it is not reflected on the spreadsheet. Andre is checking on getting access to the lock box so he can collect the checks; Barbara will see if she has a key.
- If we continue to offer online programming, finances will become more sustainable.
- The reduction in transfer to SGS has not gone through yet; we contacted the bank to place a stop payment but they told us that SGS could still pull it. They did pull a June transfer. We should try contacting them again about this and try to make it a "push" from us rather than a "pull" from them; Andre and Muffie will follow up with Faradee. This means that we should do \$100 for the next 4 months in order to catch up to our April decision, and review in November.
- Rent: Muffie and Barbara plan to talk to Richard within the next week, and request 2 more months at half rent. If he says no, they will request a 25% reduction for the next 2 months. If he will only agree to this by making us pay back at the end of the lease, they

will say no, and pay full rent starting in August. (We do not want to keep paying after next June, since we might be moving out, and there is very little benefit to holding money in savings at the current low interest rates.) They may also ask what he's willing to offer. Note that our rent is supposed to go up by \$100 per month in August; they will also try to negotiate this.

- Update 7/21/20: Muffie and Barbara negotiated with Richard for a rent of \$1200 per month for August and September. The new rent of \$2000 per month will begin in October. Richard asked if we could open to the public on September 1; Barbara told him we're waiting for 3 weeks of downward trending COVID cases before making a decision about reopening.

An announcement and reflection about [Acharya retirements](#).

- As announced in the link above, about one-third of the Acharyas stepped down from their posts as the Sakyong's representatives, although they did not leave Shambhala.
- We allowed some time for participants to share their responses.
- Kim' remarks: "There continues to be uncertainty moving forward, regarding changes in Shambhala. The community needs to do a lot of healing. The retiring Acharyas are committed to supporting community. The Sakyong is committed to maintaining the Shambhala lineage and is open to being supplicated for teachings, and both groups of Acharyas are also willing to teach. We should offer the Shambhala and Buddhist curricula, invite teachers to teach us, and proceed with a sense of confidence -- the Shambhala path will continue." [*Wording updated in edit with Kim -- mmw*]

P&E

- Teresa asked if there's interest in a regular loving-kindness practice, potentially including various topics and rotating leaders. She would be willing to lead and/or coordinate it; Michelle suggested bringing it up to Chris to go on the schedule. Teresa would consult with Michelle about available times, then send out a poll about what times people are interested in joining.

Next meeting: Sunday, August 16 at 11:30 am

- Update on reopening plans
- Financial update, including follow up on transfer to SGS and rent payment
- P&E update?