

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

Date: August 16, 2021 **Time:** 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:34PM

Board members present: Rev. Karen Linsley, Doug Bowe, Hana Dawson, Tamara Williams,
Maria Dion, Lou Cimalore.

Guests Present: Greg Gardner, Carmella Herrera, Annette Martinez

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Call to Order – Mark Ayers, Karen Linsley

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.

Acknowledgement of Guests – All

Approval of Minutes from July 25th and Town Hall meeting from August 1st Board Meeting: All
Clarity, Consensus and Commitment given from all members.

Discussion Items

1. People & Events Coordinator Report - Carmella Herrera

Carmella has been working with the search committee. She has a volunteer coming in tomorrow to look at the action items for third quarter specifying on items regarding volunteer opportunities for members. We now have a new volunteer to help at the bookstore every Sunday which is great. Carmella spoke of Hana Dawson stepping in to set up the newsletter to be sent out every week and take on that work.

2. Financial Report - Board Finance Subcommittee

Mark stated that Selena continues to work hard on our bookkeeping and is doing amazing. Doug has been looking over the documents Serena sent out and states everything seems to be consistent with the reports from June.

a. Review reports from Selena

Doug has been looking over the documents Serena sent out and states everything seems to be consistent with the reports from June. Doug addressed the profit and loss columns, we have \$22,000 for the total expenses, the net income is about -\$1,000. We have about \$38,000 in our savings and short-term investments which is the same amount as what we had in June. Our total bank accounts have \$65,000 which is great as well, just the \$1000 deficit from our net income being less than our expenses.

Doug did state that July seems to be the most “normal” as in the most income compared to prior months income which is nice to see. Mark has been working with the landlord to ensure our rent stays lower, so July had a slightly higher expense than what we expect to see in the future. We also had the payouts for Rev. Karen’s trip down here to ABQ so that is another one-time expense we will see. Maria asked about the rent reduction if this will have to be paid back, and Mark stated this will not be paid back, and the rent reduction is in place through December 31st, and he does not expect the landlord to be willing to keep it reduced for any time past December.

Tamara suggested that we set up in a way to format the income in a way that’s easier for the board members to read as we look through the expense reports. Doug, Mark, and Maria agreed this is a good idea and Doug will work on this for next board meeting’s expenses.

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment given for this month’s expense report.

- b. Tithe to CSL and Community Fund**
 - **9% to CSL and \$100 to local agency**
Still need the numbers from Selena to know the amount for the tithe.
- d. 2022 budget**
Mark, Brett, and Doug are going to work together to set up a budget for the year of 2022. They are going to ensure this is set up before the pledge campaign. We will need to figure out who is willing to head the campaign for 2022, Carmella is going to investigate options and find people who are willing to chair the Pledge Campaign.

3. Congregation Survey – Tamara Williams **What actions do we need to take?**

Tamara states that she is thrilled that Carmella is looking to find out what skill sets members of the congregation hold, so that we can find more volunteers to help out with the various needs of the center. We do specifically need more volunteers to help with Stream-yard. Everything we have been working on is coming together very nicely for the actions we’re taking for the survey.

4. Minister’s Report – Rev. Karen Linsley

Live Auction/ Town Meeting

We received \$1200 from the in-person Auction which was a great success. Rev. Karen was surprised there weren’t more questions and encourages people to reach out to her if they do have questions from the Town Hall meeting.

Education Committee

The classes being held are doing very well. There was a certification class we held at no cost to encourage more to sign up because those do best with more bodies. We are setting up a calendar for certification classes to begin in January, so that our new

minister can have input in that. We are going to hold a Four Agreements class or a New Member class (which the practitioners came up with). Rev. Karen is happy to teach one or both of those classes when we set them up.

3rd Quarter Speakers

The third quarter speakers are fully set up for every Sunday! Rev. Karen is leaving October open for potential Ministers that are applying to be our new Senior Ministers. Maria spoke up to tell Rev. Karen that we are posting it August 26th, and we do need to wait 60 days while it's posted before we can start selecting Ministers from the ones who apply. Maria is going to get some clarification on this and wanted to let Rev. Karen that she can probably fill up October because we most likely will not have candidates by October. Rev. Karen will reach out to Rev. Julie to get clarification.

Re-Entry Process

Rev. Karen states continuing with our Hybrid service it is the best way to continue forward even after the pandemic ends. It seems to be very successful and allows more people to attend from out of town and allows those to continue participating in home. Rev. Karen did state that Nevada has mandated masks in buildings, some churches are closing again due to concerns of the pandemic, and others are continuing to stay open. We will continue to do what we can to remain open and remain a safe place for people to be.

5. Minister Search Committee – Maria Dion, Lou Cimalore, & Doug Bowe

Update/ Timeline

The committee has done SO much work over the last month, and everything is really coming together so nicely. Tamara, Lou and Carmella have been working on the script for the video which is really nice. Lou is going to be doing the narrations for the video while it plays to show what an amazing center we are, and how amazing ABQ is as well. Carmella said once they get the narrations done, they will take it over to Video Factory and it should take about 3-5 business days to get it back to us.

Maria presented the video and all the pictures and script that is in it's final stages of production, it does an amazing job of showcasing Albuquerque and the center itself. Tamara states this will be a great video to showcase the center eventually to others who are interested in joining our center as a member after we have selected a minister.

Present Minister Packet to the Board

Maria showed the Minister Packet that will be available for interested Ministers who want to learn about us and who we are. It showcases pictures that really show the energy and talk about the energy we hold in this center. It displays our vision and mission statement, as well as the purpose and vision resulting from the co-creation process.

It talks about what we're looking for in our senior minister, the things we are looking for is taken from the sacred covenant, talking about "our leader, our teacher and our speaker", talks about we want to have conversations with other new thought communities. It talks about that we do not have several years required, and we feel that the right person will find us, regardless of experience.

Our spiritual attributes that we are looking for are listed here as well, which were also pulled from the co-creation process.

The packet details the requirements needed to be listed by Home Office, detailing the year founded, licensed practitioners, paid staff, registered membership, average Sunday attendance, average children/youth, average midweek service attendance, and accredited science of mind classes being offered at this time.

The packet talks about our members, the spiritual team, adult education, compassion ministries, music ministry, community outreach endeavors, shared leadership.

It talks about the activities 2020 and 2021, such as upgrading the sanctuary, holding an after-service discussion about the talk every Sunday, talks about what we worked on to support the community and all the activities we held as well. The packet talks about how we started and where we are now.

Greg suggested we talk more about our symbol that was created for us with Albuquerque in mind, Tamara will see about adding something into the video to be presented to candidates.

The packet continues to talk about the bookstore and how that supports us and the community. Then the packet talks about the City of Albuquerque and the locale. Really showcases our beautiful city and the things that happen here in town.

Then the packet talks about the Salary Range, and Benefits that will be offered to the Senior Minister who applies to our center.

The packet talks about the reason our pulpit is vacant, as well as the number of senior ministers our center has had. It also talks about the our financial state, as well as the candidate expenses that we will be paying for a candidate to come visit us. It also details what we require for the application and when deadline is to receive an application.

There is also an additional statement which talks about the challenges we've faced due to Covid-19 and the way we have strongly gotten through the pandemic and worked together as a center to make sure we continue to thrive. At the end of the packet, it details the Sacred Covenant as well.

6. 12 Step Meetings @ RGCSL - Rev. Karen Linsley

Do we require a liability insurance policy?

Rev. Karen has reached out to someone who may be interested in holding these 12 step meetings in person. We do need to clarify if groups need to have their own liability insurance to hold any type of group session in our Center.

Mark asked Carmella if she would be willing to reach out to our insurance company and find out if we have anything in place like this through our insurance, so that we can decide what we need to do to move forward regarding this. Carmella will reach out to our agent tomorrow and return to September's board meeting with an update.

Mark made a motion to make it official to thank the Minister Search Committee, he wants to make sure they are officially thanked for all the work they have done with this. Maria moved the motion to accept this document, Tamara seconded this. The board gave clarity, consensus, and commitment.

7. Final notes –

The AC damage caused is going to cost about \$8000 which we cannot afford this. There is an offer by another contractor to do this work for \$5500, the landlord may or may not accept this. Maria made the motion to have the landlords preferred contractor to ensure it is done properly. Mark is going to work with the landlord to figure out how we are going to pay this off over time with the landlord. The board gave clarity, commitment, and consensus.

8. Next Board Meeting – Monday, September 20, 2021

9. Executive session – 7:25PM

Benediction – Rev. Karen Linsley

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35PM