

SnowFlower Steering Council - Summary of Activity 2011

Report to Annual Business Meeting - January 23, 2012

The following officers served this year: President - Donald Katz, Vice President - James Roseberry, Secretary - Walter Keough, Treasurer - Karen Plum.

1. Annual Business Meeting Follow-up

Following the last Annual Business Meeting the Council decided to create an ad hoc advisory committee to look into alternative procedures for the Annual Meeting that would balance of the need for meeting efficiency while better promoting harmony in the community. The committee would be formed of any Sangha members interested in the issue and would report back to the Steering Committee with suggestions for improvement. Their report was received and after some modification is being presented at the current Annual Business Meeting with our recommendation for approval.

2. Sangha Website:

Don headed up the renewal of the Sangha's website, with Sue Hessel doing much of the work. The new site will be able to be updated by multiple people, so we will have a gatekeeper for permissions to edit the site.

3. Scholarship Committee:

We approved Karuna's request to expand the amount of the national scholarships while still keeping the total spending for scholarships within the budgeted amount. Later, Karuna requested an increase in the allotment for scholarships for the Bethel Horizons Retreat from \$1,500 to \$2,000. This was approved. The Council also decided to broaden the scope of retreats eligible for scholarship usage. In the past, scholarships have been limited to events directly linked to Thay and/or the monastics: e.g., Plum Village, Deer Park, Estes Park; and also the annual Plano retreat. It was decided to make several additional opportunities available, to include retreats sponsored and facilitated by members of our Sangha such as: Mindfulness and Recovery Retreat; Thaypassana Retreat; Sharon Salzburg Retreat; and other retreats sponsored by the Center for Mindfulness and Justice. The scholarship committee will be responsible for deciding how the money is allocated.

4. Conflict Resolution Committee:

An ad hoc committee was formed to discuss whether the Sangha should have guidelines and a policy for conflict resolution. 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. Name and Address List:

Mary Gallagher updated the document listing Sangha names and addresses, and the STC decided that she should send the updated list by e-mail to everyone on the list; and provide printed copies only on a case-by-case basis to people who request one.

6. Retreat Report:

The annual retreat at Bethel Horizons was successful. The price of the retreat had been raised because of increased costs of food and facilities.

7. Mold Removal It was decided that we would assist the Friends in their plans for mold remediation, up to a maximum of \$600.