



Steering Committee Meeting  
May 3, 2015  
Rancho Mesner

Present: Lois Adams, Kate Booth, Diane Mesner, Jan Meserve, David Cockrell, Doug Mesner, Ed Neugebauer, Kerry Kramer

1. Doug thanked everyone who came to the refuge ceremony, and supported our refugees on an ongoing basis. We discussed compiling vows into a book. David will find the previous vows book, to combine with the new book that Joyce is preparing.
2. Doug found and shared the sangha by-laws.
3. We discussed relationships with the CIP. We are contractually committed to payment of the existing rent (\$450/mo.) through June. We made a decision to continue this rent payment through August. In late July or early August we will reassess our financial situation in light of our July retreat and the Center's financial picture and make a determination about the rent for the next period of time. Thanks to Doug, Linda, Connie, Diane, David and Jan for help with the CIP work day.
  - a. There was an open question about whether we would owe the CIP a building usage fee for the extra days of usage during the retreat. The payment to CIP last year for this purpose was \$150, but we have since voluntarily increased our rent payments by \$1,800 per year. It is hoped that Merrilee can offer guidance on the issue.
4. July Retreat:
  - a. Doug recounted the history of discussions around the Johnson-Knecht Center for the retreat. Decision was made not to hold the retreat there.
  - b. The retreat will be held at the CIP. After negotiations, the Center is reserved for us for the entire week of July 6 (set-up day) to July 11, with the retreat beginning on Tuesday evening.
  - c. Doug agreed to be retreat coordinator. Our regular communications team will get the flyer finalized, email and web presence done right away. Diane volunteered to be registrar again. David volunteered to call the Edgar Olin House for a price break on rooms.
  - d. Food committee is Diane, Ed, Kerry and Lois.
  - e. We discussed retreat expenses. Budget at this point included:
    - i. \$1,000 for Andrew
    - ii. \$200/day for food
    - iii. Tent, incidentals
    - iv. Cost range is about \$220 per person.
    - v. Doug and Diane volunteered to work on a budget and report back to the SC.
5. Calendar issues:
  - a. We'll swap the dharma talk by Sarah on July 15 for the June Wayfarer talk. Doug will ask Sarah if she can come the third Wed. in June or another Wed. in June that is convenient for her.

- b. We discussed a showing of the new film about Joan Sutherland. Sentiment seemed to be to do the showing in September and invite Andrew to discuss his work with her. We discussed perhaps opening this presentation to the public and advertising broadly.
- 6. Communications:
  - a. We all expressed gratitude to Mike for his constant work on the website.
  - b. Kate suggested we highlight the website in our communications. She will add a signature to emails, and we'll look at a header for other forms of communication.
  - c. We agreed that we need a new wrangler for the Facebook page.
- 7. Practice leadership: David agreed to revise the leader notes and get them out to everyone. Lois suggested making the type bigger. Doug suggested that leaders come when the other leaders are leading, so we can all learn from each other. It was suggested that the temple bell be rung gently as it can be too much when it is struck hard. David volunteered to work on an improved striker.
- 8. Bell & Buddha: The secretary had to depart before this discussion, so this will be reported later.

Respectfully submitted,

David