

Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living
Board Meeting Minutes
Date: January 19, 2025

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

- A. The meeting was called to Order by Sherry Noone. Also present were Gil Olmstead, Michael Creager, John Tallon, Jennifer Wilmer, Michael McPherson, Deb O'Conner, Terry Burns, Sheryl Rae
- B. Gil led the Invocation.
- C. Sherry read the Vision/Mission Statements.
- D. Sherry acknowledged New Member, Jennifer; and welcomed guest Michael Creager
- E. Approval of December Board Minutes - they had not been distributed. Sheryl moved to table approval until the next meeting. Terry seconded the motion.
 - 1. (Otter AI still not in place)

Reports:

- F. Spiritual Director's Report
 - 1. Mark Ayers has resigned his position as President of the Board of Trustees. He plans to launch a new career and is going back to school to prepare for this major change. RGCSL has made major gains in its financial health since COVID; Mark's concern is that efforts so far are not enough. Without a new Treasurer in place and with our Office Manager ill, the Board has had to attempt to fill the breach
 - i John suggested that we demonstrate where we can cut costs and exhibit better visibility but need to get out of the red first. We need accountability, which includes reimbursing designated funds.
 - ii Michael M. suggested that we draft a letter to Mark, acknowledging what he has accomplished as Board President. Michael moved that letter be drafted by small committee ASAP, Terry Seconded. (Gil, Michael M, Sherry will draft the letter) (ALL C's)
 - iii Need Presidential nomination – Sherry Noone as Vice President will assume the functions needed to keep the Board of Trustees running. She will assemble a Nominating Committee to identify candidates and will continue with the Financial Prosperity Task Force... The search for a Treasurer will continue. John suggested talking w/ Nancy to understand her role in this function.

2. Solid Grounds is making expenses with volunteers contributing the baked goods.
 3. Tech Director Update – Jennifer has worked for free up until this month. She is looking at ways to train people in how things work and should be able to help us get a handle on it going forward, so others can participate.
 4. Name tags – look at something to demonstrate being a combined effort –
 - i John – seems like a lot to spend on them – maybe ask people to donate per tag
 - ii Sheryl suggested we talk to whoever donated for the tags what we are realizing.
 - 1 Branding – Gil, Kamatara, Deb, John will look at it
 - 2 Rio Grande CommUnity for Spiritual Living? We are still struggling with a name.
 5. The website was not addressed.
 6. Collaboration with ACSL is continuing as opportunities arise.
 7. School - Cost of \$650 – This course is required by CSL for Gil as part of his continued professional growth. Gil looking at how to complete this course without asking RGCSL for financial assistance.
- G. Education - Rev. Deb - 2 weeks unpaid leave to take care of mom who just had a stroke.
1. Deb is leading Journey Back to Self which is going well.
 2. Gil and Kamatara classes are postponed.
 3. Deb commented that building community is where the prosperity is.
 4. Greeters – Debs says an individual ask is better...she will keep asking. The goal is 8 so that we have 2 each week. Some already know how (like Noni).
- H. Treasurer's Report -
1. Year End Reports seem clear, but discussion tabled for the time being by consensus.
 2. Rev Go & Nancy COL was not discussed.
- I. How to Handle Interim Financial Decisions – Stewardship committee – Gil and Sherry need to look at that to see what we need to do. We need a 3rd – need volunteer to meet with Gil and Sherry and see what needs to go out and what adjustments need to be made.... And decide whether to go to congregation (They have been meeting on Tuesday evening at 6 or 7 for ½ hour.
- J. Financial Prosperity Task Force - Sherry & Gil - The goal is to have a steady form of income.
- They meet again 1/27.
1. Members identified – 10 so far – Terry Burns, Sherry Noone, Deb O’Conner, Gil Olmstead, Jennifer Wilmer, Michelle Coleman, Maria Dion, Darlene Hess, Peter Ennen, and Mark Ayers.
 - i Getting a tech director (done!), a treasurer, building a property fund.
 2. We have consistently increased income but still aren’t where we need to be.

3. What can we do with the \$1k plus that was donated for the wish list.
 4. Michael M noted that over 2 years this deficit has been going on – we need a new paradigm ... a new start. Michael acknowledges that Mark has taken the brunt of the financial situation.... We need something radically new.
 5. Task force has had 1 meeting and they are looking for that (per Sherry) and Mark has done a good job of holding things together. Must look at how to go forward: .a) need a new President, b) task force move forward, c) space team moving forward.
 6. Need to study what other successful CSLs are doing financially
 7. John suggested we have someone to optimize space rental for existing space – but as Gil said, we need someone to step up for that. One group is looking at 2 days instead of one for something like that.
 8. Terry noted we need to look at how space is used right now.
- K. Committees - John Tallon was supposed to get a list of what committees and who volunteered on the membership drive info but that hasn't happened yet.
1. Building Maintenance – need a consistent way of cleaning on a regular basis
 - i Grace Cox is willing to do cleaning
 - ii Maybe have a whiteboard with places for people to volunteer
 - iii John needs the data so he can start building that
- L. Space Team Update - Terry Burns says they will meet before the end of the month. Brett Beaty has agreed to be on it – he is an architect. 8 people are invited to participate at this time.... We must have a capital fund, even just for moving expenses.
- M. Next Board Meeting – February 16, 2025, 4:30 to 6 PM.
1. Sherry thanked everyone for being here, for being dedicated to the Center.
 2. Michael Creager agreed to be on the Board. Terry nominated, sherry seconded, all Cs for Michael to be on the Board of Trustees.
 3. Michael said 6 people responded to the questionnaire regarding fundraising. Look at it this week (per Gil) and send it out again.
 4. **MUST BE VERY TRANSPARENT ABOUT MARK STEPPING DOWN – COME FROM PULPIT AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK HE HAS DONE.** (Gil, Sherry, Michael) – do something special. Michael will coordinate, perhaps a gift card to an event.
- N. Deb prayed us out.