

**Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living**  
**Date:** August 21, 2022      **Time:** 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Board members present: Rev. Gil, John Kirk, Hana Dawson, Tamara Williams, Carol Helms, Doug Bowe.

Call to Order – Carol Helms

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 – Carol:** Carmella Herrera, although we all consider Carmella a permanent guest!

**Approval of Minutes from July 17, 2022**

John Kirk motioned to approve the minutes. Board gave clarity, commitment, and consensus.

**1. People & Events Coordinator Report (Carmella Herrera) – Approval**

Carmella did not have a report this time due to recovering from her recent surgery.

**2. Senior Minister's Report – Rev. Gil Olmstead**

Rev. Gil shared that it's been a whirlwind couple of weeks getting settled in as Senior minister.

- **Facilities maintenance**

Rev. Gil said there's been a facility issue with the AC in the building. After the landlord, Duke City Properties Management, came and took a look and confirmed it was faulty, they let Rev. Gil know that it is up to us to fix the AC. We've been paying \$600 a month to pay off fixing the AC last year that was paid by the landlord and due to be completed in August. Per the landlord, it is our issue because it was up to us to maintain the AC.

John brought up that we shouldn't be paying for the facility maintenance, and it should be the landlord's duty to fix that unless it's explicitly stated in the lease. He is going to review the lease and have his landlord take a look at it, too, and see if it's a standard lease or one that's been specially drafted for this situation. John will touch base with Rev. Gil later this week to discuss.

- **Center Celebration on September 18, 2022**

Rev. Gil is working on a center celebration on September 18<sup>th</sup> that will include a Passing of the Torch from Rev. Martha, to Rev. Karen and then to Rev. Gil, with special guest musician Eddie Watkins Jr. In addition, there will be a special workshop that Sunday paid for with love donations. The Board meeting is that same day, so we may need to reschedule it, depending on the board members.

- **Letters of call for the staff ministers**

Rev. Gil has had multiple conversations with Rev. Kamatara and Rev. Tammi, including about how they would like to be involved in the center. Tammi has moved forward with preparing for the panel and board for her license, so there's uncertainty where she stands at this time.

Rev. Kamatara has received a letter of call for an online new thought ministry, which she plans to accept. It fits with her vision of collaborating with ministers throughout the state. There might be pop-up events, which could be held at RGCSL. Rev. Gil would like to offer a letter of call for Rev. Kamatara to invite her to be part of our staff as a workshop leader and speaker. He feels that this could be a bridge between her new call and also here at RGCSL.

If Tammi gets to a place where she feels ready for this, Rev. Gil would like to offer the same to her when the time comes.

John feels that this could be a good opportunity for Kamatara as well as a good opportunity for our center to continue our relationship with her. He moved to approve the letter of call to ask Rev. Kamatara to become a staff minister and Hana seconded. *The board gave Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.*

- **Musicians**

Rev. Gil spoke with Susan Clarke last time she was at the center and he has a lunch scheduled with her this upcoming week to see if she would be interested in being more involved with the music ministry at the center. He feels music is key to what we're doing. He also spoke with Yvette Trujillo to see if she's interested as well. He has a musician friend who he invited to perform for us and will update us on the music ministry when he knows more. He's unsure if Annette is happy to continue being in as the Musician director or if we could relieve her position and let her focus more on other things.

### 3. Discussion Office Management developments

- **Update on Office Manager**

Davin Teague, our new administrative coordinator, has been out sick and not in the office since last Friday. His wife is a very busy person who requested he stay home and take care of their baby. Rev. Gil is looking at potentially offering Davin to work remotely and working at the Center one day a week. Rev. Gil feels very confident that this would be worth it for Davin because he is a very valuable asset. Rev. Gil and Davin are going to talk more on Monday to see what they can figure out. CJ is going to finish training Devin soon and they are also going to look at drafting a manual as well that includes all of the tasks and duties required for this position.

Rev. Gil thinks there will be another 8-10 hours of CJ assisting Davin for training. He is asking Annette to also assist with drafting of the manual and potentially a few others to help knock this out.

The Policies and Procedure manual which was reviewed by Rev. Karen needs to be typed and finalized.

### 4. Financial Report – Doug Bowe

- **Review July report**

Due to staff being sick in the office, we don't have an official financial report at this time. Doug confirmed with Selena that we have \$31k in savings and \$18k in checking, however, Breeze isn't up to date, and QuickBooks shows there is a deficit in our checking account.

On Friday morning, Rev. Gil, Michael and Annette worked on \$1500 in donations for 2 weeks. QuickBooks shows as if we're still overdrawn and Rev. Gil and Annette tried to balance it but were unsuccessful. They will reach out to Selena this next week to get this straightened out.

John Kirk would like to take over the job of making sure the accounting records are correct and up to date, with the board's permission, which was granted. This means he will need access to QuickBooks, so he'll need to speak with Selena.

Rev. Gil brought up the money counting schedule. The board will discuss a schedule for board members to help practitioners count donations in a future board meeting.

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

**(need to wait for financial report to complete this.)**

## **6. RGCSL Communications & Marketing Report – Tamara Williams**

Tamara shared that the website group has done some visioning work, and last week Annette got some feedback from Rev. Karen, Rev. Gil and Carmella regarding some changes that needed to be done – updates and errors – on the. The committee is still brainstorming on content and design ideas to make it an appealing website to encourage people to learn more about us. They have a meeting tomorrow night to start this discussion. Rev. Gil also shared that each person on the team took a look at other CSL websites and other websites in general to see what they like about them.

Tamara shared that weekly newsletter as well as print bulletins are doing well. She will be gone most of September, and Hana volunteered to help more. Tamara is working with Rev. Gil now to make sure she creates the images in advance for the weekly talks for the newsletter.

## **7. Special Board Dinner (Members & Spouses) to Celebrate Letter of Call**

There was some discussion with Mark, Rev. Gil and Tamara regarding potentially having our dinner/celebration at 5 pm next Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. The board agreed.

## **8. Next Board Meeting**

Due to the Celebration on September 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have the board meeting Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. Other Items Discussed**

Thomas Hines has resigned from the Board.

Greg Gardner pointed out that the practitioners can't be affiliated with other centers, and has concerns about letters of call to Rev. Kamatara and potentially Rev. Tammi. He expressed his serious concerns that there's an "awful lot of cracks" – our contract with the management company about air conditioning, our finances, outdated software, a new-ish Board, a new office administrator and him potentially working remotely most of the time.

John said that we'll ensure we have oversight on the financials to make sure things aren't falling through the cracks and John will be taking on that duty of oversight.

Rev. Gil addressed Greg's concern of stepping on other centers' toes by speaking with Yvette and Kamatara about being more involved with the organization of our music ministry.

John said will definitely look into contracts to make sure there are no conflicts of interest with our letter of call to Rev. Kamatara as well as the invitation to have them more involved in our musical ministry. Rev. Gil also brought up that this letter of call is really more to be support to Rev. Kamatara rather than asking her to take up a full time position as minister.

Carol said she feels that often times it seems like the centers are competing with each other, but she really feels that the more we can unite on issues and unite on sharing our gifts of ministry, the better. She also acknowledges that there are concerns and potential issues that could come up.

**Benediction – Greg Gardner, Practitioner**

**Meeting adjourned at ???**