

Minutes April 18/10	
Agenda	Action
<p>1. Brief Reports:</p> <p>a) Neighbourhood sits on website: Rod and Sally looked into that. John and Shelly's is now open. Lynne's is open. Marion is in process of setting up a group in Saanich. This info is key at retreats.</p> <p>b) Link to notification of study group on sidebar was requested.</p> <p>c) Sally asked that the phrase written on the website, "dedicated to the teachings of the Buddha in the Theraveda tradition." be changed to "dedicated to meditation (or mindfulness) practices in the Theravadan tradition, as taught by the Buddha". Endorsed and supported.</p> <p>d) Jan.30-31/10 weekend retreat update: Brock reported that the registration was at capacity with a wait list. It was held in the Marguerite lounge at Queenswood. Brock suggests that the upper limit in that lounge would be 65 registrants and keeping in mind some no shows, to order 60 lunches. Brock wrote up a post-retreat review page to be kept for future reference.</p> <p>e) Suggestions for future retreats in the Marguerite lounge: that the wall of stacked chairs be moved prior to the retreat. : there is no need for all the jugs of water and glasses</p> <p>f) Suggestion to update the VVC binder. Discussion for next meeting.</p> <p>g)Registration for non-computer people: in the past, hard copies were sent to a small group of those not online. A hard copy could be available at Sunday sits.</p> <p>h)Sunday sit update: numbers fluctuate but it is going well. Rod reminded us to be on the lookout for anyone who could be a speaker.</p>	<p>a) Rod will put it on the website.</p> <p>b) Rod will see to this.</p> <p>c) Rod will make the change.</p> <p>d) Suggestion implemented.</p> <p>e) Future retreat managers will see to these suggestions.</p> <p>f) Isy volunteered to do this after the Aug. retreat.</p> <p>g)Retreat registrar to have something available before the next retreat.</p> <p>h) Brock will be the contact person for speakers.</p>

2. May 8-9/10 Retreat with Ajahn Sona: Brock and June are registrar and manager. It will be held in the Chapel room as registration is at capacity of 100 with a wait list. For the public talk on Fri. May 7th now booked in the Marguerite lounge, Brock requested that he and June have the authority to change the room at Queenswood if numbers increase. Endorsed and supported.

Brock and June elaborated on the jobs related to the retreat: greeters, offering food to Ajahn Sona.

If people want to get a receipt for cash donations to Birken Monastery, we need to record how much those individuals give.

The Birken Monastery is covering Ajahn Sona's travel expenses for this retreat.

Suggestion from Brock: that billeting be deleted on the registration form. Sally was concerned about those who can't afford to stay at Queenswood. Isy thought it should be deleted and that they could contact the registrar if they need a place to stay. Joanne thought that offering billeting helps create community. Rod wondered if the need for billeting be put out to the Sangha at large and not just those attending the retreat.

Handout for upcoming retreat: it was suggested that a handout list of neighbourhood sits would be very beneficial and encouraging especially for new retreatants.

UG members volunteered for the various jobs.

June and Brock will buy envelopes for people to put the cash in.

An in-depth discussion about billeting will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

June and Brock will talk to Linda about the page list of neighbourhood sits and do it up for this coming retreat.

<p>3. Finances: Sally led us through a financial summary that she'd prepared, from Sept. 9/09- Apr. 18/10. Sally is finding the treasurer's job to be manageable at this point and is not attached to keeping the job if someone else is interested.</p> <p>VVC agreed to cover the \$50 rent of the Jan 17 Sunday sit so that whatever was given in dana could be donated to the Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund.</p> <p>Scholarship Fund: Sally suggested that because we are in the black now that we could put \$1000 into a dedicated scholarship fund. Then we can revisit it in a year and see how much we need at that time.</p> <p>Surplus money: Brock suggested that at the end of retreats the surplus \$\$ goes to Scholarship Fund and other activities.</p> <p>Brock reported that Sunday sits don't always get enough dana and that he has made donations often when the rent hasn't been reached. Sally said that we have enough money to support it.</p>	<p>A donation of \$97.25 from the collected dana that evening was given to the Fund.</p> <p>On next agenda: how we spend surplus money in terms of percentage of the surplus and spending categories. Sally will send us the spreadsheet and the scholarships will proceed as usual for now.</p> <p>On next agenda: brainstorming discussion about the value of money and using surplus in community as a practice of generosity. Sally and Brock will work on a projected budget for the next meeting</p>
<p>4) Brochure: discussion of changes to be made: to be printed for upcoming retreat</p>	<p>Carmie will see to the changes and the printing for the upcoming retreat.</p>

<p>5) Chair: questions raised about the position of chair and what tasks it entails. Suggestions: having a chair and a vice-chair : having a rotating chair position from a base of 2 or 3 people. A suggestion was made to have a planning committee of 3 or 4 who would make up the agenda and plans for future meetings. This will be called the Meeting Committee. Implemented.</p>	<p>Sally, Joanne and Carmie volunteered to be on this committee. Carmie will accept items for the next agenda.</p>
<p>6) Meetings: discussion about always having agenda items leftover and possible solutions: meet every 2 months, day-long work retreat, Next meeting to be proposed by the MC.</p>	<p>Action: Meeting Committee propose a day for the day-long retreat and for the next Umbrella Group meeting.</p>
<p>7) Rod talked about the email challenges that Heather has experienced recently and suggested that our sangha offer Heather monetary help. Sally suggested contacting SSVI and Bellingham sanghas as well so that we can all be of help.</p>	<p>Sally will contact Bellingham and then we can discuss further this at our day-long retreat. Rod will contact SSVI.</p>

Attending: Joanne Marks, Rod & Isy House, Sally Kimpson, Lynne Walker, Marion Irish, Linda Chan, June Fukushima (Guest), Brock Brown, Shelly & John Hilditch, Carmie Verdone

Hosts: Shelly and John

Chair: Joanne

Minutes: Carmie