

Morningstar Mystery School

Board of Directors

April 2024 Meeting

Minutes

4/13/24

Present: Jenn, Laura, Sandra, Ealasaid

Facilitator: Sandra

Called to Order at: 10:06am

- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together and reciting the Holy Mother prayer, inviting Lux
- Brief checkin
- Approve minutes from previous meeting
 - Unanimous, no changes
- Pillar and other standing reports
 - Teaching & Curriculum Pillar (Breven)
 - Not a lot on their plate. Talking about some workshop ideas, some people are interested in planning some workshops but nothing developed yet. Something around the body.
 - Elements class still going strong
 - Nothing else planned right now
 - Laura: board sent email to teaching pillar about financial compensation for teachers a while back, what's up with that?
 - Sandra: No hard deadline, asked for feedback around amounts and how the pillar would like it presented – like, a block of money for the pillar to spend, or board to manage amounts sent to teachers. Got response from Lyssa that they would get back to us. Has teaching pillar had time to discuss?
 - Breven: will check with Lyssa, doesn't see the email but will get it sorted.
 - Laura: can check email forwarding if Breven didn't get it
 - Sandra: who are the current members?
 - Breven: Lyssa, Cedar, Breven.
 - Sandra: we're preparing for the annual membership meeting, will Teaching Pillar be able to present a report in two weeks at that meeting?
 - Breven: will be there, so yes.
 - Sandra: Any classes this year besides Elements? From Nov 2022-Oct 2023?

- Breven: There was another, he thinks? Has a list, will find it. Thinks Demon Work fits in that timeline, and there were some workshops. Will check and send it over to us.
- Research & Alumni Pillar (Jenn)
 - Nothing much to report, she is the only person in the Pillar.
- Temple & Tech Pillar (Laura)
 - Had meeting last week, made sure nothing was getting dropped
 - Got Ealasaid set up with socials
- Retreat Committee (Jenn)
 - Has a lot! Spreadsheet with budget done, list of potential places to rent.
 - Has looked at a few places depends on how many people sign up.
 - Estimated average per person cost at \$307/person (food included), \$2150 total. Proposing people pay a deposit when registering and then we'll calculate how much to charge beyond that, and school can cover part as well.
 - Laura: Likes idea of a deposit. Retreats are also a way to re-seed the school, it benefits the school for us to have them, so likes the idea of the school covering part of it.
 - Sandra: we can tell people the school is investing because this is our first post-2020 retreat. Or! We can say the school is recognizing the retreat is important and should be a line item in the budget, and here's how much we can put in going forward.
 - Laura: we could say this year is kind of a pilot program, don't necessarily have to say so, but we can look at it when we get to this point next year. Framing matters, but we don't have to say this is only one time or this will be the new way. We can say we're doing it this time?
 - Sandra: hard to foresee what next year will be like.
 - Laura: the framing of "this is what we can do this time"
 - Sandra: what we can do right now for one year is very different from what we can do right now and also likely do next year. Not saying we'll make a policy but we need to decide if we want to look at a sustainable amount or just a one time (which could be much larger)
 - Jenn: proposing school cover about \$1k
 - Sandra: that's more realistic, yeah. We have about \$3k/year surplus, so this might come down to a budget thing we need to figure out. We have to cover insurance and don't have that yet. Thinking about what to say at the all school meeting in two weeks.
 - Laura: comfortable saying "this is what we're doing this time" and then we can figure it out.
 - Jenn: can I post a registration with a \$50 deposit?
 - Unanimous! Big thanks to Jenn for putting in the info gathering effort!

- Sandra: thought - is the food budget based on the last retreat? Food prices have gone way up
- Jenn: knows food prices are different on the West coast so not sure if \$50/person is enough
- Laura: we can make plans to reuse leftovers, buying whole food ingredients. Thinks it could be close, especially if we have someone with a Costco membership (Ealasaid has one)
- Discussion around allergies and food needs, we have a ton of special dietary needs.
- Laura froze, then dropped. Back via hotspot
- Jenn will post this weekend!
- IRS/Business Stuff (Sandra)
 - After a lot of back and forth, NIH is the org she found. We can get D&O through them for \$600/year if we also get general liability insurance for \$600/year for \$1million general liability plus D&O coverage. OK to move forward?
 - General assent.
- Registrar (Jenn)
 - Looked at who's been active, everybody's posted in the last year except Sarah.
 - Sandra: we reached out a while back, she wanted to think about it and get back to us but never did. Maybe we send a message like, "we haven't heard from you, we'll take you off the rolls, but you can rejoin any time."
 - Laura: maybe we should say something more concrete around what makes one an active member, like "do this" within this time period
 - Sandra: conscious that our membership totals affect how many people we need at that meeting. Wants to remove anybody we can before the meeting. Fine with emailing Sarah "we're removing you, if you want back in just let us know"
 - General assent.
 - Jenn will write the email. Draft and send to board? Or just draft and send?
 - Laura: in the interest of being transparent, we should see it? Have it recorded?
 - Sandra: CC the board on the email?
 - Yes.
 - Sandra: as the registrar, it's good to have Jenn do it, so thank you.
 - Jenn: There are a few people who have been on the boards but not posting. Ryan and Ari have logged in but haven't participating. This is kind of its own issue to talk about.
 - Laura: we should probably check, thinks it's framed as participating on the forum, which would include posting. We reached out to Ryan a year or two ago and he wanted to stay. So maybe we need clarification of, do you want to stay and then if so what we want.
 - Sandra: have Ryan and Ari been at the social hours?
 - E: Not recently.

- Laura: but if someone is just coming to the social hour, there's no magical component, does that count as participating? Feels like showing up there but nowhere else is kind of separate/different
- Sandra: this might go with the agenda for the membership meeting, based it on the board's agenda.
 - Split participation:
 - ★ Volunteers – pillars, board, etc, facilitators for chats, temple openings, temple maintainers
 - ★ Attendance at regular events – all school chat, doing the new moon work, going to social hour
 - ★ Forum participation
 - Who even are the maintainers? Not much clarity there, the email list for maintainers is utterly silent.
 - Laura: if Ryan is a maintainer but isn't doing anything else, how does that fit in?
 - Sandra: we haven't been clear about what member expectations are, and haven't enforced them. Part of meeting, would like to come together and agree upon what our commitments to the school are. Personally would like to recommit/clean up what participation she does.
 - Laura: can we put it as an agenda item for a future meeting that once we figure out those agreements we address roles like temple maintainer and other things based on participation? Like revisit it after we make agreements as a school.
 - General assent.
 - Sandra: concerned around maintainers for a while. Glad we're looking at it.
 - Laura: Are we recording the meeting?
 - Sandra: good idea
 - Laura: if we record meeting to the cloud, she can download it and put it on our private YouTube as a link-only video for everybody.
 - Discussion getting Agenda for membership meeting done
- Treasurer – via email
- Updates on action items from the previous meeting
 - Everybody
 - Think about what our expectations are for the membership.
 - Ealasaid
 - Socials - done
 - Sandra
 - Post all school chat announcement – done
 - Follow up with John re: sending bylaws in – not yet
 - Get reply email from teaching pillar – not yet
 - D&O Insurance - talk with broker - done

- Jenn
 - Check that registrar list has updated payment info – not yet
 - Check which members have been posting to the forum - done
- New Business
- Action Items
 - Ealasaid
 - Add Temple maintainers and other offices review to next month Board agenda
 - Sandra
 - Follow up with John re: sending bylaws in
 - Get reply email from teaching pillar
 - Set up D&O
 - Jenn
 - Check that registrar list has updated payment info
- Confirm next month's call – May 11
- Facilitator leads everyone in taking a breath together, thanking Lux, and reciting the Holy Mother prayer.