



Wet Mountain Sangha
Steering Committee Meeting, June 7, 2015
Rancho Mesner

Present: Diane Mesner, Doug Mesner, Ed Neugebauer, Linda Stone, Jan Meserve, Kate Booth, Barbara Billstrand, Mike Gagliardo, Kerry Kramer and David Cockrell.

Finances: Balance \$1,664. The Bell and Buddha fund has \$335, included in the overall balance. Rent is paid through July. Many thanks to Merrilee for continuing to manage the books.

Doug expressed disappointment that no one notified the sangha about Buddha Day. We will arrange with the Buddha Day committee to include a contact person next year.

Retreat Planning:

We currently have 2 people registered for the retreat full-time, along with 2 part-time. 7 others have expressed intent to participate full-time. Jan reported that several people in Santa Fe are interested. Kate suggested that we advertise in the Pulp and the Chieftain, along with spreading the word in Longmont. Kate will send an email to her sister in Longmont and ask that she spread the word to her sangha.

Discussion of basement dampness: We are concerned about the recent dampness in the basement and its implications for the July retreat. One sangha member has indicated an unwillingness to participate in retreat activities in the basement. Ideas discussed included: pull up the carpet, sanitize and then paint the floor; cover the floor with plastic sheeting; and contract with a cleaning company to assess the problem. It seems like we need to call Lex from the CIP and the Center to identify what has been done to correct the problem. Kerry said she would call Joe Arrigo to see if he can come and assess the situation. Barbara said she would connect with Neema to brief her on our proposed actions. Kerry will do a little preliminary inspection too. Kerry will call Barbara as soon as she has scoped out the problem.

Report from Diane and the Food Plan: Tuesday night—tea and low-sugar homemade cookies for those who come at the beginning at 7:00 pm. Diane presented the draft menu that is pretty well worked out, and everybody thought it was wonderful. We will be working with Jo Schrupe again, along with Rocco's Deli. Both seem to be perfect partners. Diane indicated a need for a runner to pick up food items. Both Mike and Linda volunteered for this role. Kate suggested we talk with Lois about that as well. People who have special food needs - actually we make every attempt to accommodate them AND they will be invited to also bring items they like and use our frig.

Retreat space utilization: We talked a lot about where to put the snack table and break room. The most prominent ideas were to use the basement or the entry hall. Another idea was to move the hall forward onto the stage somehow. We also discussed better use of the perimeter walls. Neema has encouraged us to use the swamper appropriately. It was suggested we designate a swamper person. We need to arrange with Andrew and with SMS to borrow oryoki sets, screens, and other retreat gear. We'll need to arrange with them for a pick-up. Doug will bring this up with Andrew.

Holding the silence was discussed as an important component of the retreat this year. Signs were suggested.

Andrew wants to begin the Wednesday night retreat service at 6:30 as is traditional for retreats.

Doug will put together an all-sangha email to explain the arrangements for those who would be coming to the Wednesday sitting but not participating in the retreat otherwise. Doug will provide this to Kate to send to all-sangha. Mike will post this on the website soon. The opening night session at the retreat on Tuesday night begins at 7:00 pm.

Dharma Talks and WITR:

Sarah will be coming June 17 to give a dharma talk. The Wayfarer talk will be third Wednesday in July, and we'll probably ask people who have attended the retreat to speak. Sarah has offered WITR for June 27, one other date, and Sept 26. Kerry and Jan will finalize the dates, contact Andrew for additional WITR dates and notify us all. We have a full-day sitting scheduled Nov. 14.

Andrew is tentatively scheduled for a dharma talk Sept. 16. We decided to make this a public talk. Doug will confirm this with Andrew. It will be up to him whether to incorporate Joan's new film into the evening.

Cabin Sitting: Doug and Diane graciously offered to host the sangha for a half-day sitting at their cabin again the fourth Saturday in August.

Liturgy: Kate recommended we keep only one cantor's manual in the leader bag. David will send out the revised leader notes for all to review. Kerry suggested that we have a liaison as a third leader whenever a teacher is present for a dharma talk. We decided to implement this.

Communications: We decided to actively seek a back-up Facebook wrangler to be trained by Julian before he completes his educational process.

It was suggested that we need to have new copies of the brochure. There is a stack in the basement that we can use for now. We'll consider a revision after the retreat.

Doug will contact Jacob to determine whether he would like to continue the Tuesday morning sittings.

Sangha Support Committee: We had a good discussion about services for aging sangha members, as well as memorial services. Kerry offered to lead an effort to get a support system in place after she retires.

Respectfully submitted, David