

## **Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living**

### **Board Meeting Agenda**

**Date: March 21, 2022 Time: 5:33 – 7:00 PM**

### **Clarity, Consensus and Commitment**

#### **Call to Order – Mark Ayers**

#### **Invocation – Greg Gardner, Practitioner**

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.

#### **Board members present:**

Rev. Karen Linsley, Mark Ayers, Tamara Williams, Hana Dawson, Doug Bowe, Thomas Hines

Acknowledgement of Guests – Annette Martinez, Marilyn O’Leary, Maria Dion

Approval of Minutes from February Board Meeting – Rev. Karen Linsley motioned to approve; John seconded. The board gave clarity, consensus, commitment.

#### Discussion Items

##### **1. Minister Search Committee Update – Maria Dion, Marilyn O’Leary or Doug Bowe**

Things are going very well and moving ahead with our ministerial candidate. They are planning a dinner with Rev. Gil and his wife Robin the evening of April 8th, with the minister search committee and the board. Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> they are planning a meeting with the staff, (Carmella, CJ, Annette, Rev. Tammy, and Rev. Kamatara, Rev. Karen), from 11AM-1PM. Rev. Karen has agreed to facilitate the meeting with Practitioners which will be 11AM-1PM the morning. Saturday Evening Rev. Gil and Robin will be out exploring Albuquerque and getting ready for Sunday morning. Rev. Gil would like to open the congregation to questions after service so that the congregation can ask any questions to Rev Gil. After the questions are wrapped up, we will move into a potluck into the social hall. Then there will be a short workshop after social hall, which will only be offered in person due to the nature of his workshops and encouraging people to be there in person to really share the experience. Marilyn and Tamara are working on a questionnaire to have the attending congregation fill out and turn in by the end of the services on Sunday. We are paying for Rev. Gil’s lodging Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night. We do need a vehicle for Rev. Gil to be able to drive around town and discover the town. Hana Dawson volunteered her Jeep Wrangler for Rev Gil to drive around town while he is here.

##### **2. People & Events Coordinator Report (Carmella Herrera) - Approval**

Mark shared that Carmella has been actively working with Mark Ayers and a few others to tidy up things around the church. Carmella met with Pat Scanlon last Thursday and got all the dues that reach out is supposed to be doing. We are planning on doing a Pet Blessing the end of April, still working on gathering a minister willing to do this, Carmella and Angelique are working on ironing the details. They are working on doing a Volunteer Appreciation May 15<sup>th</sup> and giving pins to all of the volunteers.

Mark motioned to approve the report and Thomas seconded. Clarity, Consensus, and Commitment.

### **3. Interim Ministers Update – Rev. Karen**

Rev. Karen said she thanked everyone for letting her enjoy her retreat in Death Valley. Rev. Karen shared that since she has been with us she's been pressing for a revision of Policy and Procedures manual, which is being worked on and should have a draft ready to go for next board meeting so we can approve of it.

Rev. Karen shared that Michael Cowdin called her and volunteered to help with technical things. He helped with getting the TV set up and ready to go to enhance the hybrid experience. They had the TV and a laptop set up in the classroom ready to go for after service talk on Sunday and it went very well. This means that other groups that currently meet in the center can do hybrid meetings as well. Michael is going to see about starting a 12 step AA meeting in the center since he's a member we don't have to worry about the nuances of getting insurance.

Rev. Karen shared that Pat Justice would be a great candidate to help with the cleanup days, and she will reach out to Pat to see if Pat would be interested in helping facilitate.

Tamara and Rev. Karen are continuing to work on marketing for the service, they're trying to debate if the newsletter should be shorter or not. They're working on getting a printout version to get to people who are not as electronically inclined. Tamara has gone into the newsletter and cut out some chunks of the newsletter and has brought it down from 6 pages to 3 pages. The newsletter team may work on having a second newsletter that's set up just for printout.

#### **a. Bookstore**

After we get a permanent Minister in place, Rev. Karen highly recommends that we get a professional to work on the bookstore because it's a very under-utilized asset. She feels that if we found someone who is professionally working the bookstore to enhance it and really receive funds to support the center.

### **4. Financial Report – Doug Bowe**

We had \$10,781.92 of donations from our Sunday Collections, which falls short by about \$6k of expected donations to match our budget. Doug walked us through the line items of the profit and loss statement attached and compared those to our budgeted amounts. Our total expenses were \$14,928.14, so our total net income was -\$2,877.97. This is becoming a dangerous trend that we are continuing to have every month. So far for March, we've had a reasonable income from donations which is hopeful. We still have over \$38,000 in our savings and we have not had

to dip into this savings account yet, but we are still dangerous with the continuous trend of being in a negative net income every month. Doug states there are some numbers that are not making sense on the budget. We are hoping once our permanent Reverend is chosen that they will be able to up the donations and income and move our centers finances into a better place.

Mark would like to have a one-page report that will have the essentials of what we really need to present to the board along the budget to prevent Doug from having to go through the budget with us each month. He is requesting to have a one-time committee together including himself and Tamara and any other volunteers to put together a one-page detail to send to Selena to fill out for us so that it is easier to understand and discuss the budget at our board meetings. This is planned to be done before our April board meeting.

Mark made a motion to extend our contract with Rev. Karen through the end of May 2022, as our interim minister. Thomas seconded. Board gave clarity, consensus, and commitment.

**b. Tithe to CSL – 8% \* = \$862.55 and \$100 goes to the La Placita Institute Community Fund (per Selena)**

**c. Pledge Campaign update – Mark Ayers**

Every member of the Center has been reached out to regarding pledging.

**d. Discussion and approval of 2022 Rent Abatement**

Mark reached out to the landlord to request a rent abatement as follows

“Effective for the months of April 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022

Monthly rent shall be reduced by \$1,000.00 from \$5,490.59 to \$4,490.59

All other provisions of the lease will remain as is.

From January 1, 2023 thru September 30, 2023, rent will be increased by \$1,000.00 per month from \$5,308.60 to \$6,308.60.”

Mark motioned to allow him to sign this agreement, Hana seconded. The board gave clarity, consensus, and commitment.

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

The MarCom committee is talking about different strategies to achieve our goals. Some of these may be things that aren't standard as a Sunday Service. For instance, having youth come in and talk about their experiences. Or having regular members come in and talk to the Congregation on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month to talk about their spiritual experiences they've had in their own lives.

They're looking to have more verity in our Facebook posts, Rev. Karen has volunteered to take this on while she continues to be with us as Interim Minister.

Tamara mentioned again we've been working on our E-bulletin and looking at improving our website as well.

Annette mentioned she's re-activated our Twitter account which could be used for marketing as well.

#### **7. New Board Members Update**

##### **a. John Kirk, Potential New Board Member (Nominated by Doug Bowe & Mark Ayers.)**

We have still not received an application from John Kirk and are hoping to receive one from him soon if he is still wanting to be a member of the board.

#### **8. Next Board Meeting –April 18, 2022**

**Benediction – Greg Gardner, Practitioner**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:16PM**