

Wet Mountain Sangha
Steering Committee Minutes
4-1-11, Cockrell farm

- I. Present: Kate Jarrett, Travis Connelly, Kerry Kramer, Jan Meserve, Doug Mesner, David Cockrell

- II. Finance stream biz
 1. Merrilee and Linda have worked out a slow transition schedule
 2. Merrilee talked to Linda on the phone and they have a plan for transitioning Merrilee to the treasurer's job. It not quite foolproof and may drag out even more than hoped since Linda will be out of town most of April. David will pay the May-June rent check. The other issue is who is going to pick up dana and deposit it while Linda is gone—*Who agreed to do this???*. David agreed to bring non-profit status up to date. Merrilee will get a better system for tracking individual contributions of those who are taking a tax deduction. (Linda did confirm that the list of individual contributions is truly lost, so contributors will need to rely on their own records for tax deductions. The other issue is pledging to the Sangha but we will hold off on that also because Merrilee would like to explore an option for an automatic monthly transfer from member's checking accounts to the sangha account.
 3. Linda's report
 1. Our current Balance is \$ 1,849.23
All income and expenses have been paid related to Joan's visit, Sarah's WITH, and expenses associated with the program for the children. Thanks David. The only upcoming bill that I know of would be the May-June CIP Rent and Ad. not due until May 1. I will be away from the 7-8th of April until somewhere around the 25-26. Merrilee has all entries from the first of the year, and David has the checkbook for anything that comes up.

- III. Kerry volunteered to investigate liability insurance providers and to contact the CIP contact person (Judith Lopez) also investigating adding us to their policy as a rider.

- IV. May 7th Full day retreat
 1. Kerry and David will be co-leaders. David will confirm attendance on Monday, April 4. Doug is willing to be cantor or meal coordinator.

- V. Communication
 1. Merrilee is wondering about a subscription service for our emails
 - i. Constant contact. Is a monthly service pricing starts at 15 dollars a month and would remove the need for one of us to manage and maintain a list. Subscribers would sign up from our web site and could directly unsubscribe at any time
 - ii. The Steering Committee voted to adopt Constant Contact.
 2. Web site transition to Travis. Travis had a computer problem and is back to square one. He will reload the software and get it back up and running.

- VI. Dorcy—Doug report: 2-3 new people a month. 9-10 people each week. A few of the newcomers do keep coming back. Mostly Doug has been leading, although Jan has led sometimes. The group had a good discussion about format, and they have basically reaffirmed their commitment to their existing format. The SC reaffirmed our enthusiasm about the Dorcy project and brainstormed ways to try to be more helpful.
 1. Kate had the idea that we could build a stronger link between the Dorcy Center and the sangha by inviting people present on Wednesdays to consider attending

on Mondays—sometimes a newcomer will fit in better at Dorcy. We can add this during announcements. Doug will ask the Dorcy group if they would like to have a webpage on the sangha site.

VII. Wednesday Service Ideas

What is your Idea for Wednesday service. What does your heart request? What do new members need? What does our practice call for? What is the evening service that serves the community and the tradition most completely? Kate led us in having that each of us speak in turn, without interjection or interruption. Let us each hear each of our voices. There is no need to decide anything tonight. Lets just speak together and let that which we serve decide.

1. Jan has been thinking about tea! Feeling a part of the sangha community is foremost for her. Time for us all to hear Joan's talks is also important to her.
2. Kerry is feeling concerned about us not spreading ourselves too thin, given that we're a small group. Developing processes ceremonies for births and deaths is something she wants to focus on.
3. Doug and Diane really care about the silence. Maybe would recommend stopping the dharma talks. Doug put out a request to other sangha members for ideas and got three. Confidence in the steering committee was expressed, along with cutting out one period of sitting on dharma talk nights. Maybe just services in silence—no chants.
4. Travis: Loves the traditions too.
5. Kate adores the form.
6. Doug suggested that we consider a sutra service 3 times a year on the Buddhist holidays.
7. David suggested the Wayfaring Mind talks from sangha members periodically, as a variation on the dharma talk nights. This SMS idea invites sangha members to share how they came to the practice, and what it means in their lives.
8. David also proposed to do meditation instructor check-in groups at 5:00 on Wednesdays once a month. The feedback was positive, and this will start in the summers.
9. We need to have opportunities to speak with each other. More conversation!

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

--David