

**Center for Spiritual Living
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
6:30pm – 8:30pm
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, Laura Farris, Teri Echterling, Beth Thompson, Angelina O'Connor, Kathy Gilliam
Practitioner: None
Absent: None
Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

After the last meeting there was an email vote and the Council unanimously agreed to appoint Kathy Gilliam, to fill the other member-at-large position on council.

The meeting, held on Zoom and in-person, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Teri Echterling.

An opening prayer was given by Rev David.

Kathy Gilliam recited an original piece that she wrote.

The order of readings for the 2023-2024 council will be:
Buffie, Rev. David, Laura, Beth, Kathy, Teri, Angelina

The Council Welcomed Kathy Gilliam.

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

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Buffie motioned to approve the March 21, 2023 minutes as amended in version2. Beth seconded the motion, and it was carried by the council. Kathy abstained as she was not present at that meeting.

Resource Report (People & Money)

Updated officers at bank

David/Teri

The officers have been updated at the bank. People that are able to sign checks are the Treasurer - Buffie Finkel, President - Teri Echterling, and Rev. David.

Membership process update

Angelina

Angelina presented the brochures she has updated.

Angelina's goal is to make the membership process easy to understand.

Requirements for membership:

1. Foundation level class: How often is this held?

A foundation class will be offered twice a year.

Rev David will be starting the Rap with the Rev. after he returns from sabbatical. This is an opportunity for people to learn more about SOM and CSL Olympia in a casual environment. These are about one hour long.

2. Pledge

Marlisa will be the contact for pledges. Marlisa also has the class information. Angelina will connect with Marlisa for current lists and to see if prospective members have committed to a pledge and taken a class

3. Volunteer Service requirement: This is a topic on the agenda and will be discussed later.

New members be introduced at the Sunday service the same weeks there are community meetings.

As people start signing up for the eNews/monthly newsletter, they will be put on a 4-week drip email list. Tiffany has a few names already to put on the list.

Name tags: Name tags will be made for people as they start coming regularly. There is a sign-up sheet to get a name tag by the front door which will be moved to the table under the bulletin board.

Gift bags are given to new attendees, containing a brochure and an old copy of the monthly SOM magazine. CSL Seattle has a lovely brochure.

Angelina went over the documents that she has been working on. There are red edits on the electronic copies that Angelina emailed to the Council. The Council provided feedback.

Discussion of the membership agreement. Once the membership agreement is filled-out it can be placed in the offering basket on Sundays or in the pledge box.

Angelina will make edits and send the documents out to the council for review again.

Kathy brought up the open house on June 10th and suggested we invite and encourage people that have attended in the past but haven't attended recently.

Closers for busy days

Buffie

We need people that will be designated closers after busy days such as when we have events that run later in the afternoon on Sunday after service (community meetings, classes, concerts).

Buffie has a list of people that have the ability to close. Closers will need to be scheduled for busy/late days.

The closer list will be available in the drawer of the table by the front door.

April 23rd for the concert and May 7th for the Animal intuitive workshop.

We can put the closer on the list for the event, the google calendar and schedule a reminder for the closer.

Hospitality team for workshops

Buffie

Do we need an events team to take care of food or coffee, set-up/take down tables?

Kathy mentioned that there had been a form for events that outlined what their needs were for the event.

Do we need a chair for the events hospitality. Do we need a hospitality team for events or can we wing it and everyone pitches in? Discussion

We will try to have a events coordinator that will get volunteers. If no one volunteers, we may not offer hospitality at events.

Sacred Circle Facilitator Training

Buffie

Buffie would like to offer to train people interested in being hosts for Sacred Circle meetings. The training will be in the Fall and is based on Ann Marie Stewart's teaching guide.

The Sacred Circle meetings are meant to be held in people's homes. This is More welcoming than coming to the Center for new people. People build connections in these smaller group. When newcomers go to these groups then they already know someone when coming to the center they already know people.

Mobilizing Our Mission

Off Agenda conversation on Interfaith works and our support of other churches in need.

NOC update

David

Jenn and Lynne will be sending letters to the hosts and bidders that won places at the events. Most if not all events were bid higher than the starting bid. There aren't any numbers available yet.

Holistic Fair update

Teri/Tiffany

Tiffany had a short meeting after Sunday service on March 26th, for people were interested in helping with the Holistic fair. About 7 people signed up for helping.

Ideas were brought forward to showcase some of CSL as well as have vendors. Rev David said talks were not attended well last time.

Adrienne was interested in providing a youth activity/childcare.

During the meeting, people were interested in what type of practitioners would be allowed and what the selection process would be. This is something that we will discuss in a future meeting.

A future planning meeting date has not been set yet.

Target date for holding the Holistic fair is late September or early October so that tables and popup canopies can be used outside to increase the number of vendors and participants.

Kathy volunteered to be on the committee.

Kathy mentioned that Camille Fastle organized the Holistic fair last time and would have lists of vendors we could start with and documents she used in organizing the event.

Dates were reviewed for another meeting and it was determined that there would be a Zoom meeting scheduled.

Off agenda discussion of meeting dates.

Decisions to be Made

Thurston's Hunger Walk

All

Due to there being other events we are holding that day; we are not going to have an official organization presence at the Hunger Walk. Individuals may participate on their own. We have the animal intuitive workshop from 1-2:30pm.

Special meeting to amend bylaws for membership All

This will be a separate, Special, meeting to vote for the amendment of the bylaws for the removal of the requirement to volunteer as part of the membership in CSL Olympia. Members will be encouraged to volunteer, a mindset of volunteerism.

The meeting will be held just before the community meeting to present and vote on the proposed change. The Community meeting will start after the close of the Special meeting.

The meeting must be mentioned to membership at least three times and will be placed in the eNews, announcements, and monthly newsletter. The dates for the eNews will be the weeks of April 30, May 7, May 14, May 21.

At least one half of the membership must be in attendance and two-thirds of those present must be in agreement for the change in the bylaws to pass.

The Council secretary and administrative assistant will need to attend to take minutes for the approval and make sure there was a quorum and two-thirds of the membership approved the change.

A list of pledgers can be requested from Marlisa.

Teri made note that Shani, Holland and Sandy need to be notified of the Community meeting on May 21st.

Rental agreement

Buffie

We need to come up with fees for the different rooms and items. There was a basic package for fellowship hall and kitchen. The deluxe package is for the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

There will be a fee for removing the altar decorations.

Discussion of the alcohol rules. Tabled until later for further discussion.

Cost of opening and closing the building shouldn't be a separate expense. It can be built into the room rental fee.

Board Retreat

All

Teri offered to host the board retreat at the beach.

Days for the retreat were discussed. An email will be sent to decide on the day for the retreat.

Rev David is starting a Grief group in June.

SBA Loan during Covid

Rev David

Topic added after the close of the meeting. There was still a \$1600 balance for interest on the SBA loan. The principle was paid off two years ago. Marlisa had contacted the SBA after the payment to ask about any interest due and did not get a reply. Now we are getting emails regarding the balance due. Rev. David was directed to provide a letter on Center letterhead. Rev. David is going to contest the invoice.

Calendar review

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

Financial Audit

Next meeting April 18, 2023

Rev. David gave the closing prayer.

Teri adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Merkel, Scribe