

Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living Board Meeting

Date: August 21, 2023

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Call to Order – Hana Dawson

Invocation – Greg Gardner, RScP

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 – Lou Cimalore, Bob & Jackie, Grace Woods

Approval of Minutes from July Board Meeting – Will postpone approval until September meeting as Tamara is out of town.

Discussion Items

1. Spiritual Director Report – Rev. Gil Olmstead

a. Update on camping and picnic

Liza Kerr led us in the camping trip in Pecos. A few people stayed for the overnight camping but about 10-14 people showed up for the Saturday afternoon picnic. We are gearing up for our Labor Day picnic, which should be a lot of fun.

b. Rev. Kamatara's Class

More than 12 people have signed up for Rev. Kamatara's class so far.

c. Strategic Vision Team

The team has had one meeting so far and they will bring some of their short-term visions to the second meeting to work these important ideas.

d. Office Administration – Nancy Bowers, RScP

Nancy is working hard to streamline and clean up processes in the office.

e. Community Retreat

The committee is excited to hold the community retreat for the center. The three ministers will be present and Susan Clark will be present for some music throughout the weekend.

f. Grant Plan

We are holding off on spending the Hefferlin grant money until we have a clearer understanding of where things stand with the center moving forward.

G. Sacred Celebration team

The practitioners have come up with an idea of creating a sacred celebration team to organize events such as weddings, celebrations of life, etc. With this they hope to bring in more revenue to support our center and support the community.

2. Financial Report – Mark Ayers

From August 1st through today, RGCSL has received \$18,000 in total donations. Mark would like to put this in the newsletter and make an announcement next Sunday to thank everyone for the support and encourage them to keep supporting the center as much as they can.

3. Mark Ayers – President

a. Letter to Landlord

Mark and Rev. Gil have been working on drafting a letter for the landlord for several months. They reviewed the letter and made edits with the present Board members and guests. The letter will be further reviewed with Rev. Martha and they will share the final draft before sending it out tomorrow.

Mark moved to tentatively approve the letter, pending a final read-through from the small committee tomorrow. It was seconded by Doug Bowe and approved with CCC.

b. Leadership for Partnership

Part of the strategic visions meeting will be appointing 3 working groups:

Group 1 will be working on the real estate business. Mark hopes this group will have 5-6 people, and that they will look at what things look like and how to maintain our current space. He also wants the group to look at options of when we move out of our current space and what options present. This group will be led by Mark Ayers. Bob is interested in helping with the retail group. Nancy Bowers will also be on this team.

Group 2 is the partnership/fundraising team, which will be led by Rev. Gil, which will develop and state what a partner is and what this truly means. Michael shared that he feels a voting membership is important, as he's read information from Dr. Simmons and would like this to be a part of Group 2's focus.

Group 3 will be to plan and support events, which will be led by Liza Kerr. A sign up fair will be hosted to find leadership and members to support and plan our holiday activities, such as Thanksgiving Dinner, Michelle's Giving Tree, etc. Grace will consider being a part of this team.

c. New Board Members

An invitation has been shared with the guests who attended today and we are making an invitation to congregants and members of the center. Doug Bowe and Hana Dawson will be stepping down from the board in the near future.

d. Personnel Committee

This group will be getting together with Rev. Gil regarding reflections over the last year,

and discussing his goals for the community and himself as spiritual leader for the next year. This committee will be available to support Rev. Gil for help when needed and will meet with him at least three times throughout the year.

4. Sherry Noone - Survey Update

Sherry is meeting with two members tomorrow, Susan Solari and Linda Garcia. They will define what a women's group is going to be and work on how to implement it and move forward with it. Drumming will be here again on Wednesday night. Sherry would like the drumming circles to be held every 6 weeks, in between our workshops. Sherry is also working on a meditation group, as this was highly requested in the survey.

The Congregation has approved Sherry Noone as the official RGCSL cheerleader.

5. Next Steps – Response to Town Hall

Mark said we have acted on some of the feedback from the Town Hall; the first step was writing the letter to the landlord. There will be a report from the board showing the actions we are taking, gratitude for the community's support and saying we still need support in these next few months.

7. Next Board Meeting – Monday, September 18, 2023 5:30 – 7:00

Benediction – Greg Gardner, RScP