

Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living Board Meeting

1/17/2021

Meeting called to order by Mark Ayers at 5:45PM

Board members Present: Mark Ayers, Liza Kerr, Hana Mason, Carol Helms, Tamara Williams, Douglas Bowe, Karen Linsley, and new Board Member Maria Dion

Guests: Carmella Herrera

Invocation: Greg Gardner

Introduction of new Board Member: Carol said she wanted Maria on the Board because she is an asset to every occasion and brings a very strong spiritual presence. Maria's leadership on the Transformation Team was righteous work and she will add to the strength of the Board.

Maria spoke about how excited she is to be on the Board. Previously, when he's been asked to join the Board, she has declined. However, when Carol asked her, things shifted; she agreed to join and feels it's the perfect time to do so.

Mark Ayers made a motion to add Maria to the Board; Carol Helms seconded it. There was clarity, consensus, and commitment

December Minutes: Approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

Mark discussed the \$10,000 grant that was given to the center, and also talked about some issues with certain members' pledges not going through due to system issues. This is being worked on now. Mark said that the current Board members who are able to sign checks are himself as the current primary signer, and if he cannot sign, then Carol or Tamara will do so. If they cannot sign, Hana is the emergency contact for signing.

The credit card has been transferred to the center and Carol will check the statement to verify that the travel miles are accurate.

Financial report: Liza Kerr

The current balance is \$25,978.40, which is very strong, and \$38,461.06 in our reserve for a total of about \$64k. We owe \$1000 for an SBA loan which needs to be paid back; Liza recommends paying this back sooner rather than later. The PPA loan/grant does not need to be paid back but we do need to fill out a form and send it to the loaner to let them know that we've met the terms of the loan. Mark Ayers is working on that. Fund contributions for December 2020 are \$18k, which exceeded our budget of \$17k, and is great to see.

Profit and loss for December 2020: Our net income for December was about \$4k -- the first time Liza has seen the center in the green since she's been on the board, and she is very pleased with this month's bottom line.

Our total income for 2020 was \$190,097 and our budgeted income was to be \$216k so we ended at a total loss of \$22,216 for 2020. However, this does not include the recent grant that the Center received for 10k, so that should be kept in mind when looking at the total loss.

- Tithe to CSL Community fund and General Community fund
 - CSL 8% = \$1,486.56 - \$100 to be given to the Community fund (this will be given to local charity in need)
 - 2% to Community fund = \$372

The financial report was approved and Clarity, Consensus and Commitment were given.

Mark will check with Pat Scanlon regarding when and how much money should go to the community fund.

We are re-allocating the \$100 that used to go to the CSL of Ukraine to go to a local charity of Albuquerque. This \$100 is not the same general fund that we give money to once a year, but will be a separate line item and fund. Carmella and Maria will ensure that the \$100 that goes to a local charity is not in conflict with the Community Fund.

Mark mentioned that we have received Karen's first invoice for the Center so he and Carmella are working on getting that paid.

Expense Discussions:

a. Updates on Rent, Electric, Gas, Cable – Mark

There was an issue with one of the sensors for the utilities and Mark suggested that we authorize any emergency issues to be handled through Mark and Carol if it's \$500 or less. If it's over \$500, then the officers of the board (Hana, Carol, Liza and Mark) will be authorized to handle the expense. There was Clarity, Consensus and Commitment for these motions. Liza added she is going to add more to the budget for emergency expenses like this because currently we only have \$35 a month going in to that fund.

b. Update on Music on Sundays – Mark

With our current pledge to support the Music Ministry, we have received enough donations to fund January and February.

People & Events Coordinator / Compassionate Ministries Report: Carmella

Carmella says it was an honor to serve as Co-Chair for the team of Rev. Martha's going away party. She states it was a very beautiful celebration and it was perfect for the community to have some closure on Rev. Martha's leaving us. Four volunteers will be coming to the center to do inventory on the bookstore. Leenie Mahnken stepped in to take Marcia's place to run the online bookstore through Amazon, and she also wants to start a monthly book club with the center. Carmella is putting together a Staff Member meeting on January 28th so that Karen can get to know them. Carmella has also been working on making her office have more of an "open door" feel to it, so people can feel more welcomed when they stop by.

Carmella reached out to Lou who used to work with our library. He's assisting her with getting resources to be able to send out to members of the Community. A 4-person team is working with Tobey Pope and his wife surrounding his stage 4 cancer, and they are receiving prayers and help from Compassionate Ministries. There's an area in the weekly E-Newsletter for Compassionate Ministries. The team is continuing to provide prayers and support to those who are feeling a sense of isolation and loneliness during lock downs due to Covid-19.

Mark mentioned there was a small edit to Carmella's contract as the People and Projects coordinator; no changes, just rephrasing and clarification on the first page of the contract.

Rev. Karen's Report:

Rev. Karen has had some one-on-one meetings with members of the center, has participated in Practitioner meetings, and had meetings with Board leaders. She is going to host a class once a month, and is also working on some Adult Ed classes. She is going to host a 3-minute meditation class starting in February that will go for 10 weeks and will be held on Thursdays. Rev. Karen is working on the flier and sharing information for the class. She would like to find out how to get the sign ups set up for these courses. She recommended a review of the Respectful Communication guide.

Rev. Karen recommends a visioning process for the new senior minister in about a month which will focus on what kind of personal and spiritual qualities they may have, what kind of presence we would like to see in the Senior Minister, what kinds of roles will they have, and will they be part-time or full-time.

Rev. Karen is working with Carmella to make sure the Policies and Procedures are updated and current. She recommends having a physical copy in the Center as well as having a digital copy available to send to anyone who may request it. Rev. Karen will not be doing any work on the By-Laws; that will be a task for the new Senior Minister. The Town Hall will be an excellent opportunity for Rev. Karen to get to know the community and vice versa. In about month 3 of her time with us, we might be able to begin campaigning for a new Senior Minister. Rev. Karen says the going away party for Rev. Martha was amazing and she commends the community on a job well done. The party was excellent and brought her to tears.

Board Volunteer for Writing Weekly E-blasts – Tamara

Mark spoke about how well Tamara is doing with writing the Board Update for the weekly E-Bulletin. Tamara states her plan is to alternate news from Board meetings with bios for each of the Board members for the next few weeks.

Reinstituting 1-Minute Miracle

A 1-Minute miracle is when a community member gives a testimonial about how Spirit is working in their life. It used to be connected to the Pledge Campaign. Mark asked if Karen and Carmella could discuss this to see if it would be appropriate and feasible to bring the 1-Minute Miracle back into our services. Karen states she is happy to work on doing this and see if it's manageable .

The board is asking Rev. Karen to take over coordinating Sunday services from Kamatara. Mark motioned to put this in to effect, Liza seconded it and the Board approved it with clarity, consensus, and commitment.

Karen said that for Sunday services, she will speak twice a month, Kamatara will speak once a month and a guest speaker will be featured once a month for the first quarter; we'll review the format after that.

Liza asked Carmella to update the center's voice mail. She also suggested using surveys to get our community's feedback and input. Carol said we need to do some work on healing and getting together with other CSL communities in the area.

Fifteen people from RGCSL will be attending the VISTA Conference.

Mark is having a flyer created to promote the Town Hall. Below is the agenda:

Town Hall Meeting – Sunday, January 24, 2020 after Service

- a. Facilitator – Mark
- b. Recorder – Maria Dion
- c. Invocation – Karen
- d. Board Report – Carol (Transparency, What the Board is doing)
- e. Introduction/ Q & A with Rev. Karen
- f. Upcoming Education/ Transition Process – Karen
- g. Round Robin for Visioning:
 1. What qualities are we looking for in our new Senior Minister?
 2. If \$\$\$ were no object, what would your vision for RGCSL be as the CSL be?
 3. Any suggestions/ feedback on our Music Ministry?
 4. Any other requests, suggestions or feedback?
- h. Volunteers for Future Visioning?
- i. Benediction - Carol

Benediction – Greg Gardner

Meeting Adjourned 7:22PM

Next Board Meeting – Monday, February 15, 2021