

CCC Meeting 5/21/13

Attendees: George, David Jen, Kate, Red

Facilitator: David

Notes: Red

Location: Aladdin's Eatery, Squirrel Hill

Agenda:

1. Review of financials, including spring retreat
2. Report from Spring Retreat Committee
3. Finalization of April Minutes
4. Follow up on DOM at Nuin or elsewhere
5. Ideas for summer social
6. Website: links to TNH tours, other video or materials from PV online? Refresh?

1. Review of Financials and Spring Retreat

A. Spring retreat: George was able to access the online software that Bill is using to keep track of Sangha finances and he presented a statement for the Spring retreat and the general finances of the Sangha (as of today) as follows:

Chan Huy Dana?

Deposit	\$100.00	\$1,527.18	5/20/2013	Attendee check
Deposit	\$1,580.00	\$1,427.18	5/19/2013	Attendee checks
Tazza D'Oro Food	-\$920.00	(\$152.82)	5/10/2013	Catering
Retreat Funds	\$1,640.00	\$767.18	5/2/2013	Attendee Checks
Chan Huy	-\$402.82	(\$872.82)	3/21/2013	Travel Expenses
Nuin Center	-\$325.00	(\$470.00)	3/14/2013	Final bill
Nuin Center - deposit	-\$145.00	(\$145.00)	7/31/2012	Deposit

Spring Start Balance \$0

Income In	\$3,320
Expenses	-\$1,793
Net Retreat (no dana paid yet?)	\$1,527

Laughing Rivers Accounts as of May 20, 2013

Checking	\$4,779.22	
General Fund	\$4,958.25	Includes Tuesday Dana, Annual Gifts (\$600), and \$100 monthly Pay out for rent.
Retreat Fund	-\$874.53	Includes negative Net from Fall Retreat of -\$2546.71
Scholarships	\$505.00	Net after \$915 scholarships granted in Fall Retreat. None yet logged for 2013

It is not known if all retreat expenses and scholarships are included here or if the reported income includes any dana collected at the retreat. It was agreed that we need a more thorough financial report from the retreat, including a breakdown of income and expenses, any dana collected or paid, scholarships, etc., so we have an accurate accounting and can determine the dana amount for Chan Huy.

Other questions arose during the course of our discussion: Where does any retreat surplus go? Does it remain in the retreat fund or go into the general fund? When there are scholarships, does the total scholarship amount get transferred from the scholarship fund to the retreat fund to offset retreat costs? Does money come out of our general fund for deposits and other upfront retreat costs? George mentioned that Bill used to “zero out” the retreat fund after the retreats, but is no longer doing that so that we can see how the retreats do financially. Red added that we didn’t originally set out to make a profit on retreats, but basically attempted to break even and cover our costs.

Action: George will contact Michael to get further specifics so we can have a more thorough financial report from the retreat and make a decision about Chan Huy’s dana.

B. Review of Sangha Financial Status: We continued our discussion about the financial sustainability of the Sangha, noting again that donations on Tuesday evenings have decreased and our retreats have been running at a deficit while we have increased the dana we have paid to Chan Huy.

George mentioned that we used to have several members who made large yearly donations to the sangha and some of those members are no longer doing that. This has changed the ongoing growth of the general fund and we may need to come up with fundraising ideas to make up for that.

The following ideas were put forth for consideration:

- making specific appeals for donations
- asking facilitators to be more proactive in asking for donations each week
- targeting donations for certain things from time to time (e.g., over the next month we will be collecting for such and such)
- developing a plan for our yearly donation to Blue Cliff (such as collecting over a month’s time as described above or encouraging personal donations as Michael suggested at our annual meeting)
- encouraging monthly, annual, or semi-annual donations

Red mentioned that it would be helpful to have a breakdown of what our yearly expenses/outlays usually are (rent and general expenses, donations to Blue cliff or monastic funds, scholarships, etc.) so that we can better plan for them. It would also be helpful if we could see a monthly report of income and expenditures to see how we are doing over the course of the year, be aware of any need for specific appeals, and have greater ongoing transparency and clarity.

Discussion will be continued at the next meeting after we have more information. Red noted that the June facilitators would be speaking to the issue of Sangha building, and we may be able to bring a discussion of dana to the last week’s presentation (Jen facilitating) so it would be helpful to have more clarity on Sangha expenditures before then.

Action: George will see if he can get a detailed report from 2012 via the online system that will categorize our financial outlays over the course of a year so we have an idea of what our expenditures are and will be. He will also check to see if it is possible to have a monthly financial report. (He will contact Bill if needed for assistance.)

Contacting facilitation committee with guidance on being more proactive when mentioning the dana basket? (Did we assign someone to do this?)

2. Report from Spring Retreat Committee

David and George were both on the Spring retreat committee. They had not yet seen any post-retreat surveys but offered the following observations:

David felt that the room may have been too small to hold two Dharma discussion groups; the overlapping talk was interruptive from one group to the next and it may have been helpful to move one group to the hallway. There was also some discontinuity of groups because of people coming and going each day and also some people left one group to go to another, which didn't allow for cohesion or trust to develop.

George agreed with these points and added that overall the people who attended the retreat really wanted to participate; they helped with set up of meals each day, etc. He also felt that having Chan Huy in the room the whole time was a real bonus as he was more involved with what was going on over the course of each day and people got more exposure to him.

It was not known if there were surveys from the retreatants; we agreed that it would be helpful to get a summary of comments from the surveys to see how the retreat experience was for the attendees.

Action: **David will check with Michael** to see if there are surveys to review and possibly suggest a follow-up survey be sent out via email if needed.

3. Finalization of April Minutes

David wanted feedback from the group re: the minutes from our last meeting. Some people had not received the email with the minutes and so had not had the chance to respond.

Red noted here that the minutes of each meeting should be sent out to the Sangha via the listserv after we have approved them. Sangha members should have easy access to the minutes, and she requested that we 1) post them as an attachment to the email so they are accessible as a document on our Yahoo Groups page and 2) post them in the members area of the LRS Web site. George said that Bill has had some editing/formatting issues with some of the things posted to the Web site, so that may be why they have not been posted there in the past.

Action: **David will resend the April minutes** via email for review and comments from the group. **George will check with Bill** re: the editing/formatting issues for the Web site.

4. Follow-Up on DOM at Nuin or Elsewhere

There is one more e-talk by Chan Huy in June that offers a possibility for a DOM at someone's home; we do not have a volunteer at this time.

There has been no action yet on organizing a DOM at Nuin later some time later in the year (with Tony as the Dharma teacher).

Action: **Red will send and email to the listserv** asking if anyone is interested in hosting a DOM for the June e-talk. She will also check with Tony and Michael to see if they are available to host

a Tea & Chan Huy gathering if no one steps forward to host a DOM.
Red will follow-up with the Practice Council on a possible DOM at Nuin

5. Summer Social

Martha is not able to host and organize the summer social at this time. It was noted that Natalie had mentioned her home as a possibility for the summer social.

Action: **Red will check with Natalie** to see if she is able to host.

6. Web Site

Time did not allow for discussion on this issue.

Action: No action; to be discussed at a future meeting.

Next meeting:

No date chosen; there was discussion of meeting by conference call. We would like to meet before the end of June and hopefully have more information to clarify financial issues before **Jen facilitates on June 25.**

George will email possible dates for meeting by conference call. A back up date for meeting in person is Tuesday, June 11.