

# Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living Board Meeting

2/22/21

Meeting called to order by Carol Helms at 5:35 PM

Invocation by Greg Gardner/ Practitioner

**Board members Present:** Rev. Karen Linsley, Carol Helms, Liza Kerr, Doug Bowe, Maria Dion, Hana Dawson, Mark Ayers, Tamara Williams

The Vision/Mission/Motivational Statements were read by all.

**Acknowledgement of Guests:** Carmella Herrera, Michael Lavensen, Marilyn O'Leary

**Approval of Minutes from January 18, 2021 Board Meeting:** Will approve next meeting since not all members got a chance to read.

*Discussion Items*

## **1. Introduction/ Election of New Board Member: Pending**

## **2. Financial Report – Liza Kerr**

Kudos to Liza for all her work on the financial statements. Our cashflow is doing well for the time being. We are currently catching up on some past bills to maintain an accurate balance sheet. Importing the new COA has caused there to be several accounts with inaccuracies and Liza is working on getting these corrected and updated. Due to the inaccuracies, it is hard to determine an accurate balance. We are currently maintaining a status of being under budget. In January, we raised a little over \$1,500 for the Music Ministry.

Rev. Karen moved to approve the financial report with changes noted. Tamara Williams seconded. The Board gave Clarity, Commitment and Consensus.

## **3. Pledge Team Update – Mark**

The Community is in pretty strong financial shape. The Pledge Team is on hold until Mark gets actual figures; then he will discuss it with Carol and Karen.

## **4. Expense Discussions**

Mark has secured a \$1300 credit from PNM because of the excess taxes paid, so we do not have to pay PNM for roughly the next 3 months. The electric bill has also decreased since the building is used less. None of the utilities are being taxed.

## **5. Tithe to CSL and Community Fund**

*a. 8% to CSL and new local agency: \$944.96 less \$100 to go to the Local Community Fund.*

*b. 2% to Community Fund: \$236.*

*c. Proposal for new local agency: Maria Dion & Carmella*

Maria and Carmella recommend that the Local Community Fund go to La Plazita Insitute. Their mission is to support families and youth; especially youth coming out of prison to reacclimate them and improve their lives to support the community. The organization is well established, they have a very solid board, and they are very active in the community. They also specialize in spiritual work to change the lives of the people they work with.

Mark moved to approve this change to the monthly Local Community Fund and Doug Bowe seconded it. The Board gave Clarity, Commitment and Consensus.

*d. Community Fund: \$6,500*

Mark and Carmella will put together a new team who will take on this project and run with it. They will get clarity on the status of the fund to make sure our finances are accurate, find out what has been done in the past, and come back to the Board next month with a recommendation.

**6. People & Events Coordinator Report: Carmella**

Prior to the meeting, Carmella sent out a report with details of her work from the last month which will be attached.

A committee came together to take inventory of the bookstore. Carmella is working with her volunteers to clean up the mailing list from Breeze. She said we have many "Office Angels" and she feels so blessed for all of the help she has received. Carmella has created an organization chart regarding duties and support of the Community. Toby Pope has reached out to her to do a prayer group for him with his situation on hospice.

**7. Congregation Survey: Tamara Williams & Carmella**

Prior to the meeting, Tamara and Carmella sent out an overview of the RGCSL Community Connection and Appreciation Survey. Tamara reviewed the purpose, list, timing, and methods. Carmella is working with volunteers to clean up the mailing list, avoid duplicates, and include donors. They asked for volunteers to preview the survey and to help with analyzing the results. The survey is part of a series of two or three this year although the topics of the others have not been finalized.

**8. Minister's Report: Rev. Karen Linsley**

Rev. Karen has been working on many things. She has selected two books for the next quarter that will go well together. She is bringing in guest speakers who haven't spoken to RGCSL before to expose us to new people and new ideas. Seven people attended her grief workshop and she is curious why there were only seven. She said it's wonderful to see the volunteerism and activity of the congregation, but we need to do the work within. She had brainstormed on this with Mark and Carol and they feel there are many more members that are dealing with grief during this time. Mark said he thought one reason people aren't feeling grief is because Rev. Martha has continued to be involved with the Center until her talk at VISTA Conference on Wednesday so it hadn't felt like a loss. Rev. Karen will host a Transition Workshop on Saturday, March 27 at 10 am- 1 pm. Rev. Karen hosted a practitioner retreat which was very successful.

### **9. Reinstating 1-Minute Miracle: Karen**

Rev. Karen and Carmella worked together to bring in the “Bright Idea Share Program” to the community, and this was a direct result of the 1-Minute Miracle. People feel a lack of connection, mostly due to the pandemic, so this is one way to get people more involved. Another successful Bright Idea Share Program was to have Valentine’s Day cards made and sent out.

### **10. Proposal for Community Transitioning/ Recreating Workshop: Mark & Karen**

Rev. Karen will host a Transition Workshop on Saturday, March 27 at 10 am- 1 pm. Mark said our expenses from funding our Interim Minister are less than planned, so he moved that RGCSL sponsor the Transition Workshop on Saturday, March 27. The Board gave Clarity, Commitment and Consensus.

### **11. Overview of Permanent Minister Search: Karen**

There does need to be a formal visioning for the new Minister before we can move forward with “candidating”. The transition team should be moving forward with working on the paperwork and taking the next steps to prepare for the candidating.

### **12. Town Hall Meeting Follow-Up: Maria Dion**

Maria’s Town Hall notes are attached to the minutes. She said it was great to see Rev. Karen have the meet and greet with the congregation and that she was very transparent to the members of the community. There was a great vision for the Community; love and vibrancy; a feeling that we can’t do it wrong; a sense of excitement; a desire for more youth in the community; great things to say about the Music Ministry, and ideas for a new book club. There were some concerns about getting too ahead of ourselves, and Rev. Karen stated we are going to hold an official visioning for the Center. There was more discussion about the many strengths of the community.

### **13. Reconstituting Transformation Team: Mark**

Marilyn and Maria are organizing the team; Doug and Maria are Board liaisons. Rev. Karen is part of the group. Maria will contact Barb Hernandez. Mark will provide ideas to help expand the committee. Once the group is formed, they will choose the leader of the committee.

### **14. Division of Responsibilities: Mark**

Mark has been volunteering 3-4 hours a week at the Center and has been making some basic decisions about Center routines while working with Carmella.

### **15. Formation of Music Ministry Committee: Mark**

We have enough funds to carry the current Music Ministry through the end of March. Mark is going to work with Carmella to work on an “Inventory of Musicians” so that we can bring a musician on to the committee to assist with next steps moving forward for the Center to find recommendations for new Music Minister. The team consists of Mark (Chair), Tamara, Carol Helms, Carol Ann Armijo, Terranda King, Annette Martinez, and a musician, Carol Scott.

#### **16. Board Weekly E-blasts: Tamara**

Tamara is continuing to write the Message from the Board in the weekly e-newsletter. She is currently focusing on bios of Board members, announcing the Survey, the VISTA Conference, and news from our Board meetings.

#### **17. Resuming In-Person Meetings: Carol**

Carol is creating a team to work on re-entry to best decide how to move forward with the safest way to have in-person events at the Center, starting with workshops and the Board retreat.

#### **18. Planning A Board Retreat: Mark & Karen**

Rev. Karen will host the Board Retreat on April 17 at 10 am – 1 pm. We won't discuss business; it will be heart space for three hours.

Maria requested we hold this in person as long as the status of the pandemic will allow us to do so and we can apply COVID safe practices. The board gave Clarity, Commitment and Consensus.

#### **19. Invitation to sit with Albuquerque Center for Spiritual Living**

The Albuquerque Center is holding a meeting in March and has invited RGCSL to attend it to hear what their plans and goals are for the future. Mark says we'll get a flyer and have more information about this event.

#### **Next Board Meeting – March 15, 2021**

Benediction – Greg Gardner

Meeting adjourned at 7:27PM.