

Steering Council Agenda – February 27, 2019

Present: Tod Highsmith, Amy Krohn, Rosebud Sparer, Walt Keough, Gloria Green, Steven Spiro, Margot Kennard, Karuna Namenwirth

Absent: Zach Smith

Guests: Micha Namenwirth

- Welcome from Rosebud
- Sitting Meditation
- Approval of Minutes - Unanimous

Introduction and official approval of New STC Members and Officers- Rosebud

- **Decision:** Amy & Karuna Continuing on STC – *Unanimous*
- **Decision:** Nan & Jon new members – *Unanimous*
- **Decision:** STC Officers: Pres- Amy Krohn, VP - Rosebud Sparer, Sec- Zach Smith, Tres- Gloria Green – *Unanimous*
- 2019 STC Members: Karuna Namenwirth, Steven Spiro, Rosebud Sparer, Walt Keough, Gloria Green, Amy Krohn, Zach Smith, Tod Highsmith, Margot Kennard, Nan Enstad, Jon Reed

Welcome and Offering from Amy

- Parker Palmer - Community

(No treasurer's report- no significant changes and first quarter yet to be finished)

Decision Items

1-Choosing an on-line payment vendor for collecting funds for the sangha – Gloria to present

- **Decision:** We will use PayPal for the Summer Retreat, and, when ready, to accept the weekly donations. We will use Mark Nordeen to set up the PayPal button on our website. The funds for setting up will come from the 9722 · Website Maintenance and Support account. - *Unanimous*

2-Discussion of option to invite Cuong Lu, a plum village monk of 16 yrs who has written a book about prison ministry in Holland to interact with the sangha while he is in the Midwest for a book tour- Karuna to present. STC to offer any input about the event itself. STC to decide to empower Karuna to form an ad hoc planning group that has the ability to make decisions about the event. Question whether to delegate \$200 to that group.

- He will be in Chicago on July 28, so suggesting he come to Madison before or after
- Other ideas which we will not be doing
 - Have him at Friday Sangha at a table with his books
 - Someone could set up a book reading at B&N
- We would promote any book signing that they may set up using our list serv
- Lisa (the scheduler) would coordinate with Karuna to have him to a dharma talk on Friday night – will not sell books on Friday night
- Have a day of Mindfulness (9:00-5:00) at the Farm Zendo at which Cuong Lu could give a talk, estimate that 30-40 people would attend, may sell books at the DOM

- **Decision:** The DOM will be a SnowFlower event, Karuna will plan the event, and at this point no money is needed. - *Unanimous*

3-Discussion of initiative to try a 5MT practice study group- Amy to present; STC decision of entrusting a group to proceed with setting up a program. Delegate \$150 for rental fee and potentially buying books

- Amy is willing to lead the ad hoc committee
- Involve Education Committee and Mentoring Committee
- Will ask Tom Loomis to participate as he has been in touch with the monasteries about this
- The text would be For a Future to Be Possible – read the chapter, discuss with the group, practice for the month
- Approve \$150 for rental fee and potentially buying books
- **Decision:** Authorize Amy to set up ad hoc group to plan and authorize \$150 from the 7010 · Special Event, Classes - *Unanimous*

4-Discuss new issues raised about newcomers feeling welcome to our sangha. Appoint a group to meet and listen to new members and report back to the STC at our April meeting about discernment of the issues and possible actions.

- **Decision:** Amy & Zach will be the STC listeners, will begin listening to Amanda to join the group - *Unanimous*
- Gloria suggested that the ad hoc committee write a report summarizing what they learned from new members. This report would be distributed at least a week before the meeting. STC members would read the report and ask questions of the ad hoc committee before the meeting.

5-Set April STC meeting date

- April 10 – At Friends Meetinghouse
- June 12 – Gloria & Walt will be on retreat
- August 14

Mid-way Point Stand and Stretch

Reports back from Spokes

- Mentoring ad hoc group- Walt
 - Would like to add the option of one-time meetings to the current description of options in the mentorship program
 - Incorporating one-on-one meetings and/or group interviews at our retreats – may use Senior Practitioners in addition to the retreat leader
 - Expand the role of the mentor liaison, not simply announcing that mentorships are available, but watching attendees as meetings and encouraging them to get connected with a mentor
 - Susan Pearsall is the mentor coordinator – more communication between the mentor liaison and Susan – there would be more dialogue and sharing what is the best way to take care of the mentee
 - Recommend that there be an ongoing mentoring advisory committee
 - Need to update our current mentoring guidelines

- **Decision:** Appoint a mentoring advisory committee (STC & Senior Practitioners) with broad authority to formalize a mentoring program – *Unanimous*
 - Include Walt Keough, Rosebud Sparer, Karuna Namenwirth
 - Ask Susan Pearsall, Tom Loomis and Zach Smith
- Schedulers' meeting from Feb 2019- Walt
 - People giving a dharma talk for the 1st time, must have a mentoring session with the scheduler
 - Will not have a cycle dedicated to the 5MTs
 - Will still recite the 5 and the 14 MTs
 - Scheduler can make the decision to move the location of the Tuesday or Friday sangha
 - Are recruiting more schedulers
 - The schedulers' and leaders' documents have been updated. Karuna will send to Gloria to update the website
- Update from Friends' about their remodel plans- Walt
 - Friends has decided to go ahead with the remodeling project
 - Have not invested in architect plans
 - Will move the entrance away from the meeting space – are looking at two options
 - Will have a hospitality space – may be a place for a pot luck
 - Will have an elevator or a people lift to the basement
 - Adding more toilets
 - Meeting room will expand a little – most likely will have retractable doors
 - Our needs:
 - We need storage space
 - Would like as big of a walking circle as possible
 - Rosebud recused himself from the discussion as he is the lawyer for the Friends
 - Friends clearly wants us to be a lessee, they don't want us to have any ownership
 - Friends will have a separate fundraising committee, they will not be looking at SnowFlower to make a major donation, however they may want to have SnowFlower make a long-term lease with an upfront payment
- Update on Summer Monastic Weekend of Mindfulness
 - We will be getting the names of who is coming, Sister Tranquility will be coming so we will have a children's program
 - Leaning toward Harmony in our Home, Joy in the World as the theme for the weekend
- Update from first meeting of Hub and Spoke advisory group with time for STC input
 - Amy, Walt and Karuna met to discuss how the STC empowers groups, will meet to look at what spokes exist and what improvements, so the STC is in control, but does not have to do everything themselves

Closure and Final Sit