

**Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living
Board Meeting**

Date: January 17, 2022 **Time:** 5:44 - 7:10
Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Board members present: Rev. Gil, Mark Ayres, Doug Bowe, John Kirk, Hana Dawson, Michael McPherson, Tamara Williams

Call to Order – Mark Ayers

Invocation – Reverend Gil

Vision/Mission/Motivational Statements – All

- Vision: Transforming Our World with the Power of Love in Action.
- Mission: Loving All Creation Through Spiritual Growth and Service; Always Staying True to Our Highest Self
- To create a world class, leading edge, replicable, cultural model to spread Science of Mind on a foundation of love, freedom and truth that stands the span of time.

Acknowledgement of Guests – Annette Martinez

Approval of Minutes from December Board Meeting – All

Discussion Items

1. Spiritual Director Report – Rev. Gil Olmstead

- a) Partnership Initiative update: Rev. Gil said we have 9 partners to date. Pens have been ordered and will arrive soon. 100 enamel lapel pins will be ordered on Thursday. Discussing the Partnership Initiative on Sunday morning went pretty well. Marylyn walked through the Breeze form and most people decided to sign up online. The workshop will be held on Saturday. We'll have thermometer-type signs to show people where we're at for our financial and time goals. Mark encouraged all Board members to fill out the Breeze form online.
- b) Staff Minister Letters of Call: The letters have been signed by Rev. Kamatara and Rev. Tammi.
- c) Technology: Marylyn sent a notice to Rev. Gil about a Hefferlin Grant to upgrade technology. We need a digital sound board. We have an analog one which is perfect for in-house but not for online. Perhaps we can sell our current one. Mark suggested delegating the grant application process to Hana to work on with Rev Gil, Annette, Susan, John and Marylyn for the June deadline, and Hana agreed.
- d) Music team: Susan Clark is on fire about the Music Ministry; she is putting together an impromptu choir. She is also doing some consulting on sound, as is Davin.
- e) Other concerns: We also need to look comprehensively at cameras. Rev. Gil wants a classroom to do hybrid. Annette recommends another camera and she has done research on cameras. We will remove the glass booth and possibly the columns, too. Mark recommends talking with Rev. Martha's husband about these changes.
- f) Rev. Gil said Marylyn and John have worked hard on Breeze and it has lots of capabilities we can utilize at no extra cost.
- g) Update on Technology Director: Annette suggested we search for a new IT director and website support so she can step away from those responsibilities. She was offered a new position that will require a lot more work. She said that Green Geeks hosts our website for \$131 and the bill is due January 16. She said they provide excellent customer service. The domain is through GoDaddy. We're past their minimum pricing, so we could transfer domains to Green Geeks. Mark expressed immense gratitude to Annette for her work with the Center in Tech. Annette

said she look forward to coming to Sunday service and sit with her wife rather than having to manage Tech. She would like to stay through the grant in June but has lots of activities in July. She will stay in her position through August 31st to allow the grant to go through. She wants to get Sound and Streamyard squared away and be off both of those completely.

2. **Welcome to New Board Member Michael McPherson!**

3. **Financial Report – John Kirk**

Mark said we don't have a report from Selena. The bank account has \$1,151.50 in checking; savings is \$12,752.10. The debit card has \$597.22 but pens will be deducted. He said that Davin requested transferring \$2000 from savings to checking to cover the next two weeks. John asked how much we have tied up in cred card processing; Mark said he'll find out. John moved that we transfer \$2000 from savings to checking to cover expenses for the next two weeks. Hana seconded it and all approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

John discussed the balance sheet, which shows we're overdrawn by \$10,000 in the bank and \$4800 in QuickBooks, but this is an error. John said we need to tighten up accounting procedures. He said mail with donations weren't counted and recommended (1) counting contributions weekly, including Sunday donations and all income received and weekly deposits; (2) procedures on how to enter contributions into Breeze and (3) entering info into QuickBooks and all accounts must balance with each other. John said the accounting team should be 5 members; and any 2 can count the money on Sunday. He also said we need a non-disclosure agreement. Tamara moved to accept all these procedures, Hana seconded the motion, and all approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

Mark and Rev. Gil discussed writing the year-end letter with tax return. Mark said it should include information that if you notice a discrepancy, to contact him and he will work on resolving it. They will look at sending it out through Breeze.

4. **RGCSL Communications & Marketing Report – Tamara Williams**

Tamara said that the web team met several times to discuss the look and feel of a new website over the past few months. Lately, she and Rev. Gil met several times to discuss it further. She created layouts and wrote content and they reviewed and revised them, and they are still doing that. Tamara said Rev. Gil, Mark and she had agreed we need to hire a web design company to do the design in a professional and timely manner. She wrote a project scope outlining the objectives for the new site, target audiences, an overview of all the pages plus keywords, color palette, and more. She received bids ranging from \$1000 to \$3000.

Annette was clearly upset and offended by this because she had volunteered to redo the current site page-by-page and no one had discussed the new plan with her before the meeting. Tamara apologized. Further discussion took place and Annette agreed we should outsource it. John said it would be logical to hire a web design company, suggesting we table the discussion for another month. Mark asked Annette if the Board votes on hiring a web design to create it, would she be willing to update it. It would depend on the timing and her availability.

Michael said the main reason he joined the Board was his passion for reaching out to the younger generation. He opposed rushing the web design. He felt we should have intentional ideas, forethought and that the site should help grow our congregation. Rev. Gil said we've been working on ideas for the website since last July.

5. The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2023 and Hana is to lead it.

Benediction – Reverend Gil closed the meeting with a Benediction.