

Steering Committee Call 6/10/17

11:06am

Minutes

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

- Facilitator led everyone in aligning, connecting to Lux, and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Nancy – survey
 - Got 10 replies
 - Total cash they're willing to pay per month = \$240
 - Nancy: Has worked with lots of orgs, this is a decision where we should suggest a direction. Deciding to change is extremely painful. The burden of suggesting change is on our shoulders.
 - Nancy will keep gathering survey responses.
 - Starr: this is what she's good at, it's what she does. Will work with retreat committee on timing, etc.
 - Starr - information spreadsheet
 - Starr: Has some info from people's responses plus info from last retreat, will have cord materials ready to go; will kick off the rest of the other info gathering at the retreat. Will have people do it in person. Needs to follow up with Teaching Pillar, needs to get the classes described accurately.
 - John: would like a summary of the retreat presentation before the retreat
 - Starr will be really busy between now and retreat but will get something out to steering.
 - Ealasaid - Solar Cross info from meeting w/Thorn and Robert
 - Short version: Solar Cross is continuing. They are happy for us to have our own account. Someone needs to talk to Robert about it, got his contact info.
 - New address for payments: 5226 SE 67th Avenue, Portland, OR 97206
 - Thorn is working on a new SC site, would like one Mstar person to coordinate with – thorncoyle@gmail.com
 - Robert: rrussell23@gmail.com
 - Thorn is okay with us keeping the Morningstar name, as long as it's really clear she's not teaching/involved.

- Starr: the \$1k of SC money is ours even if we don't use it all. We need to appoint/select someone to do the money, we need to add that to the presentation at the retreat. Having someone track finances is really important. The body of the school should elect the financial officer for a particular term, we gotta make sure we do it right.
 - Ealasaid: will post address info in News, then also post announcements about it in other forums, Facebook, etc.
 - Starr: treasurer should be elected and serve on steering and give quarterly presentations so there's accountability. Really good people can make really bad decisions about money.
 - Starr: hierarchy is inevitable, it's either hidden or open. We don't want the covert kind, open hierarchy is the only way to be healthy going forward.
 - Nancy: we need accountability and protection. SC is currently responsible for us; if we have to form our own thing, we become responsible for it all.
- Ryan - call for teachers
 - has been super busy with other nonprofit that's having trouble. The call for pillar participation did go out, will get teaching call out soon. Also wants to make sure Tony's recent proposal around advanced work keeps moving forward.
- Pillar Reports -
 - Research and Alumni – nothing else
 - Teaching and Curriculum – nothing else
 - Temple and Tech
 - All info from last time to pillar, E connected re: web stuff from last time, trying to set up a regular meeting.
- Any new business?
 - Nancy: be sure to sign up to help fix meals! There will be a chart at the retreat.
- Go over everyone's action items for next time
 - Starr: presentation, get something to Steering about it before the retreat
 - Ealasaid: address posting.
 - John: until we get the Steering site up, let's post minutes on Moodle.
 - Starr: let's approve the previous meeting's minutes at the next meeting, then post the approved minutes. Let's be honest, we're not going to reply to the email.
- Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close

Full Notes

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

Minutes

- Facilitator led everyone in aligning, connecting to Lux, and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Nancy – survey
 - Got 10 replies, which is indicative of the level of energy. Some people who got them haven't responded.
 - Should we post and then discuss at retreat? Just discuss at retreat?
 - The new people, percentage-wise, responded better than long-time members. 6 out of 10 are new. They really want to finish their training.
 - Doneby suggested keeping it simple and doing the simple thing well
 - Nikolai wondering if it's worth the effort
 - Total cash they're willing to pay per month = \$240
 - Most people who said they're committed said they're willing to pay \$35/mo.
 - Ryan hates surveys and so hasn't done his yet
 - Ari hasn't either
 - A bunch of people on steering haven't done theirs.
 - Closing down only got two points of interest
 - Ealasaid: a bunch of people on Steering haven't done theirs.
 - Ari: people4 have said they don't want to spend the whole retreat discussing this. It would be good to decide going in.
 - Nancy: seems like it'd be good to go into the retreat with two options: stay as we are, or split into two (fraternal & teaching) organizations. We can be faithful to the not-wanting-to-spend-all0retreat-discussing by showing with two options
 - John: wasn't Steering originally intended to be a guiding org, not a deciding org.
 - Starr: experience in other orgs is that steering makes big decisions, leaves nitty-gritty to the subcommittees. This is the kind of thing Steering decides.
 - Nancy: agrees. Has worked with lots of orgs, this is a decision where we should suggest a direction. Deciding to change is extremely painful. The burden of suggesting change is on our shoulders. If we come to retreat with suggestions and there's a big hue and cry, that's a thing. But we have a few needs to meet: helping the people still studying to finish their coursework is important. Other need expressed: support and connection. A lot of people feel we have a lot to offer but aren't saying they want to teach.
 - Jenn: not comfortable deciding before the retreat, likes the suggestion/option idea.
 - Nancy will keep gathering survey responses. But just isn't sure we have the energy to support ourselves where we are.

- Jenn: sees where Nancy is coming from. Also thinks that the indecision is part of the low energy. People who haven't answered survey may not know what they want. We've been in a transitional space for a long time, and that's part of the low energy.
- Starr: Nancy's right, we need to present two options and give 90min to it. Need to discuss what we need in order to do each option. We don't have a lot of info because of Solar Cross having all the money. We need to be really clear about what we will need. Nobody wants to put energy into something that's going to flounder. This work has to be out in the world, this liberation work. Can't imagine something moving forward where we aren't putting material out there. Teaching pillar has been really active doing the analysis of what has been done and what is possible. Some of what feels like low energy is that being a mystery school we haven't seen the product of a lot of people's work. Once we have action people will step up. The in person classes and stuff will bring a breath in. Don't need to spend the whole retreat talking about it. Need a succinct presentation of the two options and have people think about it and give their final answers before they leave on Sunday.
- Ryan: There's 2:1 support in favor of continuing as we are, it makes sense to make a decision. We've heard from the community and they're overwhelmingly in favor of continuing and we haven't seen much evidence otherwise. We haven't heard an overwhelming desire to change, rather it's to stay the way we are. Maybe that's just what we should be doing.
- Nancy: Agrees. Of the people we've heard from (sent out 41 total; only heard back from 10 and not all the responses are actively pro-continuing) if she gets another 10, say, can 25ish of us be enough to go forward? Thinks we can, but we'll have to reorganize. We need to have someone start drafting a budget, etc. if 20 of us want to be an org, how much will it cost and how will we support it?
- John: how many coming to retreat? 15 or 16? The most we've ever had at retreat since maybe the first one.
- Ealasaid: we should pick someone (or two people) to give a presentation at the retreat before we move on
- John: why not just present option 1 since so many people want it? Just present it and see how people react.
- Ryan: continuing as-is closes off the fewest future options. We can always spin off teaching later. If we continue as we are the only real change is no Thorn, and that's how we've been operating for a while anyway. Concerned about where we are at with the survey around people wanting to join pillars. Is this motivating people to step up? We can put out that call at the retreat itself too, try to get more people.
- Nancy: that's on the survey.

- Starr: willing to work with someone on the presentation(s) at the retreat. There are generational, class, age differences in how we connect, and we need to figure out how to get those to work together. There are conversations we need to have, we aren't all the same – East Coast vs. Midwest vs. South, for example. People say they're willing to check in, but what format do they actually want to do it in? If we don't have relation with each other, we don't have a school. We can talk about this and figure out what's best. The way things have always been done doesn't mean we have to do the same things going forward. Low participation in Moodle may speak to a connection style issue, etc. Just because things are important to you doesn't mean they make it to the top of your to-do list. We need to keep an eye on how we are a community together even though we're in different parts of the world
- Ari: Tony talked about learning styles, people are different. Ari finds written checkins useful but difficult to write.
- Ryan: also reluctant around written checkins. Does the astral work but also reluctant to check in around it. A nonprofit he's involved in just had the shit hit the fan, it's that time of year. Really wants to get more in-person teaching going, it works better for him.
- Jenn: yes, the people who have been around a long time started with in-person meeting. We transitioned to online but only because that's the shift that happened. Lots of folks aren't wired for online participation. Starr, will you do the retreat presentation?
- Starr: this is what she's good at, it's what she does. Will work with retreat committee on timing, etc.
- Starr - information spreadsheet
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 - John: would like a summary of the retreat presentation before the retreat?
 - Starr will be really busy between now and retreat but will get something out to steering.
 - [misc retreat stuff – need to have committee meeting.]
- Ealasaid - Solar Cross info from meeting w/Thorn and Robert
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- Ari: Mention of website reminded her – Thorn is happy to put stuff in SC monthly newsletter if we send it to her.
- John: how will we get info about the checks addy out to people?
- Ealasaid: will post in News, then also post announcements about it in other forums, Facebook, etc.
- Ryan: how can we see to it that all the paypal money goes into new account? We need to get info on who's sending checks, paypal, etc so we can send reminders. Monthly subscriptions via paypal are doable.
- [some discussion around Thorn's work and her name and the school]
- Ari: wants our individual work to inform the school too
- Starr: treasurer should be elected and serve on steering and give quarterly presentations so there's accountability. Really good people can make really bad decisions about money.
- Ryan: has anybody indicated interest in that? Or will people want to stay away from it.
- Starr: nobody knows it's a thing yet, we'll talk about it at the retreat. Some people will be like hell no not me, but other people it'll be a good way for them to serve.
- John: some concern around hierarchy
- Nancy: some hierarchy is necessary; Steering is hierarchical even though we try hard to listen to other people.
- Starr: also there are legal issues around money. We have to have everything in place and agreed to, to make sure responsibilities are handled. Reminded of something she learned at Diana's grove – hierarchy is inevitable, it's either hidden or open. We don't want the covert kind, open hierarchy is the only way to be healthy going forward.
- Nancy: we need accountability and protection. SC is currently responsible for us; if we have to form our own thing, we become responsible for it all.
- Starr: was once on a board of an org where decisions were being made by the president was making illegal decisions without knowing it, put the board at risk. Someone can make a well-meaning mistake by failing to do their due diligence.
- Ryan: Diana's Grove has good stuff around this – hierarchy doesn't necessary create lowerarchy; hierarchy of responsibility rather than power. Boards often

have insurance policies and stuff, since SC will continue to exist, things roll up to them. We just have to be careful around all of this.

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- Retreat business
- Any new business?
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 - [general agreement]
- Facilitator leads breathing and prayer to close