

**Center for Spiritual Living  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 21st, 2023  
7:00 pm – 9:00pm  
CSL and Zoom**

***Our Mission** is to be an open, expanding, and welcoming community that learns, lives, and shares spiritual principles.*

***Our Purpose** is to reveal our wholeness and connection with all that is.*

***Our Vision** is to live as Love in a world of Love.*

Present: Rev. David Robinson, Buffie Finkel, RScP, Angelina O'Connor, Laura Farris, Teri Echterling, Marlisa Johnson (ex-officio)  
Practitioner: None  
Absent: None  
Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

The meeting, held on Zoom and in-person, was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Buffie Finkel

Rev. David gave the opening prayer.

Teri read from Jill Bolte Taylor's "Whole Brain Living."

A roundtable check-in followed, answering the question, "How have I been applying and living our Mission, Purpose & Vision Statement?"

## **Election of Officers**

Beth Thompson, Secretary, called for the nominations for Core Council President.

Laura Farris nominated Teri Echterling for the office of President.

No other nominations were brought forward.

Council unanimously voted for Teri Echterling to assume the office of Core Council President.

Teri Echterling, President, called for nominations for Core Council Vice-President.

Angelina nominated Beth Thompson for the office of Vice-President.

Beth Thompson declined the nomination.

Rev David Robinson nominated Laura Farris for the office of Vice-President.

No other nominations were brought forward.

Council unanimously voted for Laura Farris to assume the office of Core Council Vice-President.

Teri Echterling, President, called for nominations for Core Council Treasurer.

Rev. David Robinson nominated Buffie Finkel for the office of Treasurer.

No other nominations were brought forward.

Council unanimously voted for Buffie Finkel to assume the office of Core Council Treasurer.

Teri Echterling, President, called for nominations for Core Council Secretary. Buffie Finkel nominated Beth Thompson for the office of Secretary. No other nominations were brought forward. The council unanimously voted for Beth Thompson to assume the office of Core Council Secretary.

Angelina O'Connor will be a member-at-large on the Core Council.

Kathy Gillam has expressed interest in joining the Core Council as a member-at-large in about two months.

Elections for the 2023-2024 Core Council are concluded.

Record of the election will be prepared by Tiffany Merkel, CSL Olympia Administrative Assistant.

Council members will arrange a time to go to the bank to add Teri Echterling as a signer on the bank account. Rev. David, Buffie Finkel, Treasurer, and Teri Echterling, President, are the officers of the Core Council that have power to sign checks for CSL Olympia.

## **Consent Agenda**

### ***Approval of Minutes***

Buffie made the motion to approve the minutes as they have been amended. Rev. David seconded the motion. The council voted to approve the minutes as amended. Angelina abstained from the vote because she did not attend the meeting. [OBJ]

### ***Approval of Financials***

### ***David & Treasurer***

The February financial report was reviewed. Some additional background was given to provide context for the new member of council.

The TD Ameritrade Investment account Increased by just over \$7,800 this month and is currently \$91,214.

Pledged income is 104% and non-pledged donation income is 117% of the budgeted amount.

Discussion of staff raises: Laura raised the question about staff raises for this year. After June 30<sup>th</sup>, Rev David, Buffie, and Marlisa will review the budget. The budget is reviewed and adjusted, if necessary, at mid-year. Raises will be discussed more after the mid-year review.

A question was raised about line item #36178 for the video team under social events. Marlisa changed the line-item number to fall into the correct category and the previous line-item number was not deleted.

The expense for the Vista conference tickets (except for Rev. David's conference expenses) should be in the Education category. These were available for practitioners and Council members.

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia		2/28/2023
February Net Income from Operations	Year to Date Net Income from Operations	Ameritrade Investment Value
\$3,123	-\$557	\$91,214

Buffie addressed that there is no money budgeted for the June 10<sup>th</sup> Open House. The Finance committee recommends that the savings account be used to pay for the Open House. The Open House Committee will develop plans for what the event will entail and develop a budget to take to the Finance committee.

Rev David made the motion to approve the February Financial report. Buffie seconded the motion. The council voted to approve the February financial report.

A suggestion was made by both Marlisa and Rev. David to have an audit of the Center's financials. This was tabled due to the full agenda and will be brought up later and put on the agenda.

## **Resource Report (People & Money) [OBJ]**

### ***Finance Committee Recommendation***

The Finance Committee has made a recommendation to the Core Council:

*The Finance Committee (with Denny abstaining) recommends to Core Council to reimburse the landlords for 100% of the cost to repair the mud hole off the end of the parking lot, up to a maximum of \$4,500 which will be verified by the repair invoice, and direct that Marlisa make payment to the landlords of that amount.*

Following discussion, Rev David made the motion to approve the Financial Committee recommendation reimburse the landlords for 100% of the cost to repair the mud hole off the end of the parking lot, which cost \$4,053.75, and direct that Marlisa make payment to the landlords of that amount. Laura seconded the motion. The council voted to approve the Finance Committee recommendation. Buffie abstained from the vote. This money will come from our savings account.

ACTION ITEM - Schedule "Update officers" at banks. Tiffany will provide a record of the election

***Sabbatical update***

***Teri/all***

The Sabbatical calendar has been updated and names are attached to the duties for each week. The council should review the completed version of the calendar.

Marlisa Left the meeting. [OBJ]

## **Mobilizing Our Mission**

### ***Membership process update***

***Angelina***

Angelina is updating the membership brochure.

Angelina would like the process and requirements for membership to be really clear.

Angelina asked about the status of the proposal brought forward to the Council by Caroline Fenn regarding asking people to volunteer. To change this would require a change in the bylaws. Buffie read Bylaws Section 6.1 - A member must have a volunteer or service agreement.

Buffie explained the process for changing the bylaws. A special meeting must be called. Three weeks advance notice must be given. The change in the bylaws is voted on by the membership of the CSL Center. This process cannot be done in tandem with the regular Community meeting.

The change would be to remove the volunteer service as a requirement and to encourage a volunteering consciousness. Volunteering is a way to support the Center, and it is also how people become acquainted and feel like a part of the CSL Community.

What are the ways to support current members?

(Member care) birthday cards, and recreational activities. Rev. David will check with Barbara if physical birthday cards are still sent out. Rev David sends Ecards. Anne Aubuchon has created a list of possible activities for members. More discussion is needed on this topic, and it will be revisited. There is a Parking Lot item that addresses some of this.

### ***Rental packet update***

***Buffie***

Buffie made changes based on the feedback provided at the last Council meeting.

A designated smoking space at the appropriate legal distance from the entrance will need to be created outside to accommodate facility rentals.

A simple alcohol rule was put into the rental agreement. Discussion of host liability. Tiffany pulled up the WA Liquor and Cannabis Control Board's information on permits for banquets and special occasion permits.

The ending time of the event will be at 11:00pm to accommodate the staff walk through of the building and closing the facility. Discussion of how this can be stated in the rental agreement

Discussion about if political events can rent the facility. It is believed rental of the facility is allowable, but CSL Olympia cannot promote specific candidates. Laura will look at the 501c3 requirements.

Buffie and Tiffany will continue to work on the rental packet. Tiffany will research conditions that require a licensed alcohol server.

### ***Easter plans at CSL Olympia***

No plans for any events have been made for Easter Sunday. Adrienne might have something for the youth.

### ***NOC & Holistic Fair updates***

***David/Teri & Tiffany***

Nourishing Our Community

There are eight events scheduled. Bidding will continue until April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00 pm.

Holistic Fair

A meeting is planned for after service on March 26<sup>th</sup> to get people interested in working on the project and get ideas.

Teri and Tiffany met and outlined some of the larger questions that would need to be answered and listed teams that would need to be formed for the event to take place.

Location pros and cons for having the event at the Center were discussed. The Council expressed the desire for the event to take place at the Center.

Parking options were discussed such as renting a shuttle bus. Having vendors unpack and set-up then move cars to the Head Start center a mile away. Sequoia would be the overflow parking for attendees. Other locations such as schools and businesses further away could be contacted to see if parking would be available to us for this event.

### ***Thurston's Hunger Walk***

***Buffie***

Interfaith Works has contacted us to see if we want to sponsor a team for the Thurston Hunger Walk. The Event is May 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. The funds raised stay in Thurston County.

CSL Olympia has an event on the same day. There is a workshop after the Sunday service with an animal intuitive.

### **Decisions to be Made**

#### ***Donation box -language***

***Buffie***

Buffie brought the donation box she created and asked Council what the box should have written on it. Discussion on the language on the box. It was agreed that the language that Buffie had on the box was appropriate. The box will be located on the cabinet close to the book corner.

### **Council Learning Opportunity**

none

### **Calendar review**

3/27 Practitioner Meeting

4/9 Easter

4/10 – 5/19 – Rev. David Sabbatical

### **Parking Lot**

Connecting Pledgers event

Legacy Circle, Benevolence Fund

Policy & Procedure changes/updates

Include an employee handbook

Retirement plan

How to store name badges for the people to use on Sundays (added to the Parking lot tonight)

**Next meeting Tuesday, April 4, 2023, from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm**

Rev. David gave the closing prayer.

Teri adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Merkel, Scribe