

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

Date: November 14, 2022 **Time:** 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Called to Order by Mark Ayers at 4:36 PM

Board members present: Rev. Gil, Mark Ayres, Hana Dawson, Tamara Williams

Invocation – Rev. 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.

Discussion Items

1. People & Events Coordinator Report - Carmella Herrera

Carmella said that the prayer team is very powerful. Carmella's written report was approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

2. Reach Out – Mark Ayers

Mark decided not to have a Thanksgiving Food Drive because Michelle's Giving Tree is the priority and it's a lot of work. He's getting lots of advice from Pat Scanlon, and Tim and Michael will be part of the entire process. Mark's assistant is helping, too. We'll work with one school, and the social worker will provide 25-30 names. The goal is to have a core group of people for Rev. Gil to hold a retreat or meeting for Reach Out later. Mark's Reach Out report was approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

3. Spiritual Director's Report – Rev. Gil Olmstead

a. Several people have said that they haven't been receiving the newsletter. Rev. Gil or Mark will check with Davin and ensure he's looking at the new memberships lists in Breeze and ask him to send their names and email addresses to Hana so she can make add them to the newsletter list.

b. The practitioner retreat was very successful. Twenty-one people attended. Lots of good things came out of it and the energy was high.

c. Rev. Gil had a request from Rev. Tammi that she would like to start bringing studies from Astara to the center.

d. Rev. Gil has created a letter of call for Rev. Tammi and Rev. Kamatara. Rev. Tammi is reviewing it and will be sending it back to Rev. Gil.

e. Susan Clark will be officially instated the first of December as music director and she will receive \$500/month, which has already been budgeted for 2023. Mark moved to have Susan Clark instated at \$500 a month starting 12/01/2022, and the Board agreed with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

Hana brought up Susan's idea of having slides with song lyrics for the Sunday services for sing-alongs. Rev. Gil agreed, along exploring having congregants who want to sing, and possibly have a choir.

f. The Poetry Group came to a conclusion with the decision to have a regular Creative Writers Group meeting, with Lou in charge on the second Sunday of the month after service, starting in December. Other groups are working to bring creative people together within the center.

g. Hana suggested at the beginning of service to ask the congregation to silence their cell phones and also share the RGCSL Facebook live link. Rev. Gil also said he thought it would be great to share names of people who are viewing service online with the speaker so they can be greeted in a more personal way and be more included in the service.

h. Rev. Gil said he's had two meetings with people interested in a Health Expo next Spring with the goal of increasing exposure, offering services, and potentially making money.

i. Rev. Gil will be out of town starting Thursday for 10 days in Tahoe. He gave thanks to Mike Hacker and all of the volunteers who make Thanksgiving lunch happen. He and Robyn will celebrate Rev. Karen's birthday with her!

j. The Truth About Aging workshop on Saturday went really well and was very successful, with 26 attendees. Everyone really enjoyed it. There are people interested in bringing back the spiritual and developmental group. Rev. Gil is excited to start bringing classes back by the first of the year.

k. Tamara and Rev. Gil have been working on designs for the website. They're really looking at "what do we want people to feel when they first enter the website?" and "what do we want them to know about us?" Rev. Gil is really excited for all of Tamara's knowledge and ideas for it. Mark asked for an estimate to include in the budget and shared that the board will be fully supportive of the website redesign as this has been a 2 year process that's really needed and will help support the center.

l. Annette and Rev. Tammi held the Dia De Los Muertos last week, there were about 10-12 people attending and it was very well received. We're re-starting our traditions!

m. Rev. Gil wants to explore how we want to do classes for adult education moving forward. Do we want to do hybrids? Some in person, some online only?

4. Financial Report – Mark Ayers

a. Mark had to transfer another \$2500 out of savings which brings us down to about \$17k in Money market, and then 1\$4k in operating expenses. He's not sure why that's so high and he will reach out to Davin to ensure that the money is accurate. Mark recognizes the center is much more abundant than we have been in previous months which is great to see. As of last week, we only had \$4k in outstanding checks, even with last week's bills, which were \$3k so we have more money left over.

Mark needs to reach out to Selena now as he believes Davin has things caught up well enough that we can get caught up on our financial reports that have been missing for the last several months.

b. Tithe to CSL – 9% * = \$___ and \$100 goes to the La Placita Institute Community Fund (per Selena)

c. 2023 Proposed budget

Budget is expected to be around \$225,000, without any additional funding, and we will need about \$18,000/month to continue operating. While it's a lot of money, we feel confident that the center can attain this as so much is happening to encourage more members and we're working on ways to increase the number of members and support existing members.

d. Partnership Campaign

Rev. Gil wants to invite people to join in partnership with the center. He's been saying "you bring your time, your talent, your treasure" to the center as he talks about giving to the center. He would like to set up different brackets of people (100 people at \$180 a month would equal our \$18k a month needed.) Looking at setting up "blocks" and some people can take on 2 or 3 blocks, or even 1 person taking on half of a block. Encouraging people to be more of a part of the community. Mark, Tamara, Rev. Gil and Mark are going to create a sub-committee to look at ways to set this up. Mark is about to have lots of time around Thanksgiving to research/design ways to put this campaign together. It would be great if the partnership campaign could start on national giving day in 2 weeks. The following Sunday we will vote to re-elect/elect new board members, discuss finances, and set up the Partnership Campaign.

5. New Board Members

Mark expressed with some concerns as John hasn't been able to consistently attend the meetings, so it would be great to have an extra member just to ensure we always have the number of board members available needed to make votes or decisions. Rev. Gil suggested we encourage people to join for a short period as a "trial" of like 4-6 months give people a chance to see if they would really like to join the board or not before officially being voted in. Doug suggested we invite members of the congregation visit the board meetings as "advisors" to allow them to see if they would like to join. We are going to look into the bylaws to see if there's a maximum amount of board members allowed.

a. Michael McPherson

Mark feels that Michael McPherson would be a really great candidate to add to the board, and strongly encourages that one of the board members reach out to him. Doug volunteered to reach out to Michael to see if he's interested in joining the board.

b. Sherry Noone has volunteered to be on the board. She has experience and enjoys being present actively in volunteer opportunities.

c. Practitioner

Mark wrote a letter of invitation to our practitioners from Rev. Gil and himself to encourage a prac to join the board. There is a practitioner meeting this upcoming Saturday which will be a good opportunity to follow up on the email/letter sent out.

6. Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, November 29

Benediction – Rev. Gil, Practitioner

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM