

Deep Spring Center Board of Directors Meeting
September 28, 2015, 6:30 pm @ Deep Spring Center
Ann Arbor, Michigan

attending: Rori Stienstra, Jason Riggs, Elizabeth Cheslak, Beth Mulder, Tana Dean (OM) Dottie Coyne (teacher liaison)

not attending: Amy Koch, Adriana Medina, Barbara Brodsky

Brief Sitting

I. Board Elections

There was a general discussion of Deep Spring Board officers, terms, elections, etc.

Rori wants to step down as President as she has completed her term

Beth will remain Treasurer, per her commitment

Elizabeth will remain Secretary through December

PLAN: elections deferred until next meeting

Rori to email change of meeting date and location: October 20 @ Elizabeth's home

II. Deep Spring Vision

Rori opened stating she has been feeling discouraged in the face of people leaving Deep Spring, teachers leaving, fewer class offerings, etc. She invited Tana to share some thoughts, which had inspired Rori and re-energized her.

Tana's vision of Deep Spring is that we are thriving. She noted that people at DSC tend to be part of a group (the Board, retreats, classes, teachers, channelers, etc) and so tend develop a skewed perspective, a view just from their group's experience. Having been at Deep Spring for more than six years now, Tana says that her perspective is more of an overview over time. She asserts that DSC is thriving, growing and is "so much more than the building". We have a recognized "brand identity" in the community of meditators and seekers. Interest in DSC is growing as evidenced by social media response: meet-up has 110 members now, and brings people to the DOM, classes & sittings. FaceBook, twitter and Google-plus are all gaining in numbers. Tana sees the challenge as how can we use social media to reach out, connect and grow.

Beth introduced, and then everyone discussed, opening up and examining our traditional ways of doing things. This is an ongoing Board conversation. Suggestions: perhaps less dependence on Rec & Ed and Crazy Wisdom (with their deadlines), increase flexibility on class offerings, workshop format, the need for classes beyond Basic, ie curriculum development, how to move teachers through the "training process" faster, etc.

Suggestions included:

~ moving forward faster with Teacher development,
~ host a “meet-up” social event to gather together interested people at Deep Spring,
~ loosen criteria for inviting people to serve on the Board (develop a process) and grow the ~
Board, need functioning Teachers Council and Retreat Cmtee. The Board cannot do it all.

PLAN: Dottie will bring Teachers and teacher training students together and open up this dialogue. Will send email to set a meeting.

III. Retreat Report

A. Fall retreat: “Remembering Wholeness” in Selma, IN Oct 27 - Nov 2nd. This retreat is half full, and we have already broken even financially.

B. Scholarship process for retreats: discussion led to the unanimous decision to return to our Scholarship Guidelines: People will apply for scholarships with a non-refundable applic. fee. There will be a limit of **2** 50% off scholarships per retreat, managers will receive a 50% discount, those who need some assistance paying for a retreat can work out a payment plan with Tana. We will not be “filling all the empty retreat spots” with people paying cost or a reduced fee at the last minute (created confusion and inequity at the Emrich retreat). We will not be using scholarship funds to balance the books to make it seem that a retreat has “broken even”. Seva policy or guidelines will be considered in the future.

PLAN: Tana will communicate the above with Bill Riccobono, retreat registrar

C. Emrich letter- Tana and Elizabeth wrote to Emrich to resolve the “bed bug” issue. Shari’s response was vague.

PLAN: Tana will email Shari and ask for resolution / payment by next Board meeting (Oct 20)

D. retreats for the next calendar year:

March 2016- Steiner, Basic Vipassana to be determined

April 2016- Spring Howell..... Amma Thanasanti

June 2016- Emrich..... Barbara, John Orr, Aaron, perhaps another teacher

October 2016- Fall Howell..... Deep Spring teachers retreat

IV. Day of Meditation & Spiritual Inquiry

Fewer people attended this year than last, but the day was lovely with several new teachers and offerings. It was a modest yet successful fundraiser. Gratitude goes out to everyone who helped make the day a success on so many levels.

PLAN: Elizabeth will debrief and create a planning timeline for future DOM coordinators

V. Treasurer’s Report

Actuals and Profit and Loss Statements were reviewed for July and August. Our balance sheet shows slight improvement from last year. Bottom line: we are staying afloat. Fundraisers will continue to be important this year.

PLAN: Beth is looking at our report format and will work with Tana to simplify and demystify it

VI. Teachers Council Report

Discussed many of these issues in Deep Spring Vision (see II.)

PLAN: Dottie will call a Teachers Meeting via email

VII. July Fundraiser Report

This year was the most successful July On-Line Fundraiser since its inception. It appears this fundraiser is growing. We raised more dollars, but there were no monthly (sustaining) pledges this year.

VIII. Remembering Wholeness

Dates for Remembering Wholeness at Deep Spring are: October 11, November 8 and December 13. Scheduled to begin at 12 noon, these events will immediately follow the Sunday sitting. The set-up of the space will largely depend on Barbara's preference. Food will be prepared in advance and brought in to Deep Spring. The team is excited to see how the October event goes. Volunteers for the above dates include: Beth, Betty, Nina and Lalita.

PLAN: Rori will email Barbara to discuss the general set-up of the space, and the specifics of how any Dana will be shared between Barbara and Deep Spring

IX. Administrative Issues

A. Tana has revised the website Volunteer page, and it is beautiful. A few things are still needed

PLAN: Tana will add the Board as an area for people to volunteer

Elizabeth will write a statement about Seva practice

B. End of Year Fundraiser- it's time to start thinking about letters for this annual email and snail mail fundraiser. We need letters from Barbara, the Teachers and the Board President

PLAN: discuss at next meeting

C. We viewed and discussed the blog that Tana has created for our website. It was agreed that we need an editor and we need to develop a link policy

PLAN: discuss at next meeting

D. The Board expressed its continued support for Tana around her ongoing health issues. We support flexible Deep Spring office hours and flexibility for Tana's work schedule.

PLAN: Tana will let us know when she needs to adjust workload and office hours

Next Meetings: October 20th at Elizabeth Cheslak's home, NOTE: change of location and date
(Call DSC for directions if you'd like to attend) and November 23rd 2015.

All meetings are held at Deep Spring Center unless otherwise announced. All meetings are open to the Sangha. Minutes from past meetings can be found on the Deep Spring website.

Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Cheslak, Secretary