

Minutes of the SnowFlower Sangha Steering Council November 16, 2011

Present: Don K., Chuck H., Karen R., Susan P., Karen P., Jim R., Carol R., Walt K.

The meeting convened at approximately 7:00 pm at Jim's home and opened with a short sit, a gratitude check-in and a review of the agenda.

1. Annual Business Meeting Planning:

The Steering Council began by listing the business items needing consideration at the ABM.

- The Proposal by the ABM Committee to make major changes in Sangha governance will be the main item;
- The Annual Budget will need approval, including approval of the decision process for charitable gifts from the Sangha; the STC recommends the same process as last year, ie, the Treasurer invite all interested members to a special meeting to make the decision;
- The Coming Home Committee will request that SnowFlower join the MOSES group of faith communities engaging in social justice initiatives, which will entail a \$200/yr contribution and personal involvement that Carol Rubin is already doing; the STC decided to endorse and recommend approval of this action.
- Council and Committee vacancies will need to be filled: three on the Steering Council (Carol, Karen R. and Walt), one on the Caretaking Council (Celeste) and five on the Schedulers Council (Steven S., Karuna, Maureen B., Mary M. and Mary G.). There was some discussion of Council turnover and recruitment, and it was decided that no changes are needed in how we fill vacancies (unless a Council requests a change – Walt will bring this up with the Schedulers).
- Non-decision items at the ABM: appreciations of people rotating off of Councils; group activity that's practice oriented, like singing; get acquainted activity like "speed dating;" and Council reports of "what we did last year" to help potential volunteers decide whether to get involved next year.

More details will be filled in at our next meeting.

The date for the Annual Business Meeting was selected as January 23, if the Meeting is available. The fallback date would be January 9. The meeting would begin at 6:30pm.

2. Joanna Macy Retreat:

The organizers of this retreat next June are holding two slots for SnowFlower members. Attendees must commit to the full retreat and do the readings, and be committed to practicing ecologically-based engagement on an ongoing basis. The STC decided to issue an open invitation to all members on the address list and announce this at Sangha meetings. Don will draft a message and send an e-

mail to members, and randomly choose attendees if more than two wish to attend.

3. Name and Address List:

Mary G. ready to update the document listing Sangha names and addresses but had questions. The STC decided that: (a) use the same procedure as in previous years to get new or changed addresses; (b) send the updated list by e-mail to everyone on the list; (c) provide printed copies only on a case-by-case basis to people who request one.

4. Conflict Resolution Committee:

In response to questions raised by Micha regarding the mechanism of appointing the CRC and implementing its recommendations, the STC decided that the guidelines that are developed by the Committee will go to the Annual Business Meeting for approval even though they would only be guidelines. If the Committee doesn't finish its work by the January ABM, the guidelines would need to be approved under any new process implemented at the ABM.

5. Policy Notebook:

It was suggested that for the sake of easy reference the enduring policies that have been adopted by the Sangha be compiled into a separate document. Walt volunteered to undertake this task, with no promise of a completion date.

6. Scholarships Committee Questions:

Kaurna asked several clarifying questions about the guidelines for awarding Sangha scholarships, and the STC deferred consideration until our next meeting.

We will meet next on Thursday, December 8, 7:00pm, at Jim R's home.

Respectfully submitted,

Walt Keough
Secretary