

**Meeting ID: 895 1460 9592**

**Passcode: RGCSLBOT**

**Rio Grande Center for Spiritual Living**

**Board Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** December 10, 2023 **Time:** 4:00 – 5:30 PM MST

Clarity, Consensus and Commitment

Board Members Present: Mark Ayers, John Kirk, Doug Bowe, Sherry Noone, Yvette Trujillo, Hana Dawson, Susan Solari, Re. Gil Olmstead.

Call to Order – Mark Ayers

Invocation – Rev. Gil

Vision/Mission Statements – All

- Vision: Transforming Our World with the Power of Love in Action.
- Mission: Loving All Creation Through Spiritual Growth and Service; Always Staying True to Our Highest Self

Acknowledgement of Guests and New Members – All

Approval of Minutes from November Board Meeting – All

Discussion Items

1. Spiritual Director Report – Rev. Gil Olmstead

a. Partners 2024 Campaign w/ Sherry Noone.

6 more people signed up today. We have approximately 35 total signed up. We have volunteer hours being collected from the Join In Breeze form. Join In will continue as new partners join the community. Yvette Trujillo will be working to develop this program moving forward.

b. Michelle's Giving Tree

1/3 of the ornaments for gifts remain. We will invite community members to donate specifically for the giving tree to purchase gifts for the remaining ornaments.

c. February Concert

Charles Holtz coming for the weekend of Feb 10th. Still working to get details straightened out, and the event confirmed.

Flamie Grant, a drag performer, and former worship practitioner, will be attending Jan 14th. For music and celebration.

d. Community Council / e. Leadership Workshop

Came up with the name Community Council, still figuring out what this looks like, and coming up with a workshop for being in leadership. We are at a transition point with our center, where we're starting to grow once more. Yvette Trujillo and Chris Duvall are very involved in this council and leadership workshop.

## 2. Westside Unity - Rev. Gil

We are moving forward with Westside Unity. Rev. Gil, Rev Deb, Mark Ayers, and their board president met earlier last week to discuss what this could look like, and the potential barriers and opportunities that this partnership could bring. With this partnership, we are looking at starting our services at 9:30 AM, a joint social hall from 10:30 - 11:30 AM, and then Westside service starting at 11:30 AM.

Rev. Gil and Mark are working on a contract tomorrow, then they will share it with Chris Duvall, Carol Helms (our resident attorney), and Nancy Bowers (our resident realtor). Unity will be paying us \$1500 per month and will be using the old Circles office for their minister's office, and any workshops they may have. They will have access to the rest of our Center when needed as long as there are no conflicting meetings from our center. Mark and Rev. Gil will send out an invitation for feedback to our partners of the Center regarding the time change of our service.

Mark Ayers proposed a motion to share our space with Unity of Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. This would entail a change of our service time, with rent of \$1500 a month paid to us from Unity, contingent on the support of our partners for the Center and a review of the contract to be put together tomorrow with approval from Nancy, Chris, and Carol. Hana seconded.

The Board gave their Clarity, Commitment, and Consensus.

## 3. Compassion Ministries Report - Susan Solari

Susan, with Sue Klump as Co-Chair, manages 22 volunteers that help with various needs of those who need Compassion Ministries. Active prayer support (team identified in Breeze) is offered throughout the week. There has been much support from this community to those who are nearing end-of-life. Support for those who need to be taken to appointments, or occasionally the ER has been very successful. A new driver is needed to take Greg Gardner's spot to assist those in the community who need rides to places

## 4. Board President Report – Mark Ayers

### a. Personnel Committee

Marilyn O'Leary will be Co-chairing with Mark, supported by Doug Bowe and Sherry Noone. They are currently working on their plans and will plan to meet with Rev. Gil early in January. They will focus on Rev. Gil's strengths, and see what can be done to help him grow as well as the RGCSL community.

### b. Space Team

Space Team is working hard. They've come up with some pricing structures that have been shared with the sacred celebrations teams. And focusing on looking at our space to see how we can fully utilize it. The Space Team will be taking a major role to see where we will be in 2025 once our contract is up for our current space.

### c. RGCSL Safety – Actions Moving Forward

Mark Ayers met with Bob Duvall at the center to look at all of our current space concerns. They are meeting in January to take action. There are a few exit lights not working; the supplies room has chairs blocking the door. And the back room is

over-cluttered where all the electrical boxes are, which violates the fire code.

They will be coming up with a weapons policy and language, looking at what other spiritual centers currently have regarding these policies, with the support of Robin Olmstead.

#### d. Board Dinner in January

Mark would like to put together a Board Dinner sometime in Jan on a Sunday evening to get together and take the three stepping down (Tamara, Doug, Hana) to take us to dinner to celebrate our time on the board. More details to come as we plan out times to see what works best.

#### 5. Board Strengths

Mark will be sending out an email to our board members starting in 2024 to invite them to share their strengths and ideas. We are currently going into the year 2024 with only 6 members instead of 7 like we had in 2023. So they are looking at members of the center to see who might be interested in joining.

#### 6. Board Elections

**President:** Hana nominated Mark Ayers to remain as Board President. *This was seconded by John Kirk. The board gave clarity, commitment and consensus.*

**Vice President:** Mark nominated Yvette Trujillo. Doug Bowe seconded this. *And the board gave clarity, commitment and consensus.*

**Secretary:** Mark nominated Sherry Noone as Secretary, seconded by Yvette Trujillo. *And the board gave clarity, commitment and consensus.*

**Treasurer:** A tremendous thanks to John for stepping up as Treasurer for the past few years. Johanna was previously a bookkeeper in business and is likely to be willing to accept a nomination for Treasurer.

John wanted to point out that the books were in extreme disarray when he first took over as treasurer. He has placed tremendous work to get procedures in place and ensure these are kept up. And he wants to ensure that Johanna is willing and able to make the time commitments the treasurer would require.

Mark Ayers nominated Johanna as treasurer, pending her acceptance of the position. Seconded by Sherry Noone. Johanna will need to spend regular hours for the duties of Treasurer, and oversight of Quickbooks will still be necessary. (Johanna accepted the nomination via text later in the meeting.)

*And the board gave clarity, commitment and consensus.*

Mark extended his deepest gratitude to Tamara, Hana, and John for serving as officers. And Doug for his time and commitment on the board as well.

Special gratitude was extended to John after his stepping in as Treasurer.

#### 7. Financial Update

We are still short this month, and the Board agreed to a transfer of \$4,000 this week to pay bills.

Mark and Nancy have prepared a 2024 Budget, augmented by questions by John. It will go to the Board this month for approval.

a. Tithe to CSL - No tithe will be sent to CSL pending Gala proceeds. Rev. Gil further clarified our position that a regular tithe to CSL is an integral part of our mission.

b. EIDL Loan - During COVID, a \$19,000 loan was taken out. Approximate interest rate is 1.75%. It has a 30-year payback, at \$85/month, for which we have not yet begun payment. We are approximately \$1100 in arrears. Once we pay this amount, we can begin our \$85/month regular payments.

8. Strategic Vision Update – Rev. Gil & Mark

a. Current Work - The team is focusing on our end-of-lease of January 1, 2025.

b. Timeline - a timeline for moving the Center in 2025 will be planned.

c. Calendaring - A master calendar is in the works. This will facilitate scheduling of events by us, Unity, and others.

9. Vice President's Report – Hana Dawson

a. Hefferlin Grant update - Rev. Gil and Hana have met to discuss. Final design and implementation is in the works.

b. Tech team - A refresher training for the 3 team members will be held next week. It was mentioned that Unity's tech director is an expert.

10. RGCSL Communications & Marketing Report – Tamara (update by Gil)

A new trifold has been created for all to see and distribute.

Nancy has updated our logo.

An updated website is at the point of needing a cash infusion.

11. Fundraising – Michael Mc Pherson

a. Soup, Salad, Swag & Song

b. Future Fundraising

12. Next Board Meeting – January 21, 2024, 4:30 - 6:00 PM Mountain Time.

Board meetings will now be held Sunday, to mitigate work conflicts.

There will be an emergency Board in December to approve the contract with Unity.

Benediction – Yvette Trujillo