

Minutes of SnowFlower Sangha Caretaking Council for 7/15/09

Present: David Haskins, Celeste Robins, Jim Roseberry, Carol Rubin

1. Dedication of Merit: We agreed that Dedication of Merit would be encouraged at the end of Tuesday and Friday sats, but would not be mandated. David will speak to this issue at the Annual Business Meeting.
2. Status of Mentoring and Kalyana Mitta: Because Kalyana Mitta groups have been so successful, we have lost track of them. We will revitalize the support structure for each of these activities. Celeste agreed to send a list-serve email finding out which senior members are still willing to be listed as mentors, and to ask each Kalyana Mitta group to identify one contact person so we know how many KM groups are meeting. Our support role is a minimal one, just to let people know how to get started. Address again at next meeting.
3. Application of Steering Council decisions to Tuesday and Friday: Celeste asks that when the Steering Council makes decisions, more awareness be applied to consider whether this is meant to apply to Friday, Tuesday or both.
4. Status of Coming Home project: Carol reported that the first Circle of Support initially facilitated by MUM is meeting with a core member (ex-offender), and includes three people from SnowFlower and three from Madison Insight Meditation. The class in non-violent communication is tentatively scheduled to begin at Thompson Correction in September. The Mindfulness/Meditation class had a setback when Oak Hill Correctional recently reported it cannot accept any more classes for now; alternatives are being explored. Others suggested that such a class could be held with men at the Dane County Jail. Jim, David and Celeste said they may be interested in such a local class.
5. Substance of SnowFlower introduction classes: David and Celeste discussed how they approached these classes.
6. Situation of monks at Bat Nha Monastery in Vietnam. Everyone briefly described what s/he knew to date, and encouraged everyone to be supportive, although we acknowledged that much more may be going on that we don't understand.
7. Growth in SnowFlower: To date, all seems to be going well but the Council should regularly review whether any changes are needed in light of increasing number of participants.

Carol agreed to inquire about whether use of the basket, rather than the bag, for donations has increased or decreased donations. Celeste asked that when the Steering Council is making decisions about Tuesday and/or Friday night sats or procedures, that it clarify whether the decision applies to just Friday or also Tuesday; Carol will pass that suggestion on to Suzanne.

As a possible future Council issue, David suggested we could consider whether there is a need for more intensive meditation instruction.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Rubin