

SnowFlower Steering Council
June 7, 2017

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| | Cheri Maples | x | Steven Spiro |
| x | David Sparer | x | Barbara Namenwirth |
| x | Gloria Green | x | Tom Loomis |
| x | Amy Krohn | x | Walt Keough |
| x | Zach Smith | x | Catherine Hammi |

| Agenda | Notes |
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| Welcome and Sit | |
| Review Agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add treasurer's report |
| Approval of minutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved |
| Proposals | |
| Donations to Thay's foundation. Sponsor Amy K. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to recent inspiration from Sister D as she talked about gratitude for contributions. • Propose giving \$500 to Thay's foundation and \$500 to Cheri from surplus from the one-day retreat. Seconded. Approved! |
| Reimbursement to Steven for meditation mats for inmates. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$125 in budget for Coming Home Project. Steven spent \$72 for mats so this will be reimbursed. The rest of the money can be spent on additional mats, books, etc. as determined by the Coming Home Committee. |
| More direction on website for Gloria RE 5/27 email | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose emphasizing calendar & events, based on survey, and wonder about retreat opportunities in the region outside of SF and outside of TNH. TNH retreats (link to Plum Village), and those led by SF senior practitioners as well as links to sites: Tergar, Insight, Open Door, and Shambala • Should we simplify the website to make it more user friendly? Cut back on some of the links, and shed others, not as many drop-downs. Having many pages slows down navigation. The new website is based on the old one, not re-conceptualized. • Propose dropping favorite TNH quote and knowing your sangha member. Send the <i>know your sangha member</i> out on list-serve. • Facebook page has no volunteer yet, but if we create one, just include calendar and events. • Website guidelines: adopt Gloria's version that contains less legalese. • List of senior practitioners |
| Reports | |
| Treasurer's report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average attendance is Sun-9, Tues-19, W-13, F-17 and average donation is \$2.70 per person. On budget, Wednesday is a little low, make an announcement. |
| One day retreat in April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback was good. More meditation this time. Question came up about who is leading: senior practitioners – David, Steven, Cheri, Don. The date |

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| | for next year is March 17. |
| Fall Retreat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same format, keep at \$190 • Last year surplus of \$1750 • Farm house as a place to stay will be deemphasized, this could decrease number of beds, but the new Adventures building could be available for same price, but there is quite a walk. |
| Scholarship committee: Walt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very little change, basically offering scholarships to people who consider self as regular attendee. National retreat amount is higher, and have to be regular SF attendee for 6 months. Person tells how much they need. Maximum is 85% of the cost of a retreat, except the limit for national retreats is \$400. If we run out of money, we request contributions from sangha. Unmet need is filled first come, first serve. • Move for acceptance and seconded. Approved. • *See scholarship Policy Statement in detail below. |
| Changes RE layout editor for newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layout editor can't continue past end of year. • Catherine Hammi is taking over and Susan Pearsall will be backup, and Suzanne Sweetman is backup for her. |
| Ann's email to be listed on welcome table for newcomers/listserv | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done! |
| Yellow Trifold Brochure Update: Tom | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put it in the Dropbox on the website. Tom sends final to Gloria. • Add website reference and change last line to: For details go to: snowflower.org • Move to approve updated brochure and seconded. Approved. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter quietly sign update: Tom • Missing table | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finished and being used. • Get a folding one we can keep in the closet. Inquire where it is and Catherine will offer one if it doesn't reappear. |
| New Business | |
| Song book | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathleen has collected songs with Jane. • Printing: Zach can get it printed at the UW, no charge for stapling, 4 cents per page. • By having books available, we are encouraging singing, which is an important element of TNH retreats. • Move to print 50 and seconded. Approved. • This will come out of the miscellaneous supplies budget item. |
| Follow-up – general discussion | |
| Cohesiveness of whole sangha, help for Wednesday and Sunday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose summer picnic • STC members will float the idea at the sanghas gatherings and see who might want to do it. |
| Brainstorming to move | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we get in trouble when we are attempting to increase diversity? • Non-recruiting strategy: Be as open and welcoming as possible. |

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| diversity forward | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do we make each gathering welcoming? ● Try being “seen” – walk in public. ● Some newer members don’t feel really connected socially. ● We have KM groups, but we could have a newcomers group. ● People get engaged with an organization when they have something to do. Establish more roles so that people show up. |
| Potential future agenda items | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brainstorming to move diversity forward ● Helping recent-comers connect with each other and standing members ● How can we be become more public to attract newcomers? ● Enhancing supplies, getting a larger bell, table and altar ● Updating list of senior practitioners who may offer counsel to STC |
| Schedule Next Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● September 13 at 7:00 at Cheri’s new place (to be confirmed) |
| Closing Sit | |

Scholarship Policy Statement:

- Scholarships will be offered only to people who consider themselves regular attendees of the usual meetings of SnowFlower Sangha, except for the SnowFlower Autumn Retreat, which is a special event described below.
- An additional requirement for support at a national retreat is six months prior SnowFlower participation.
- SnowFlower attendees may receive scholarships to attend:
 - Collective meditation retreat experiences offered by Monastics or Teachers in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh;
 - Activities that involve mindfulness meditation practice, and which are led or co-led by SnowFlower senior practitioners.
- Maximum scholarship for local and regional activities is 85% of retreat cost; maximum scholarship for a national retreat is \$400.
- Beyond prior participation in SnowFlower, the only other requirement for support to attend eligible activities is financial need, as asserted by the applicant.
- There is a special arrangement for the Thaypassana Retreat in Madison where we provide five scholarships of \$75 each, to people eligible using our other usual criteria.
- Eligible requests for scholarships will be granted up to the total amount allocated for scholarships in the SnowFlower annual budget (with the exception of the Bethel Horizons Retreat described below). If the entire scholarships budget has been allocated then the Scholarship Committee will issue a request to the Sangha for additional contributions. Additional scholarships would be awarded from those new contributions on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The amounts needed for scholarships to the SnowFlower Retreat at Bethel Horizons are not taken from the dollars allocated to the scholarships committee in the SnowFlower annual budget. Those are "discounts" and are contained within the Retreat revenues and expenses. The Scholarship Committee screens recipients of those scholarships, but does not use its budget for them. Attendees at the SnowFlower Retreat need not be members of SnowFlower Sangha to receive scholarships.