

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

Date: September 18, 2023 **Time:** 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Board Members Present: Rev. Gil, Mark Ayers, Hana Dawson, Doug Bowe, Sherry Noone, Mike McPherson.

Guests: Greg Gardner, RScP

Call to Order – Mark Ayers

Invocation – Greg Gardner

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 Board Meeting – Postponed until October

Discussion Items

1. Spiritual Director Report – Rev. Gil Olmstead
 - a. RGCSL Retreat – There are 10 Registrations so far. We hope to get more people on board for the Retreat; we'd love to have as many people as possible.
 - b. Partners 2024 Campaign – Sherry and Rev. Gil are going to meet soon to kick off this process. They still need a few more people on board to get it scheduled and ready to go. Marilyn O'Leary will also help with organization.
 - c. Events Fair – This went really well; we have sign-ups for a lot of different volunteer slots. It was a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed the lightheartedness of the "fashion show". This will help carry us through the rest of the year with momentum. Liza Kerr got some people involved in leadership.
 - d. Fun Ministry – Liza Kerr kicked off two major events already, the picnic and the camping trip, which netted us \$127. It's great to see that we could make income for the center by having fun. Mike commented that the vibrations of momentum are coming through, and suggests having a refreshments bar to sell drinks and add some extra income. Rev. Gil mentioned that everyone shared a lot of gratitude that guests were treated well and that the refreshments were free.

- e. Announcements - Brian Kurtz is naming this team the "Connect and Radiate Ministry." He likes the idea of putting the word out and getting people to join us and connect everyone to what's going on with the center.
 - f. RGCSL Venue for Weddings and Funerals – The Sacred Celebration team came from a seed from Chris Duval and has blossomed into a team to look into utilizing our space better to not only bring in income, but also be a space to bring people in for community needs and sacredness. A celebration of life is scheduled for Saturday, October 30th. We are offering payment for all the staff that are there to help for these celebrations. This will bring in \$600 income for the center.
 - g. February 2024 Concert – no news yet.
2. Financial Report – Mark Ayers
- a. Update - Mark spoke with Nancy just before the meeting started. Nancy said about \$1000 in checks came in today. Last week Rev. Gil found some donations that were never counted from previous weeks, so this will be added into the total for this week's count. The current available balance is \$5100 for the month of September. Things seem to be moving in a healthy manner for income. The board will be presented with a counter letter to the landlord.
 - b. Postpone CSL Tithe until October - our intention is to begin our CSL tithe once more in October. Rev. Gil feels like we are doing incredibly well with income. He feels if we are really to focus on the intention of abundance, we need to do the same thing that we ask our community to do. We need to not just be in integrity with our word, but we really need to believe the power of our words and actions.
3. Board President Report – Mark Ayers
- a. Personnel Committee - Sherry, Marilyn O'Leary and Doug are all on this team. Rev. Gil is taking a well-deserved vacation starting Thursday through October 3rd. The Personnel Committee will meet to set goals for the community and Rev. Gil as our spiritual director. This much-needed goal has been in the background but the committee will move forward once Rev. Gil is back.
 - b. Annual Meeting - Rev. Gil will be online virtually for the Annual Meeting. Hana and Mark will put together an agenda and work together to facilitate the meeting. There should be some brief reports about Finances, sharing our financial wins, and gratitude for the support the community is sharing. The various ministries and groups will share achievements throughout the year with a PowerPoint slide show. Doug's, Tamara's and Hana's terms are up December 31st, and we will have an announcement to vote on our new board members in November. The Hefferlin grant needs to be highlighted as well.
 - c. Fundraising - We're looking at having a silent auction at the center at some point for fundraising.

4. Strategic Vision – Rev, Gil & Mark
 - a. Leadership – The Strategic Vision Team is going great. A second community visioning session was held a week ago, with 8 or 9 members were present for this, and it was a great time. Rev. Gil and Liza spent some time together bringing those visions to a more concrete vision and developing teams from that group to help with plans, such as the events team. The space team also was created from the visioning to look at our space and see how to best use this space to serve us. And the last group is the partnership group, which is working to get off the ground. Someone is coming up with a beautiful picture of how our vision looks and how to communicate this vision.

5. Vice President's Report: Hefferlin Grant Update – Hana Dawson
 - a. Update on Hefferlin Grant – We're waiting for updates on space and the landlord.
 - b. Tech team needs help – We have some new volunteers, Ben and Grace, who are willing to step in. Hana has been training Sue and Belinda in preparation for her being away in October for 2 weeks and they are both ready to go. She has begun utilizing Breeze to get the tech team on the calendar for volunteers to know when they will be up and to ensure the rest of the team for Sunday Celebrations will know who's on Tech.

6. RGCSL Communications & Marketing Report – None this month; Tamara is away this month in Greece.

7. Sherry Noone
 - a. Drumming Circle - The next Drumming circle will be after the conclusion of Rev. Kamatara's workshop. If Sherry can't be there next time, Brian Kurz will lead it.
 - b. Women's group – Last Thursday, the group had their first meeting. About 8 women were present, and they will meet every 2 weeks to continue to discuss the goals, activities, and promotion plan.

8. Letter for the Landlord – The landlord responded to our initial letter, stating we can start paying 50% rent effective October 1st. The landlord requested that they start showing the space to interested renters, and that they give us 30 days to vacate if they find a renter. The Space team has put together a letter (attached) with a counter offer. This will be finalized tomorrow morning and sent off to the landlord.

Hana moved to accept the second drafted letter from Bob Kermott, with the amended addition to requesting 120 days' notice instead of 30 days' notice from the landlord if they choose not to accept our current counter proposal. Sherry seconded the motion and the Board approved with Clarity, Consensus and Commitment.

9. Douglas Bowe: RGCSL Safety - Doug noticed a man carrying a firearm at Mark's son Celebration of Life at the Center. Doug mentioned this to Rev. Gil, and observed the

man did not seem aggressive or had the intention to harm. Doug does not have a plan in place, but wanted to share this observation for future events to take into consideration.

The back door to the sanctuary should always be unlocked while community members are present for events. The back doors in the storage room should also remain unlocked during events.

There should be a protocol in place where the soundboard can turn on a yellow light indicating that people should exit the building if an aggressive person with a firearm is present.

Doug has observed there is a security vehicle drives past the building and around the parking lot. He suggested that reaching out to them regarding having security around our building as well.

There was a discussion about ensuring that there are clauses in the events contracts to state no alcohol, drugs, or weapons to be brought on the premises.

A sub-committee was developed to craft language surrounding safety precautions for the center. The team will consist of Mike McPherson, Hana Dawson, and John Kirk, who will present a solution for the next Board meeting.

10. Next Board Meeting – October 16, 2023

Benediction – Greg Gardner

Meeting concluded at 4:30 p.m.