

9:15 WMS Steering Committee/January 16

In attendance: Andrew, Jan, Doug, Tim, Kate, Merrilee, Diane, Daryll, KC, Kerry (took notes)

Andrew's Thoughts and Sangha Thoughts

Doug Mesner welcomed Andrew to the Steering Committee and to the sangha as our new Resident Teacher. Andrew Palmer expressed his gratitude for the special Pueblo WMS community and the connection that he has always felt with this community. He thanked the WMS for our companionship and willingness to "dive into this together". He stated that as a Resident teacher, we the sangha and he, would create proposals and ideas together about what we will be doing together in the sangha. Andrew handed out "Wet Mountain Sangha Resident Teacher Proposals & Ideas"

Andrew and the Steering Committee discussed the "**Resident Teacher Proposal and Ideas**" at length.

Monthly: Andrew's "Attending Monthly" includes the first and third Wednesday evenings attendance and the second Saturday of the month attendance.

"Ongoing Leader Training": That has already begun with David will be supported by Andrew. Discussion ensued about more Leader Training, including Cantor Training, so that all of the Sutra's are put into use during our weekly services. Andrew would help unfold the natural teacher in all of us. "Steering Committee Meetings" will be moved to Saturday mornings and Andrew will attend quarterly.

"Periodically" Andrew will provide WITR, One-Day and Multi-Day Meditation Retreats, Integrative Retreats and Practice Series. Integrative Retreats will be from Friday evening through Sunday. "Practice Series" that Andrew would host would not necessarily be based on book studies, but may be based on studying the "Precepts" or the "Sutras" or "Cultivating the Tao" as examples.

"Wonderings" included some new ideas for the sangha that were discussed at length.

A discussion about a Community **Night** for new people which would include a social time for 1 hour that would include food and only one sitting session. "**Residence Days**" is a lay tradition and Andrew would plan to come to Pueblo on the second Friday of the month and get to know the Pueblo community by spending time with a host WMS member. WITR could be offered during the Residence Day. "**Point of Contact**" discussion suggested that one person be the contact for Andrew, so that communication would always flow directly. "**Koan Salon**" is a Koan study session, for a group, rather than just for an individual. "**Cabin Time**" is Retreat time for Andrew, twice/year for a week at Doug's cabin that would include some WITR time for sangha members.

Additionally Andrew will be available to attend some interfaith Center and community events representing the WMS in the great community; Andrew maintains his continued teaching link to Sarah but requested that the WMS coordinate scheduling dates with Sarah.

All of these above discussion items to be continued.

Merrilee suggested that the **Koan Salon** be a priority and separate it out from the current Dharma study which is primarily a monthly Sunday book study. All things would be collaborative, so this would be adding a Koan Salon to what we are already doing.

WMS has access to the Center every Saturday so WMS could easily add more activities to be done at the Center on every Saturday.

More discussion about the fact that families cannot usually attend a 3 day retreat and the difficulties with being able to provide activities/meditation for the variability of people who are coming/searching. Because 3, 5, and 7 day retreats are difficult to attend if one is working, people confirmed the idea of One (1) day retreats.

Financial Understanding /Doug and Kerry Reporting

The \$400/month stipend for Andrew was offered and accepted.

WITR will be paid through Dana collection only

One Day Meditation Retreats and Multi-Day Meditation Retreats and Integrative Retreats will be paid through Fees and Dana collection as well.

Practice Series will be paid by Dana collection only

WMS can set the fees for the retreats and pay Andrew directly and usually make some money for the sangha as well. Kerry will get information to members about how to make automatic monthly payments into the WMS checking account for those people who pay their bills online. PayPal will be looked at again as a possible way to contribute on line. Kerry reported on how Sarah is paid and Andrew explained that WMS does not necessarily need to follow SMS in working with him on payment. We can begin our own traditions.

Jan 23 Retreat

11 people confirmed, most long-term members. Individual members need to be a part of Google Groups. Requested that a link be placed on the website to Google Groups. The WMS membership needs to work to include newcomers for the one day retreat. Andrew has set the leaders for the day and Doug will coordinate all of the Work Jobs Merrilee is registrar/coordinator for the Retreat. Jan will handle flowers; Linda and Diane will set up the kitchen on Friday night. Kerry and Jan will set up Andrew's WITR hall.

Other

Wayfarer Talk; Motion made and seconded and agreed upon that a Wayfarer Talk will be done every 5th Wednesday (when the month has a 5th Wednesday). Mike G. needs help with setting up the Google Calendar and with the website in general. Tim offered to help Mike. Tim will talk to David about coordinating with Mike and David. The WMS pays for web hosting using Dream Weaver which is very old. Andrew uses "Weebly". Tim uses "Square Space" which is \$90/year. We should be able to get a domain name and its use for less than \$100/year AND it would be easy to use. Mail Chimp adds e-mail to a web site and provides a disclaimer. Tim will help with the web site and e-mail.

Retreats

3 (1-Day) Retreats and Dharma Talk with Andrew

- January 23
- April 23

- November 12

March 5 --- Possible date for Andrews Welcome Ceremony as Resident Teacher

April 15-17---Integrative Retreat with Sarah in COS

May 22nd --- Buddha Day; Mike G will be coordinator for activities for Buddha Day, May 22nd.

June Retreat ----- Open Source Retreat in CO

August 13th – Doug and Diana’s mountain cabin retreat date

August 27 – Open Source potluck at WMS; hosted by WMS

Fall Retreat -- Possibly SMS and WMS will host the Fall Retreat together

Liz Cramer is in charge of communication at SMS. Sarah coordinates at SMS, but here at WMS, Andrew does not want to act as coordinator. The WMS will coordinate with Sarah for anything that WMS wants to ask of Sarah.

Welcoming Ceremony for Resident Teacher

Possible Date of March 5 for a potluck and simple ceremony to celebrate the WMS New Resident Teacher; two sutras, Talk to be given by Teacher, individual members have an opportunity to say something; gifts given, period of meditation and sutras at the end. Invite David Weinstein, Sarah Bender and all of SMS. Kate and Andrew agreed to be the ceremony coordinators.

Next Steering Committee Meeting

Saturday, February 20th at 9:00 a.m. at Doug’s Home