

Wet Mountain Sangha - Steering Committee Minutes - February 8, 2015

The Steering Committee met at Doug and Diane Mesner's home. Present were Diane and Doug Mesner, Kerry Kramer, Darryl Murphy, Jan Meserve, Merrilee Barnett, Kate Booth, Ed Neugebauer, and Lois Adams.

Business:

1. Merrilee gave the financial report:

Total assets:	\$2,567.84
---------------	------------

(This includes \$335 in the Bell and Buddha fund. There is also about \$253 in the scholarship account.)

Income for January	\$ 1,305.55
January Expenses	1,017.00

The rent is paid for February. We will need \$900 to pay for March and April. After that the monthly rent might change.

2. Doug suggested that we need more sutra books. The cost is \$4.75 each. The committee will order 12 more which should bring the total available to 30 books. Merrilee will order from "Your Friend the Printer".
3. Merrilee suggested that in setting up for regular sangha sitting that we put the teacher's cushion and the leader's cushion side by side in front so they are both facing the members. It will be easier for everyone to see both of them. We will try this and see if it doesn't work better.

Old Business

Doug said we will be blacking out the phone number on the sangha sign with some manner of paint.

A review of the all day retreat was that it went "stunningly well". It was suggested that we might work to keep the space free of clutter, and consult with Sarah and Andrew as to what participants might bring or not bring into the hall, and what protocol participants might be expected to observe. A "shoe shelf" might be helpful with clutter.

The precept studies are going well. It was suggested that we ask the teachers to send their information sooner so the participants have more time to work with their suggestions.

Communications/email/website

Some discussion on the process using new members of communication team. Kate is managing the email. Anyone who wants to send an email message to the sangha or a smaller group of the

email list (example – Precepts class) can send email to Kate and she will get it out. Others may continue to send out their own emails. Merrilee sends out her own emails regarding Dharma study group, Leader Schedule, and all day retreats, Kerry sends out emails regarding “work in the room”. Try and include Kate in all mailings so she knows what is going out to members.

Items that need to be posted to the website go to Mike. Write them up with the wording that you want and send them to him. Also, let him know which items need to come down off the website when they are stale. It is Mike’s job to keep the website up, but he does not always know what information needs to go up and come down.

Buddhas and Bells

There was a great deal of heartfelt and thoughtful discussion regarding purchasing the Buddha which David found on Pearl Street. At the end of the discussion, a vote was taken with five voting to purchase the Buddha and four abstaining. Lois will share that discussion with David.

Five day Retreat

We are planning a 5 day retreat July 8 through July 12 this year. We could hold it at the CIP. However, Don and Maryanne Johnson-Knecht have offered their retreat center for a number of years—perhaps 6 or 7 now. We have not taken them up on this offer so far. They offer it free of charge to our sangha. They consider Wet Mountain Sangha their “home sangha”. We saw pictures of the site which is about 50 miles away outside Walsenberg. It looked very inviting. It is a lovely structure in a large treed area that is undeveloped and natural. There is a large meeting hall, a dormitory that will sleep 12, camping places, a hot tub, and the availability of using their kitchen which is in their personal living area. We would likely need to rent a port-a-potty as there is not a bathroom in or near the meeting hall. We would need to bring food and prepare it, which would be the case anyway.

It was decided that David, Darrell, Ed, Jan, Kate and Lois (or some combination of these folks) would take a “field trip” to see the site in person and report back. It does sound like a great place for a retreat, but we want to meet Don and Mary Anne and see what their expectations are.

If we do hold the retreat there we would offer them spaces without charge in return for their hospitality. One suggestion was to hold the retreat cost to \$200 per participant. The kitchen may or may not be adequate to prepare food for all participants. But we would have to carry food into the Center as well—and it doesn’t have a kitchen.

A final decision regarding location for the summer retreat will be made after the subcommittee visits. It would still be useful to continue looking for other possible sites, in or outside of Pueblo.

Leadership Sarah and Andrew would like to join us at a meeting about forms. This would involve anyone who acts as a leader for our services which is basically the same group as the steering committee. Doug will try and arrange a date, possibly on a Sunday in March. We will also consider a Saturday afternoon following Precepts class. The next precept studies are 2/14,

2/28, 3/14 and 3/28.

Merrilee has forwarded the retreat manual to the steering committee members. The retreat committee is Diane, Ed, Darryl, Doug and Lois. They will divide duties into areas which need attention. We need to get a sense of the numbers of the people who want to stay in the dorms and who wants to camp.