

## Community Meeting 9 November 2020

Present: Bev, Barbara, Muffie, Jim, Andre, Lynn, Chris, Michelle

### Update on reopening plans, including hybrid trial and check in with Dharma Punx

- We had our first hybrid (online/in person) Sunday sitting on November 8, with a small group invited to attend.
- Report: Chris notes that 6 feet between cushions is a lot of space, so it will greatly limit the number of people we can have in the shrine room, about 8-10. We did open any windows that were able to be opened. Some attendees walked outside rather than in the shrine room. There were audio problems with the computer setup and the in-person moderator was not able to manage the meeting or share screen because the computer had to be turned toward the umdze. We will have to make sure the umdze wears a mask while chanting.
- Official recommendations vary, but the factors include number of people, proximity, time in contact, and outdoors/indoors/windows open.
- Previous decisions about trying hybrid sitting were made before case counts started going up again. It may be too risky to make Sunday a hybrid sitting at this point.
- Sarpashana attendees decide on their personal comfort levels, but do not screen people before they attend in person. They will consider a sign-in sheet with contact info so they can contact each other in the event someone gets sick. Their regular attendees are already often in contact with each other.
- We might consider having members come in for additional programming rather than opening public sittings.
- How will we run Sundays going forward? Sitting in person for members only with a "registration" to limit attendance? Chris volunteered to be the contact for registration. No chants in person? Phone number exchange for notifying people in the event someone gets sick?
- **Consent statement: The Center will remain closed to the public, and public sitting will continue to be held online with an online moderator and online umdze, but if members informally wish to log in to Sunday sitting while at the Center, they may do so.** Chris will be the contact for those who wish to come to the Center so we do not exceed capacity, and this option will only be offered to members. The meeting attendees agreed to this statement.
- **Book study will continue to meet online**, whether or not anyone comes to the Center in person.
- Dharma Punx has asked for an update about meeting in person at the Center. Previously they said that when we were ready to start meeting in person, they would be. Because our decision was not to open to the public at this time, only to Sarpashana on a limited basis and not expanding that currently, this is what we will communicate to the Punx.

### Financial update

- Finances through October have been [posted at our website](#).
- There was a shortfall in October due to the rent break expiring.
- We are positive by \$2000 for the year. Our bank balances are better than they were at the start of the year.

- Andre was not willing to make trend projections based on October's numbers.
- Would Richard be willing to give us another rent discount? Barbara and Muffie said they would discuss another discount with him. They're willing to tell him that if he wants the full rent for a building that we can't use, we won't be able to renew the lease. [Edit: **Richard agreed to reduce monthly rent to \$1500 + 21.75 tax for 3 months starting with December.** In February 2021 he will meet with us again to discuss the monthly rent and the possibility of signing a new lease beginning July 2021, depending on "the future of Shambhala." - *mmw per Barbara 11/17/20*]
- Chris will schedule a P&E meeting to discuss scheduling future programs, on an upcoming Saturday. [Edit: P&E meeting is November 28 at 11 am. Chris has emailed a link to team members. - *mmw per Chris 11/18/20*]

### **Proposal for decluttering the Center**

- Andre had presented this proposal, but feels it's less urgent at the moment. He thinks it will be important if we go completely virtual at the end of our lease, and we'll have to declutter prior to packing up our materials. We'll table this again for a future meeting.

Next community meeting: Sunday, December 13 at 11:30 am.  
Agenda items? COVID watch, financial update, P&E?