

Laughing Rivers Sangha  
Continuing Care Committee Meeting via Zoom  
Thursday, December 5, 2019, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Participants: Deborah Brooks, George Hoguet, Martha O'Grady, Bill Markey, Linda Bennett

Bill read the Mindful Minute Guidelines to begin the meeting.

On behalf of the Sangha, we thanked Deborah, George, Bill Markey and Linda for their service on the Continuing Care Committee.

The 2020 CCC membership will be Bill Markey, Linda, Martha O'Grady, Charlie Yuell and Jon Robison. Deborah and George have left the Committee to focus on other Sangha activities. Ideally, the CCC would also include an individual new to the Laughing Rivers as they can offer a fresh perspective on our customary practices.

George summarized the work which was done by the previous CCC which met infrequently but addressed concerns raised at past Annual Meetings and brought to them by Sangha members. One question is whether the Sangha should pursue an application for a 501c3. Gena had done research on this and the CCC determined that it would be both time and cost prohibitive for a group of our size.

There is an open (and perennial) question of when and how much Laughing Rivers should donate to support the Monastics and Blue Cliff Monastery.

Deborah suggested that the incoming CCC look at notes from our recent Day of Mindfulness to see what concerns or suggestions might be added to upcoming agendas. She also suggested posting invitations and minutes in a timely manner. Martha suggested setting Zoom meeting dates for the year and sending invitations to the whole Sangha, so all know they are welcome to attend. George offered to share a primer on how to use Zoom with members who are interested and to post CCC minutes on the website, on google groups. The CCC will send quarterly minutes out by email to sangha members.

George asked Linda if the South Hills Group requires any additional support. Linda commented that it's very nice to have people attend their meditations and that they are particularly grateful when someone facilitates a Recitation of the Five Mindfulness Trainings. Bill hopes to attend at South Hills more often and to help post their cancellation notices. He also volunteered to learn more about Zoom, so he can host future CCC meetings.

The group selected the following Thursday evenings for future CCC meetings and George volunteered to add them to the Sangha calendar.

March 19, 2020

June 4

September 17

December 10

These meetings will all be conducted by Zoom and expected to run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. By making the meetings easily accessible and sending out timely invitations with agendas, we hope to encourage Sangha members to participate and to provide a forum for discussing the practical concerns of the Sangha.

#### ADDENDUM: The role of the Continuing Care Committee (CCC)

The purpose of the CCC is to facilitate the manifestation of the goals and directions decided by the sangha at the annual meeting. Other responsibilities include selecting a date for and organizing the annual meeting,\* soliciting hosts for summer and winter socials, and addressing decisions that need to be made for the sangha between annual meetings. In rare cases, the CCC may make these decisions themselves, with input as needed from other sangha members; often, a decision will be directed to an appropriate standing committee, or the person bringing the suggestion or request will be invited to form a new committee or communicate with the Sangha directly .

What the CCC does:

- Inform the sangha of opportunities to volunteer on various committees needing members
- Facilitate scheduling and hosting of summer and winter socials and the annual meeting
- Solicit reports from committee members prior to the annual meeting and share them with the Sangha
- Find a senior sangha member willing to facilitate the annual meeting
- Direct new proposals or questions to the appropriate committees and facilitating communication
- Inform the sangha of upcoming meetings. Any sangha member is welcome to attend a CCC meeting or to offer a question or proposal
- Send out meeting minutes in a timely way
- Consult with the Practice Council if needed about protocols for unfamiliar questions or requests
- Ensure that new requests or proposals are consistent with our practice and tradition

What the CCC does not do:

- Create new priorities for the sangha
- Shift or add new details to priorities decided on by the sangha
- Second-guess or challenge the work of other committees
- Assume direct responsibility for agenda items or proposals that no one else in the sangha has volunteered for. If a proposal generated by the sangha at the annual meeting, has no leaders or volunteers to carry it forward, the CCC's only responsibility is to solicit the sangha for leadership/interest. There will not always be sufficient energy in the sangha to actualize every proposal.

\*Please note that the structure of the annual meeting is being reexamined and renamed. This will undoubtedly be an agenda item for a future CCC meeting.