

Deep Spring Center Board of Directors Meeting

February 23, 2015 6:30 pm @ Deep Spring Center

Ann Arbor, Michigan

attending: Rori Stienstra, Elizabeth Cheslak, Tony Rome, Kay Mahan (Board Adjunct), Jason Riggs, Tana Dean (OM),

not attending: Barbara Brodsky, Beth Mulder, Amy Koch, Karen Mori (TL)

Brief sitting

I. Sangha Commentary

Rori has asked that we begin each Board meeting with the discussion of where we are in the important process of clarifying our Vision for Deep Spring.

At this meeting, we continued in a more focused way, a group discussion around clarifying a Vision for Deep Spring. Who is our community? Who is available for committee work, for the visioning process, for fundraising, for general participation? Who will maintain our Sangha? How will we grow? Many people have left over the past few years: who remains? who is new? We need a clearer sense of who we are so we know who we can ask for the help we need.

It was suggested that the Board send an email survey to the DSC mailing list to elicit feedback on the state of our sangha, so we can get a feel of who still feels connected to DSC, how they feel connected, and how they may want to participate as we move forward.

Revival of the "Newsletter" was suggested as a way to connect people and to share information as we go through this transition period.

It was agreed that we need Barbara to have a greater presence at Deep Spring. It was suggested that Barbara bring more of her other (non-DSC) activities to Deep Spring, ie: Remembering Wholeness, and to invite and encourage those folks to become more active in Deep Spring.

The Board emphasized the needs to continue reaching out to the Teachers, how can we support their vital work ? We also need to nurture and actively support the "next generation" of Teachers at Deep Spring as well as our current teachers. It is recognized that the possibility of Barbara resuming the role of Guiding Teacher is still under discussion. Will this happen? if so, when? what will the terms of a new GT arrangement be? if not, then what? How will the Teachers move forward? However that particular reorganization unfolds, the Board seeks a closer relationship with the Teachers Council.

II. Board Membership The Board needs to begin now to identify potential new members as current members roll off

Plan: Each person on the Board is asked to bring two (2) names of potential Board members to the next meeting for discussion.

Elizabeth will send email reminder to current Board

III. Channeling Circle Jason is starting a channeling circle which will meet weekly on Friday evenings at Deep Spring. This will start in the next week or two, and will be open to everyone interested on a dana basis. Congratulations and gratitude extended to Jason.

Plan: Tana will add this to the website

IV. Retreat update DSC spring retreats, Steiner and Spring at Howell, were discussed, including the number of people who have registered and those who have paid. Figures were reviewed. Both retreats are filling up.

V. Treasurer's Report (Kay reporting in Beth's absence)

A. Balance sheet for Dec 2014 and Jan 2015 reviewed.

B. Profit & Loss statements reviewed, comparing Jan 2014 and Jan 2015. It was agreed that the monthly numbers are somewhat distorted as large retreat deposits are made (outgoing) months before retreat income is received. Thus the see-saw appearance of our bottom lines.

C. Equity Trend reviewed. This is a comparison of DSC equity position for the past three calendar years (2012, 13 & 14) and it was noted that our trend is downward for 2014.

D. It was suggested that we consider opening a separate bank account for all retreat business so that money going out for deposits and such, and monies coming in for registration do not muddy the overall picture of where we stand financially. All agreed that this idea is a good one.

Plan: Tana will discuss with Beth and Kay about how to implement

E. As we reviewed the numbers, it seems clear that we need our retreats to produce more income for DSC. Retreats are work-intensive, and our profit margins are slim. Some suggestions for how we might increase retreat revenue include: using larger venues to serve more people, investigate alternative (less expensive?) venues, registering more commuters when possible (especially the first day or two of longer retreats), consider more day-long workshops or workshop series.

Plan: Jason to take these suggestions to the next Retreat Team meeting

VI. Teachers Council there was no Teachers Council meeting this month, so no updates. The proposed date for a Board/ Teachers Intensive is Sunday April 19th, 12:30 -5:00 pm.

Plan: Rori will email teachers & board members seeking consensus or alternative dates.

VII. Administrative Issues

A. Tana will be away for the March meeting (Thanks for this heads-up, Tana)

B. The date for our fall day long Day of Meditation at Interfaith is set for Sept 12th

Plan: Tana will email Grace about managing the day for us again

C. Use of our space: Sue Hurd has asked to rent DSC for her “Bars” work. Barbara has given a general ok for workshop content. Planned date Sat. March 14th, 10am to 5 pm for the first meeting. May become an ongoing event.

VIII. Deep Spring Finances

We began the process of in-depth financial analysis of Deep Spring by reviewing a set of specific documents that Tana generated per the Board’s request. Each member received an info-packet which we will refer to as we proceed. Overall annual expenses, income and retreat income became concrete and clear. One conclusion: DSC retreats are a critical source of income for DSC. Also noted: DSC capital reserve (emergency fund) consists of one remaining CD. The time for understanding and taking corrective fiscal action is upon us.

Plan: Board members to review the financial documents in depth.

Folks not at the Feb meeting need to pick up a packet from Tana and be prepared to discuss financials at the March meeting

Form a budget sub-committee to work on the annual budget for 2016 (Kay, Beth, Tana, Rori & possibly others)

Rori to email Barbara & Amy r/t details of the fall Oakwood Retreat & will discuss consulting with Laura Turner about pricing, etc for this retreat.

Next Meetings: March 23rd, April 27th. 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 8:17 pm

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Cheslak, Secretary