

Jan. 17/10 Minutes

Attending: Beth Trotter, John and Shelly Hilditch, Brock Brown, June Fukushima, , Marion Irish, Joanne Marks, Sally Kimpson, Joanne Marks, David Greenshields, Carmie Verdone

Host: Carmie

Thanks to Beth who chaired in Janet's absence and to June for facilitating.

Minutes: Carmie

Beth laid the ground for the meeting with her thoughtful input and made suggestions for ways to make the meeting a practice of mindfulness, ie. using talking pieces, taking a moment of silence before speaking.

Agenda Item	Action
<p>1. Brief Reports:</p> <p>a) Recorder purchase; Brock purchased a digital recorder and 2 memory cards to be co-owned with Salt Spring Vipassana Community. The cost will be split with SSV. Heather will use it for Study group and will be the one holding it.</p> <p>b) Weekly sits: Brock reported on the lower numbers in Dec. and the higher nos. in Jan. Dana will cover the rent this month. Brock, Joanne and Rod are the subcommittee for the weekly sits. David is a back-up person and Beth also volunteered to be back-up.</p> <p>Brock made a motion to send the dana from tonight's sit to the Red Cross in support of Haiti and have VVC cover the rent. Sally seconded.</p> <p>Linda has put a notice in the Sunday Times Colonist, At Your Service, column.</p> <p>c) Beginners' Retreat: Brock reported that 36 have registered. Sally asked for the loan of extra things that might be needed, ie. Blankets, sitting benches, mats, blankets, cushions.</p> <p>David suggested that experienced people attending the retreat be notified to bring extra things with them.</p> <p>d) May Retreat: June and Brock will be co-managers/registrars for this retreat.</p>	<p>a) Brock will ask Heather about getting the unit for Ajahn Sona's retreat in May. And he will ask Rod how the talks get on the website. Sally and John offered their digital recorders if the need arises.</p> <p>b) The viability of the weekly sits will be assessed in the June meeting. Sally will bring a summary of the costs, incomes, expenses.</p> <p>Motion implemented.</p> <p>Brock will look into putting a notice in Victoria News Group.</p> <p>c) Sally will ask Queenswood if they have any sitting supplies that we can use.</p> <p>Brock will email the registered experienced people nearer the retreat.</p> <p>d) Retreat details will be discussed at next meeting.</p>

2. Retreat Fees:

Motion: to review of decision. Beth seconded.

Update on meal issue at Queenswood: John and Beth met with Sandra Price at Queenswood about the meal issue. Because Queenswood relies on the lunch income, it seemed that any variation was a complication but Sandra will get back to John and Beth with the final word. The question arose of whether we could we pay a usage fee for the use of the dining room instead of meal payment.

The lively and thoughtful discussion brought up these points: that it gets more complicated, the more options there are.

- : the need for simplicity and ease
- : that we're trying to balance the fiscal reality with our values as a group and upholding our values of inclusion.
- : that if we go ahead and ask for money up front, we're going to create another layer of bureaucracy in needing to give out more money from the scholarship fund.
- : that we can be inclusive and still get money by making it clear on the registration that no one is excluded due to funds. Also, that another statement be included that those who can, could pay more to help cover for those who can't and that a trial period of 3 retreats to see at what level the fees would have to be set in order to cover expenses.
- : that often people won't ask for financial assistance and that anonymity and inclusivity are vital issues influencing how we structure the fee issue.
- : that we can encourage a 2-day retreat commitment and still be open to those who can only do 1 day
- : that we've only had 1 retreat at Queenswood so it's still a new situation for us. (The suggested dana has been raised to \$60 for this next retreat.)
- : that this issue seems to be about values and seems to be leading us into how we're going to grow in the future.
- : that dana is part of the practice.
- : that perhaps raising the basic donation rate would be more in line with our values

John made a motion that we continue our previous system of dana and raise the rates appropriately. Brock seconded.

Sally asked for an amendment: following this retreat, she

Motion endorsed.

John and Beth will ask Sandra about this possibility.

<p>suggests raising the retreat fee to \$75 for the May retreat.</p> <p>Motion: to raise rates appropriately and use the system of dana.</p>	<p>Survey vote: motion endorsed and implemented</p>
<p>3. VVC Values: June suggested we list our values so that we have them at all future meetings.</p> <p>The list so far: Inclusivity and anonymity in regards to dana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> : Financially responsible : Commitment : Simplicity-for registrar, treasurer, manager : Ongoing mindfulness in meetings 	
<p>4. Planning Future Retreats:</p> <p>Aug. Retreat and picnic: John asked Sandra Price if we could have a picnic on the Queenswood grounds and the question of rain came up. A discussion of the potluck ensued.</p> <p>Brock made a motion to have a regular retreat and plan a potluck separately. Carmie, Isy and Marion will organize the potluck.</p> <p>Rod and Isy are registrar and manager for the Aug. retreat.</p> <p>David made a motion that Heather be approached to have a Brahmavihara theme for the Aug. retreat.</p> <p>Fall Retreat: John reported that the only weekend available for retreat is Oct. 30/31 and only the chapel is available. Joanne Broatch is available that weekend. David is registrar.</p> <p>2011 Retreats: Beth reported that the lounge gets booked early at Queenswood so we should book now. Do we want 4 retreats in 2011, 3 with Heather and 1 with Joanne Broatch? After discussion, Joanne made a motion to give Beth the okay to book retreats for 2011. Sally raised the issue of whether we have the human resources in the UG to staff 4 retreats.</p>	<p>Action: John will ask Sandra if we could pay for the use of the dining room in case of rain.</p> <p>Fast track: motion was endorsed or supported and implemented. Action: Carmie will ask Heather if she would be willing to have it on a study group Sunday so that she could attend.</p> <p>Motion implemented. David will contact Heather about this request.</p> <p>John will book Queenswood for that weekend.</p> <p>Endorsed and implemented. Beth will book Queenswood for retreats in 2011 and will talk with Heather, Joanne and Adrienne Ross.</p>

<p>Sally made a motion to table a discussion of our human resources to meet future retreat needs.</p>	<p>Endorsed and implemented.</p>
<p><u>5. Last but not least:</u></p> <p>Sally made a motion that we organize that Ajahn Sona give a public talk on Friday May 7th at Lynn Wylie Yoga studio.</p> <p>Sally made a motion that the group meets on a quarterly basis. Brock seconded.</p> <p><u>Date of next meeting:</u> Mar. 28/10 from 1-4 p.m. at Shelly and John's (only 2 months away thanks to David's subtle but incredible powers of manifesting)</p> <p>Carmie will write up an agenda for the next meeting.</p>	<p>Endorsed and implemented. Sally will contact Helga about studio availability.</p> <p>Endorsed and implemented.</p>
