



Wet Mountain Sangha  
Steering Committee Meeting  
January 10, 2015, Center for Inner Peace  
Minutes

**Present:** Mike Guagliardo, Ed Neugebauer, Doug Mesner, Jan Meserve, David Cockrell, Merrilee Barnett, Lois Adams, Kate Booth, Emily, Kerry Kramer, Andrew Palmer, Sarah Bender

**Business Issues:**

- The SC voted to terminate the use of the sangha phone.
- Doug will contact Jacob Bangers to discuss repainting the sign in front of the center to change the phone number.
- We voted to accept chairs from Joyce Spears. They should not be stored in the sanctuary.
- Buddha and Bell committee is Mike Guagliardo, Lois Adams and David Cockrell.

**Communications:** Lois, Kate and Emily were welcomed to the SC meeting. Kate will be learning about and getting involved in communications. Andrew graciously brought up the need for everyone to be in on emails. David talked about the need to transition to the teachers choosing the leaders for retreats. We decided 3-4 weeks ahead is about the time to get the first notice out on one-day retreats. We decided to have one omnibus email communication each month with all the info that is known about the next month or two. This would be supplemented by individual updates from various coordinators.

**Full-day retreat** on Jan. 24: Merrilee will send out the first notice right away.

**Discussion of relationships with our teachers:**

Sarah asked the SC what we think is the meaning of a holding teacher or two holding teachers:

- Like having access to two teachers for WITR; like having two different perspectives
- Nice to have someone who can give guidance to provide the heart and knowledge to proceed on the path
- Two teachers have allowed us to expand. Holding teachers come down and offer teachings
- The teachers have knowledge from a particular lineage/school, how it connects with other lineages. Having dharma talks in this vein is helpful.
- We each have a practice, and it all plays out differently. We all support each other's practices. The teachers are one of the major offerings that we have.
- When we started, we had Joan as a holding teacher. We mostly did it on our own, and built a strong bond of trust across the sangha. Don't really understand the concept of a holding teacher.
- There are some downsides: The sangha doesn't have a resident teacher, available on a day-by-day basis. The teachers don't have the security of a full stipend.
- Andrew: His commitment is to our Way, our history, ancestry, and to us—We are the Way. What nourishes this ancient Way and keeps it alive. That's his commitment, and where his heart lies. Do we want them to be more involved in helping us with forms?
- Sarah: She is watching with delight the heart-energy of full engagement with the Way. That doesn't need any holding, except holding with appreciation. Working in the hospital. As we



make decisions about what we're offering, is there some input that we would want from her? Do we feel "held"?

- The contact with the ancestors is a beautiful part of our work with the teachers.
- Do the teachers hold you accountable for the precepts?
- Why is a sangha a sangha?

**Follow-up from Annual Meeting: Discussion of Wednesday service**

- Clear understanding in everyone of what to expect in our liturgy and forms is important.
- We're reaffirming 6:00 start time.
- Chants: Most SC members supported chants. SMS chants twice a month. Lots of thoughts here. The opportunity to just sit in meditation is always available to those who prefer not to chant. You don't have to chant or bow.
- The SC agreed that we would request silence when you come in at the beginning, especially once the temple bell begins. As in retreats, we will attempt to only speak when necessary during this time. Necessary conversations can be taken to the basement with the door closed.

**Financial report (Repeat from December meeting)**

Year to date: \$10,105.44 in income. Expenses were \$8,295.58, for a net revenue of \$1,809.86. **The SC agreed to increase the rent to CIP to \$450 only from Jan. 1 through June, 2015.** A decision about the second half of the year will depend on the success of the July retreat.

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, February 1, Rancho Mesner

Respectfully submitted, David