

**Center for Spiritual Living
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 23, 2024
4:00 pm – 6:00pm
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, Kathy Gilliam, Cherie Gordon, Lynn Elliott, Buffie Finkel
Practitioner: Linda Villegas Bremer, RScP
Absent: Angelina O'Connor, Susan Strobel
Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

The meeting, held on Zoom and in-person, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Buffie.

Linda provided an opening prayer.

Rev. David provided a reading for the Council from Mark Nepo's "The Book of Awakening."

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

Rev. David made a motion for approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting from July 9, 2024 to be approved as amended in version 3. Lynn seconded the motion. The Council members present approved the minutes.

Approval of Financials

The June Financial report was presented by Rev. David.

The investment account increased by \$40,994.80.

Kathy made a motion to approve the June Financial report. Cherie seconded the motion. The Council members present approved the June Financial report.

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia		6/30/2024
June Net Income from Operations	Year to Date Net Income from Operations	Ameritrade Investment Value
\$-4241.43	\$-890.83	\$376,954.67

Mid-year Budget update

Rev. David

Marilisa, Buffie and Rev. David reviewed the midyear budget and made adjustments.

There is a shift in pledged and non-pledged donations with people that were non-pledgers becoming pledgers. There will also be a Prosperity Plus 2 class that will provide tithes for 10 weeks from mid-September through mid-November.

Nourishing Our Community brought in a little more than was estimated and the budget was updated with the actual amount earned.

Spiritual Principles and Practices wasn't in the budget but Susan and Angelina taught it and there was \$905 gross income from that class.

Self-Mastery will be taught in the fall.

The budget estimate for income from Accredited classes was increased by \$1380. Other classes, retreats and workshops are estimated to bring in around \$3310 an increase of \$810 from the original budget.

The building rental income was lowered from \$2,000 to \$1,500. The current Jan-June income for building rental has been \$506.

CSL Concerts and events is a new income stream. This distinguishes the CSL concerts and events income from the building rental income.

Hospitality was not in the original budget and is expected to be \$200.

We are expecting \$7000 more income than originally expected. This income is attributed to the increase in giving through PP2, increase in class income, event income, as well as workshops, based on YTD incomes.

Libby Rd expenses are about \$4000 more than expected. Custodial and Groundskeeping are the main expenses that are coming in over budget. We are still figuring out the actual costs of being in the building.

Music had been calculated for 48 weeks instead of 52 weeks. This was adjusted appropriately.

The Admin Assist, Sound Tech, and Webmaster have not received raises recently for at least three years, which needs to be addressed in 2025.

CSL Olympia giving to Home Office was up by about \$1700. This is for Prosperity Plus 2 and the \$500 donation to the Archives project for home office.

The cost of the A/V team is significantly more than was budgeted. There was an additional purchase of a microphone for \$350. The total cost has been raised almost \$5500 for the year. Rev. David will follow up with Shani about ways to lower labor costs.

With increase hours for Audio/Video and Custodial/groundskeeping the social security, Medicare, L & I all increased as well by almost \$1200.

The Total Expenses increased from \$209,856.26 to \$225,932.26. The Net Income went from \$2,778.74 to an expected \$-6088.75.

There is about \$10,000 in a CD that will mature in a month. There is another \$10,000 in a liquid investment.

Council discussed personnel in regards to the budget.

Lynn made the motion to approve the revised budget for 2024. Kathy seconded the motion. The Council members present approved the 2024 revised budget.

Council Business

Greeters Job Description dialog - see attached

Lynn/all

Greeters have never been given any direction or training. Lynn has drafted a Job Description for Greeters. Angelina reviewed the draft prior to leaving on vacation.

Discussion of the job description.

Suggestion for an addition was to ask "How did you find out about CSL Olympia." This can be documented and turned in to Lynn.

Greeters could have a different colored name tag or designation like wearing a lei.

Rev. David will send Lynn a sample of how this information will be laid out in the Policies and Procedures manual for Lynn to work with.

Debrief Council Retreat—see attached

all

Discussion of the three items – writing a new mission for the Council, identifying skills & talents each member brings to council, and identify next steps for manifesting the CSLO vision - and a timeline.

With multiple members on vacation, it will be September before all Council members will be in attendance. An agreement by Council was made to use 10 minutes of each meeting for discussion of the purpose.

Individual Council members can bring forth their ideas for the vision and mission.

Rev. David suggests that Council members review the Bylaws for the purpose of Council.

Clarification that Item #1 is the Council vision/mission not the Center's.

Mobilizing our Mission

Prosperity campaign update

David

There will be a “cocktail party” for the larger givers to create a yearly vision and the theme for this year’s pledge drive as well as identifying more effective ways to give. The date is September 27th at a location TBD.

We will have a celebration luncheon for all donors after service on Nov. 10th.

The Prosperity /Pledge program will start with the first Sunday in October. Rev. David will do 4-5 talks that have to do with money and increased prosperity of our members in some way.

The first Sunday of November there will be guest speakers and musicians, Melissa Phillippe and Z Egloff. After the service they will present an OMG – Oh My Gratitude workshop.

The Prosperity Plus 2 will also be offered at a lower \$25 materials cost to anyone, due to a donation to cover class expenses. The Prosperity Plus 2 program will bring in tithes during this time, starting September 18th. Rev David is willing to do a daytime class or separate online and in-person class.

Art exhibition policy for CSLO, next steps

Buffie/all

The committee will develop the breadth and scope of the exhibition.

Craig Francis has volunteered to be on the committee. Kathy would like to participate in drafting the Policy. Buffie may also be involved.

The event had little advertising and brought in a sale of artwork of which CSL-Olympia receives 20% of the sale price.

Kirtan

Tiffany

Jessica Rose is holding a Kirtan at CSL Olympia on July 27th and September 28th. The proceeds of the July Kirtan will be given to the Nisqually tribe

Rev. David also booked a Kirtan for August 25th with Christopher Lionheart – on Luke's recommendation - from Ashland.

Peace Pole go to <https://shoppeace.org/index.aspx> **David**

September 21st is the World Peace Day. Home Office is promoting this.

Rev David has been interested in having CSL Olympia get a peace pole, which is one of the Home Office recommended ways of honoring World Peace Day.

Council liked the idea. Cherie and Rev. David agreed to pay some toward the peace pole. This may be an item that will be done by private donations since there is no budget item to cover the expense.

The four language 6-foot pole is \$280.

The pole could be dedicated on Sunday, September 22nd.

Additional Item - The Pride flag has remained up through June and July. Do we want to have it permanently of display or take it down at some time?

Decision to leave the flag up through September. The congregation will be informed that the flag will be taken down during the rainy season to preserve the flag for use next year. The flag has had several positive comments and brought some people into the Center.

Calendar Review

7/24-8/14 Buffie vacation
7/27 Kirtan at CSLO
7/30 Practitioner Meeting
8/4 Rap with the Rev.
8/18-8/24 Seabeck All-Community Summer Camp

Next meeting August 6th, 2024 at CSL and Zoom.

Linda Bremer provided a closing prayer and the meeting ended at 6:15

Parking Lot

Legacy Circle
Policy & Procedure changes/updates - Include an employee handbook
Retirement plan

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Merkel, Scribe

Greeter Job description

The main responsibility of a Greeter is to greet people as they enter our building Sunday mornings before the Service. Generally, people begin arriving at about 10 a.m.

- Greeters should arrive at or before 10am
- Greeters should particularly focus on greeting & welcoming *new* people to CSL.
- Help them get a name tag & move into the building. (We want to free the entrance so that others can make their way in.)
Briefly show them the layout of the building (i.e., where the Sanctuary youth classrooms, bathrooms, etc. are).
- Explain that we have meditation at 10:30 & that the Service begins at 11 in the Sanctuary.
- Give them a New Member Gift Bag & introduce them to the Council Member on duty.
- Also acknowledge & welcome return guests & member.

7.2024

2024 Council Retreat: next steps

1. Write a new mission/vision that reflects where the Center is now and where it wants to go (the old vehicle/new vehicle exercise). If memories are fuzzy, perhaps doing the exercise again in a council meeting would help).
2. Each member was to think about and share what skills and talents they bring to the council and which skills or talents *they would LIKE* to use while on the council.
3. Prioritize next steps to achieve or manifest the CSLO new vision/mission.