

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

**Date:** October 16, 2023     **Time:** 5:15 – 6:27 p.m.  
Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Board members present: Rev. Gil, Mark Ayers, Doug Bowe, Hana Dawson, Tamara Williams

Guests: Greg Gardner, Bob Kermott

Call to Order – Mark Ayers

Invocation – Reverend Gil

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 August and September Meetings to be amended with minor grammatical edits – All

Discussion Items

1. Spiritual Director Report – Rev. Gil Olmstead
  - a. Teams – Formation of the RGCSL Gate Keepers, comprised of Bob Kermott, Chris Duvall and Rev. Gil, was approved with Clarity, Consistency and Commitment.

Doug brought up the issue of having a Certificate of Liability when we rent space. Nancy will check on this.
  - b. Annual Meeting – Rev. Gil thanked Mark and all who facilitated for their great reporting. New Board Members will be voted on this Sunday.
  - c. Community Retreat – There are approximately 24 attendees. Lots of stuff is being planned. Unfortunately, Rev. Tammi won't be able to attend and present. There's lots of excitement about the cookie contest; there will be a \$10 fee and lots of great prizes. Rev. Molly will be speaking at the Center.
  - d. Partners program will now be called Join In 2024. The group is still planning, but during each week in November, there will be announcements inviting people to join, and the program will conclude at the end of December. The goal is to help people see the value of committing and to do so automatically through the Center.
  - e. The Events Fair went well. Liza Kerr did a great job of organizing it. Bob Kermott is interested in being on the Board and a couple of people are interested in being involved

with Michelle's Giving Tree.

- f. Fun Ministry: Rev. Gil thanked Liza for bringing in close to \$200 for the Center for the fun events, which wasn't even the intention. Greg asked about a Karaoke Night.
  - g. Fundraising: Mike McPherson has jumped into fundraising a concert and silent auction. He wants to do a major fundraiser each quarter.
2. Financial Report – Mark Ayers
- a. Current Status – We have \$5064 in the bank. A deposit was made for \$1367. Our bills include Comcast for \$187, gas for \$270, Interworks for \$104, payroll of \$3422, PNM for \$285, rent for \$5478 and copier rental of \$216. The balance is -\$2819.
  - b. Retreat – We don't know what the bills will be for the retreat, but we should make a profit.
  - c. Things that will get us out of the red:
    - Not everyone has paid in full yet for the retreat
    - There will be another sizable deposit since there are 5 Sundays this month
    - We have 2 more Sunday collections
    - The first couple of days of the month usually bring in more money
    - The Partnership Campaign kicks in next month
  - d. Next month we'll have a reconciliation report and Mark will have an update on finances for the newsletter in November.
  - e. CSL Tithe – Mark said we're living on the edge. Yet one of the financial principles is that giving opens up the space to expand our abundance and challenges us to see if we believe it or not. Tamara recommended tithing \$150 this month. Bob said we need to look at reducing expenditures and look at the proposed budget for 2024 next month. He is on the committee to review the financials. Rev. Gil clarified that CSL recently asked each member center to donate. The Board voted to donate \$150 to CSL in October and possibly increase it to \$200 in November with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.
3. Board President Report – Mark Ayers
- a. 2024 Board of Trustees – Rev. Gil is going to contact two women who were suggested for the Board. Next Sunday, Hana will run the elections since Mark is on the slate. They will be held immediately after service and before Social Hall.
4. Strategic Vision – Their meeting was postponed in October and they will meet in November.
5. Vice President Report – Hana Dawson – She is moving forward on the Hefferlin Grant and will get an accessory for rechargeable batteries for the handheld microphone. There are issues with the camera plugging into the laptop, and she is looking at options. Ben Schlosser and Grace Williams volunteered to join the Tech Team.
6. Marketing Communications Report – Tamara Williams – The top priority right now is revising the logo to make it conform with CSL guidelines and have versions for printed brochures and

online usage. Two other priorities are developing a new brochure for the Center and revising the practitioner brochure. The website redesign is on hold to allow for these other projects. Tamara met with Rev. Gil today and they reviewed drafts of the Center brochure.

7. Safety – Doug Bowe

- a. Last week, Doug checked the Exit signs at the Center. Each door has an Exit sign and the doors will stay open until Sunday service is over. The last person to leave needs to make sure that all exits are locked.
- b. Susan and Carmella reorganized the storage room behind the social hall and now a cabinet blocks the light switch.
- c. Doug said that although we don't allow weapons at the Center, he asked who will enforce it.
- d. Doug said that around 9:45 Sunday mornings, a security vehicle drives through the parking lot. We may be able to ask the landlord for additional protective services.
- e. The Safety and Security Committee is comprised of Doug, John, Bob, Hana and Rev. Gil. Robyn will be here for the retreat and perhaps she could look at the safety issues. Mark will ask her to be the chair. Bob will chair if Robyn doesn't. Bob said we might be able to call the Fire Department and ask for their recommendations. Doug concurred and said that the Fire Dept. came when we first moved into the building. Rev. Gil suggested we have a sign saying, "No Weapons Allowed." Greg said that having a sign won't stop violence but it will increase awareness.
- f. Mark said that he and Carmella are contacts for the alarm. He suggested designating three people and also suggested there be a sign saying who to call if the alarm is accidentally set off.

Next Board Meeting – Sunday, November 12, 2023

Benediction – Greg Gardner

Meeting concluded at 6:27 p.m.