

SnowFlower Steering Council Minutes
3/11/2020

X	Amy Krohn (President)	X	Margot Kennard
X	Nan Ensted	X	Walt Keough
X	Zach Smith (Secretary)	X	Karuna Namenwirth
X	Gloria Green (Treasurer)	X	Susan O'Leary
	Tod Highsmith - absent	X	Jon Reed
			Rosebud Sparer - absent
Also in attendance: Micha Namenwirth			

Welcome with a 10 minute sit
Approval of Minutes from 1/15/20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unanimously approved
Discussion Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● STC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vote on new officers and new STC members for 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Decision - unanimously approved to have Amy as President, Nan as Vice-President and Zach as Secretary ■ Decision - unanimously approved to have Walt Keough, Tod Highsmith and re-up their 3-year terms and Susan O'Leary to start a new 3-year term. ○ Vote on assigning a nominating committee for future STC members and officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Decision - unanimously approved to have a small, transparent nominating committee composed of Amy, Walt, Nan and Tod. ○ Vote on keeping STC at 10 members or increasing to 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Decision - unanimously approved to keep STC at 10 members (11 with the inclusion of the Treasurer) ● Soliciting Funds from "members" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walt and Amy met to discuss this and have established a timeline to get this rolling. Spring would have most things figured out and an initial ask would come in the summer and then another one at the end of the year. There would be specific answers to the question of "why" SnowFlower is doing this, and some of those answers would be to support special events and allowing the spokes more money to do things. Walt and Amy would like to let SnowFlower know the current state of finances, including that we do run on a shoestring budget and other items that could be addressed in an FAQ sheet (is this going to happen annually? Are we going to become dependent on these asks? We've cut our annual donation to MOSES. We've decided not to fund a children's program. Etc.). One option could be that the donors elect where to direct their money to or just a general fund where the STC would make the decisions to address the greatest needs (General Fund/Most Needed, Scholarships, Special Events, and One Special Designation - like a bell). ○ The Finance Committee needs to be involved with these discussions/decisions to simply provide advice and guidance. ○ This solicitation is different from any (very) soft ask by the Friends which will most likely come in a year's time (Spring 2021). ○ Decision - unanimously approved a small committee (Amy, Walt and Susan) to implement the fundraising drive working in concert with the Finance Committee.

- COVID-19 Virus plans
 - Concerns were voiced regarding the current pandemic and the nature of interbeing and our actions/inactions as a community. General consensus is that we need to strongly state that taking care of ourselves and our immediate community is also to care for our world. The following steps seek to address these concerns and deep aspirations to care for our community:
 - **Decision** - unanimously approved that Amy will draft an email to the Sangha regarding updated best community practices for gatherings. Creating larger spaces (6' between each other), no coming if sneezing/coughing, no touching, etc.
 - **Decision** - unanimously approved to cancel the spring DOM
 - **Decision** - unanimously approved having new instructions for weekly gathering facilitators to disinfect doorknobs, faucets and surfaces prior to and after Sangha.

Spoke Reports

- Engaged
 - The first meeting was at Barriques and had around 20 people. There was a lot of group energy with many different directions under consideration. The next step is to report on various local arenas where the group could focus their energy. Hopefully the group can coalesce around more specific areas.
- Br. Phap Man's visit
 - Overall it went really well, 45 on Friday night and 40 Sat morning. Saturday afternoon had around 10 for the SnowFlower questions/responses, but ended up being more of a deep listening session, which was very powerful. Suggestion is to look at using Warner Park in the future and utilizing monastic times to help facilitate deep listening sessions.
 - This also brought together different Sanghas: Insight, Tao, Open Door and SnowFlower around manifesting a collaborative Earth Day event.
- Schedulers
 - All schedulers will keep their same positions and there will be a focused renewal of the 5MTs and 14MTs. Potentially OI and OI aspirants will lead the 14MTs. There is a focused desire to increase guest "speakers" for Friday nights, focusing on the PV tradition. OI aspirants will potentially want to use the Tues/Fri Sangha time to declare their aspirancy. Should the schedule deviate from sit/walk/sit (i.e. drop a sit or a walk) leaders need to alert the Sangha to this change. There will also be an attempt to integrate PV videos once a cycle. There will also be an emphasis on Dharma Sharing and sharing from the heart. For the future, the spoke will also explore how far afield from PV teachings they are willing to consider.
 - **Decision** - unanimously agreed that regardless of the special event or special speaker on a regular Sangha night, SnowFlower will only collect the usual \$3 for SnowFlower and not specifically collect other *dana*. The *dana* and travel costs to the special speaker would come from the special events budget.
- Retreats
 - The spoke is asking the STC to be delegated as their own spoke and given a budget of \$500 to make decisions on special events. The spoke would also act as a clearing house for any ideas coming to SnowFlower for new retreats/events. Current retreat managers would still be responsible for their respective retreats, but hopefully they can assist each other in streamlining and efficiencies.

- **Decision** - unanimously approved officially delegating a new Retreat spoke and granting it a \$500/year budget. Make up of members TBD, but most likely will be current retreat managers and potentially headed by Tom Loomis.

Follow-up

- Set aside 1 hour of the next meeting to discuss STC priorities

Meeting Date/Time and Location for next time - 2nd Wed of odd months

- May 13, 2020
- July 8, 2020
- September 9, 2020
- December 2, 2020