

Umbrella Meeting Minutes September 21, 2009

Location: Rod & Isy's house

Time: 5:00-8:00pm

Attending: Brock Brown, Sally Kimpson, Joanne Marks, Carmi Verdon, June Fukushima, Linda Chan, Rod House, Janet Lironi, David Greenshields, Isy House

Chair: Janet

Minutes: Isy

We had a delicious pot luck dinner then started our meeting with 10 mins. sit.

June gave a quick review of using Gradient Voting. Under her guidance we also decided to set time limits on agenda items. We chose 3 mins. for quick items and 10 mins for larger items with the provision we would extend the time if needed.

Agenda Item	Action
1. Update on Umbrella email list: Rod emailed everyone now on the list to see if they wished to remain active. Four people wished to be removed. We are now a working group of 17.	Rod will email the updated list to the group. Folks are to make changes to their own list.
2. Update on the development of an 8 week beginner course: Beth and Heather have discussed this but agreed to leave development of it until next year. Lynne, Brock and Janet are also on this sub committee.	Develop in 2010
3. Development of a VVC brochure: Sally has a sample of the Bellingham group's brochure to be used as a template. A sub group will meet near the end of Oct to work on a VVC brochure.	Linda, Sally, & Carmi will prepare a draft brochure to be presented at the Dec. mtg.
4. Review of Aug 22/23 weekend retreat at Goward House: there were approx 50 participants on Sat. and 40 on Sun. Brock was Manager and the retreat went well. Linda was Registrar and had to make lots of changes especially in the week before the retreat. Approx. 25 people attended the Sunday pot luck lunch followed by a guided exercise from Heather.	*The group was in favor of a "non registration" retreat for next summer. Sally to check with Beth for 2010 dates. *Isy added a Pot Luck info page to the Retreat Manual. *Brock will connect with Lynne M. to update the Manual.
5. Up date on connection with the larger Vipassana community: Janet has talked to Joanne Broatch of the Vancouver group about more networking. An idea presented at our mtg. was to have a face to face mtg. with planning members from other groups ie. BCIMS, Salt Spring Island, Bellingham.	More discussion time needed at the Dec mtg.
6. Discussion on the use of Dharma Buddies: ideas suggested- a. that a buddy system be instigated at beginner W/E retreats b. that buddies be reintroduced as part of the study group c. a web site contact be set up to match persons with a list of experienced meditators to partner with.	Input from Heather desired. More discussion needed at Dec. mtg.

<p>7. Planning for the Queenswood retreat Nov.7/8 Joanne Broatch will be the teacher and we will need to cover her travel costs and accommodation. Lynne will likely stay overnight at Queenswood too. Discussion around how to handle registration. Do we get payment ahead of time or leave it as in the past with a suggested donation now that we have lunch costs to cover? Discussion around gentle but firm language on committing to the retreat and that lunch is provided and one is not to bring one's own food.</p> <p>Lynne & John have been liaising with Queenswood and are not at this mtg. to update us on other needs. Please ask for help as needed.</p>	<p>*Lynne W. is Manager *Rod is Registrar</p> <p>*Decision: no prepayments; use the dana box with a suggested donation of \$50 * Lynne will draft retreat notice info, Sally will proof it and Rod will post it ASAP. *Lynne/John to find out the deadline for the number of participants and when payment is due</p>
<p>8. Follow up on house and studio sits: The Sunday house sitting group has decided to support weekly sits at the Yoga Studio. They may choose another night for home sits as the need arises.</p> <p>The proposal is to have weekly Sunday sits at the studio starting in Oct until the end of June. The 9 months will give us a good idea of how the community is supporting the sits. Structure: Rod and Brock will be responsible for opening/setting up the studio. Sally will continue handling financial and booking items for the studio.</p> <p>Ideas: to have guest speakers, including Heather when she is available, a Metta focus sit once a month (June could facilitate), to have a guided sit once a month.</p> <p>Guest speakers: Oct.4- Margo McLoughlin, storyteller. Dec.6- Lynne Mustard</p>	<p>*Sally will confirm with Helga that the studio is available every Sunday 7-9pm starting in Oct. * Review at Spring mtg.</p> <p>*Rod, Brock, Joanne with help from David, June and Isy will be a subcommittee for the functioning and format of the sits. * guidance/input from Heather.</p> <p>*Brock to confirm guests and forward info to Linda for posting on the web. *dana basket will be left out for all guest speakers.</p>
<p>9. Review the draft of the Mission Statement: the group adopted the statement as written by Sally, Carmie and Janet.</p>	<p>Rod to post the Mission Statement on the VVC web.</p>
<p>10. Review the draft of the Definition of the Umbrella Group: there was discussion around some of the wording. Discussion around posting Umbrella Group member names on the web as not all members are actively involved or in town. No decision.</p>	<p>Sally and Carmie to wordsmith the draft for the Dec. mtg.</p>
<p>11. Budget and scholarship: not enough time to discuss at this meeting. To make this item a focus for the Dec. mtg.</p>	<p>*Sally, LynneM & Beth to draft criteria for the Scholarship fund. * in depth discussion for Dec. mtg.</p>

<p>12. Roles for the Umbrella Group: Janet has volunteered to chair the Dec. mtg.</p> <p>June's guidance in clarifying issues and moving us through decision making is greatly valued and we wish her continued presence at our meetings.</p>	<p>*More discussion needed on roles. * decision made to continue to set time limits for issues in future mtgs.</p>
<p>13. Other: Sally has volunteered to be Manager at the Spring retreat for beginners. Discussion around best timing to invite Ajahn Sona. The fall would be our preference but we will work around his schedule.</p>	<p>*Brock to follow up with inviting Ajahn Sona.</p>
<p>14. Next Meeting: Study group will be held on Dec. 6th. The proposal is to hold the meeting prior to this.</p>	<p>Volunteer host needed.</p>
<p>Bring forwards for Dec. mtg:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. discussion around budget and Scholarship Fund/review draft criteria 2. review/accept draft of Definition of the Umbrella Group 3. update on Sunday Studio sits 4. clarifying of umbrella group roles ie. Chair, treasurer, secretary 5. review draft brochure 6. update on networking with larger Vipassana community 7. review of Nov. retreat at Queens wood 8. planning for spring retreat 9. update on Dharma buddies 	
<p>On going issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. development of a beginner's course in 2010 2. invitation to Ajahn Sona 3. review of Sunday sits at the Studio 4. review and assessment of using Gradient Voting at meetings 5. discussion around "sustaining memberships" 	