

# Steering Committee Call 6/10/17

11:06am

## Notes & Minutes

- Facilitator: Ari
- Note-Taker: Ealasaid
- Present: John, Ealasaid, Jenn, Starr, Nancy, Ari, Ryan

## Minutes

- Facilitator led everyone in aligning, connecting to Lux, and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
  - Ari: Temple & Tech stuff: wiki, pillar meeting, proposal
    - Did send email w/update to T&T pillar and mentioning the work E's been doing. Sent pretty recently and so hasn't heard back.
  - Jenn: Post general call for pillar participation, post about research projects, post about retreat
    - Did all the things, this morning. With help from Starr, who posted the link with all the retreat info.
  - Ryan: Teaching & Curriculum call for teachers (waiting on the general pillar call)
    - Unblocked now that Jenn posted things, will be sending it out shortly.
- Retreat Information
  - Update from Retreat Comm folks
    - Starr: posted on FB and in the News section on the Moodle. Includes all the info. Thorn got Solar Cross to donate to the travel fund - \$1000!!
    - Ari: no workshop proposals, everyone is welcome so please submit something!
  - Need to figure out how & when School status decision will be made - folks want it decided before retreat because it will affect their attendance.
    - Nancy: Has been part of other orgs going through change, we can't do the deciding. We need folks who want to be engaged.
    - Starr: surveys can be awful but it is still a good idea. Needs to be carefully worded. We need someone to volunteer who has skills to create the survey and look at it before it goes live. The info we're seeking isn't just what do people think they want, but what are they willing to do – measure participation, interest in training, etc.
    - Nancy: Willing to draft some. But we gotta get this going, we are running out of time.
    - Starr: we also need to include whether people will commit to paying. Folks just aren't paying.

- Nancy will draft the survey, Starr will draft a little financial statement for it. We will have those drafts by next Friday.
- Pillar Reports
  - Temple & Tech
    - Ari: stuff previously mentioned. One thing: we haven't explicitly decided what to do about the Astral Temple.
    - Ryan: it'd be good to get a sheet of all the students, mentors, etc. who studied what. Action item to collect data on the astral temple and on teaching/students.
    - Starr wants to do it.
  - Research & Alumni
    - No updates other than the previously mentioned stuff.
  - Teaching & Curriculum
    - Same here. Will finalize call for teachers and put it out.
  - Solar Cross/legal/non-profit status
    - Ryan: Someone was going to reach out to Thorn about this, someone's talking to her already? Not Ryan, someone else?
    - John: Sandra has been trying to contact but having no luck.
    - Ealasaid: is local, can do it.
- Any new business?
  - Already handled.
  - Nancy appreciates us accommodating her summer schedule change. :)
  - John has a list of people on Moodle/FB, will send it out.
- Go over everyone's action items for next time
  - Ari will update Tony about Friday's ritual with info from this meeting.
  - Nancy: Draft of survey by Friday (6/16)
  - Starr: Draft of financial statement for survey by Friday (6/16), massive info worksheet
  - Ealasaid: Meet with Thorn and Robert
  - Ryan: Publish call for teachers
- Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close 11:52.

## Notes in Full

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- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
  - Ari: Temple & Tech stuff: wiki, pillar meeting, proposal
    - Did send email w/update to T&T pillar and mentioning the work E's been doing. Sent pretty recently and so hasn't heard back.
  - Jenn: Post general call for pillar participation, post about research projects, post about retreat

- Did all the things, this morning. With help from Starr, who posted the link with all the retreat info.
  - Ari likes the bit about "if you think you'll do it badly, make Kala, run Iron and Pearl, then look at it again." :)
- Ryan: Teaching & Curriculum call for teachers (waiting on the general pillar call)
  - Unblocked now that Jenn posted things, will be sending it out shortly.
- Retreat Information
  - Update from Retreat Comm folks
    - Starr: posted on FB and in the News section on the Moodle. Includes all the info. Thorn got Solar Cross to donate to the travel fund - \$1000!! also some students are donating. Hasn't gotten any email about it yet, but hopefully everyone is paying attention.
    - Gonna get Thorn a retirement cake! It's a surprise, so shhh. :D
    - Ari: no workshop proposals, everyone is welcome so please submit something!
  - Need to figure out how & when School status decision will be made - folks want it decided before retreat because it will affect their attendance.
    - Starr: seems like people have said they still want to continue as we are. Teaching pillar has a lot of interest, students of school still into it, still want classes. So we're continuing! Yay! Need to make a statement as Steering and get it out soon.
    - Jenn: needs info about how we need folk to pitch in and help. Don't want to have meetings all day at the retreat, but we need people to be in SOME meetings.
    - Nancy: isn't as sure as the rest of us seem to be that folks want to go forward as things are. Her experience is that folks don't know what's happening and so are kind of holding to see what happens. Still things we should do some sort of a survey, to get indications of whether folks are committed to moving forward. The seven of us can't carry this forward, we need to be sure that we have commitment. Some folks just want a fraternal order. We need to take the temperature of the school, not just go with what we who spend all this time talking to teach other think.
    - Ari: would love to hear ideas on how to communicate things better
    - Nancy: Has been part of other orgs going through change, we can't do the deciding. We need folks who want to be engaged. Look at how few people are coming to monthly chats, how few people are active on Moodle. Nancy is committed to the future, and the rest of us seem to be also, but that's not the same.
    - Ryan: what have heard on things like the first call after Thorn's announcement, heard a lot more "not sure this can go on" kind of comments. Heard that from a few people on the call. Sees what Nancy is saying about not being sure if there's a mandate to move forward. Some of the decisions don't necessarily close off

others. We can for now, for instance, take the shut down the school option off the table, and take "let's stop teaching" off the table. Make it more of a question of "do we want more of a trad/fraternal order" but these ideas will still have a teaching component to them.

- Starr: surveys can be awful but it is still a good idea. Needs to be carefully worded. We need someone to volunteer who has skills to create the survey and look at it before it goes live. The info we're seeking isn't just what do people think they want, but what are they willing to do – measure participation, interest in training, etc. It's very human for people to want something and also not be willing/able to support it. We need to be super clear on the questions and on what our criteria are. How many people are enough? It's important for us to know what the rubric is – we are the people most likely to be resentful and burned out if people don't participate.
- John: Isn't that partly what we were hoping to get from the smaller group calls?
- General assent – but it didn't come together beyond the one call.
- Nancy: seems like we are done talking. We're at a point where we want to ascertain commitment and possibility. Hates surveys, but it's the best tool we have at this point. Willing to draft some. But we gotta get this going, we are running out of time. If we're the only seven that answer the survey, that gives us further information. Starr's right, we are the ones who have to make the hard decision.
- Starr: we also need to include whether people will commit to paying. Folks just aren't paying. If everybody were paying in, we wouldn't have to charge for the retreat!
- Ealasaid: I mean to but there's no recurring payment option, and I forget.
- John: how will payments work going forward? Right now they go to solar cross
- Ryan: if we can get Paypal set up with recurring payments it'll be a huge help. In another org, getting recurring payments set up untangled a ton of stuff. We also need to know where the money will go. Right now Solar Cross is the only entity that has bank accounts. We need to rely on them or they need to hand things over.
- Starr: before we get into it, we need to get an idea of whether people are interested. People will want to know where the money goes. Presumably it'd go to Moodle, web and zoom hosting, etc. Also into a retreat fund.
- Nancy will draft the survey, Starr will draft a little financial statement for it. We will have those drafts by next Friday.
- Ryan: if we could have our monthly dues pay for the annual retreat, that would be seriously awesome. The amount of commitment for that might be easier than trying to solicit individually for scholarships.
- Starr: if we have 20 people paying \$30/mo, that's over \$8k/yr. That will totally cover all those things.

- John: worries about people in Europe, will they want to subsidize the retreat?
  - Ealasaid: depending on how many people and the cost, we might be able to pay to bring them over. :D
  - Starr: this feels like we're getting momentum
  - Ari: this feels more like momentum, like we're getting a vision.
  - General assent.
- Pillar Reports
  - Temple & Tech
    - Ari: stuff previously mentioned. One thing: we haven't explicitly decided what to do about the Astral Temple. Feels like it will go with whatever form we move forward with
    - John: if we don't have a Temple we can't call ourselves a mystery school.
    - General laughter and assent.
    - Ryan: Thorn selected people to anchor the temple and anchor the Merkebah. Not sure who that was and whether they're still around. Something about this can be part of the cording ritual.
    - Ealasaid: thinks a bunch of us are still around. Is a Temple anchor.
    - Starr: has an interest in figuring out all this information and gathering it into a big spreadsheet. Did that with the cord requests, for example. It seems weird to me that we don't have this.
    - Ari: loves the idea of an astral spreadsheet
    - General laughter.
    - Ryan: it'd be good to get a sheet of all the students, mentors, etc. who studied what. Action item to collect data on the astral temple and on teaching/students.
    - Ealasaid: who will do it?
    - Starr wants to do it.
    - Ari can also write to retreat committee about all this
    - Sidetrack about wiki/internal website/etc.
  - Research & Alumni
    - No updates other than the previously mentioned stuff.
  - Teaching & Curriculum
    - Same here. Will finalize call for teachers and put it out.
  - Solar Cross/legal/non-profit status
    - Ryan: Someone was going to reach out to Thorn about this, someone's talking to her already? Not Ryan, someone else?
    - John: Sandra has been trying to contact but having no luck.
    - Ealasaid: is local, can do it.
    - Starr: maybe an in-person contact for that would be good.
    - Ryan: let's chat offline about this make sure we get all the info we need covered in that. :)
- Any new business?

- Already handled.
- Nancy appreciates us accommodating her summer schedule change. :)
- John has a list of people on Moodle/FB, will send it out.
- Go over everyone's action items for next time
  - Ari will update Tony about Friday's ritual with info from this meeting.
    - Some discussion about that ritual
      - Social and spiritual bonding on Saturday is on the retreat comm's agenda
    - Nancy: wants to observe that we've made some decisions – not a critique, just wants to observe that the retreat comm are planning as though we are continuing. With her consultant hat on, wants to know if we have enough people to actually continue. Retreat comm will need to be ready if the decision goes toward ending.
    - Starr: retreat comm is planning as though we're continuing on purpose, that's because if we plan it as the last retreat, it will be. Can change gears if this is going to be the last retreat.
    - Nancy: It looks like we (steering) have decided that unless something “catastrophic” happens, we're moving forward, but we're still talking as though the decision hasn't been made. Just wants to call us to account for that.
    - Ryan: we haven't made any decision that can't be undone. If we do the survey and find out that most of the school wants us to close, we can redo the retreat plans to be essentially a good-bye party. Like Starr says, we have to assume we're going forward so we're ready to do so. It'll be easier to make a last minute decision to shut down than to make a last-minute decision to continue. We're not committing.
    - Nancy: hears us making intentions, wants to affirm those, just wants us to be aware and open.
    - John: we as a group are making decisions, but we can't make decisions for anybody else.
    - General assent.
- Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close 11:52.