

Process Team Steering Committee

Meeting Notes

Saturday 13 April, 2019

Present: Deborah Marshall, dian marie hosking, Fred Meyer, Jim Fladmark, Martin Ramstedt, David Marshall, Paul Kelway (convenor Part I), Susan Skjei (convenor Part II), LaDawn Haglund (note taker)
Regrets: Lisa Piemont

1. Sitting Period

2. Check-Ins

3. Announcements/Housekeeping

1. Notetaker - LaDawn
2. Approve minutes
 - a. Some didn't get a chance to take a look at last week's minutes, so we'll have another 24-hour turnaround
 - b. What is the best place to post meeting minutes on Groups.io?
A: Start a new thread with CAPS on the subject line requesting a response
3. Reviewed action items from previous PTSC meeting
4. Other housekeeping items
 - a. Quick check-in on PTSC meeting times/days
 - Can we have a consistent time?
 - Schedule a few weeks ahead of time.
 - Noon Eastern Time will be the anchor point, alternating Saturdays and Sundays.
 - b. Scheduling clarifications:
 - PTSC long meeting April 21, 11 AM to 3 PM Eastern
 - No PTSC meeting on the weekend of the Full PT call
 - Next call thereafter: May 5 at noon Eastern

THEMATIC ISSUES/WORKING GROUPS

4. Mandala Linking Network

- Next steps on letters to individuals – deciding who will send which letters
- Discussion of the content of the letters
- **ACTION ITEMS:** LaDawn will revise the template letter and repost for review; she will also repost the list of who is mailing whom; letters to be sent within a week

5. Lady Diana: hopes to call a gathering of the clan; wanted the PTSC to know about it

- How can we include all voices, including long-time leaders who may not feel included now?

- **ACTION ITEM:** Add this discussion to the agenda for the long PTSC meeting

6. **PTSC Extended Meeting:** Discussion of objectives, design and topics

- Need for “nyen” – project management, efficient decision making, “working” structures
- This is an opportunity to explore how are we working together, what is and is not working, and readjust processes and expectations
- If it is all ground, we may not be able to touch sky; all sky may mean no work will get done. Goal: balance Lha, nyen, and lu + Deep connection with one another → move toward practicalities
- Is anyone inspired to design/lead that meeting? Susan and dian marie
- **ACTION ITEM:** Susan and dian marie are going to work on putting the structure and process together

7. **Full PT Zoom call planning**

- Review of current planned schedule
- New ideas: two breakouts instead of one, time for Q&A, participants add agenda items
- Objectives: help people reconnect to see and feel what it is to be part of large PT and explore how we model relational practices
- Content: What’s working for you/not? What do we need to work together effectively?
- The Code of Ethics is a topic that can hold a lot; it is all about relationships. How are we accountable for what we believe/value in our relationships with each other? Finding a personal basis for a culture of Shambhala. Finding common ground, starting with us on the PT.
 - Suggestion: Clearly distinguish the *view* of the CoE (in particular, the first two pages) as a point of conversation from a *discussion of ratification*, which we are not ready to do. We are not, at this moment, working toward ratification; we are reading the same material and then having a chance to talk about it.
- One effective way to harvest with a large group: ask “what is working for you?” and people write their answers into the chat, which we save. Then “what’s not working for you?” and it goes into the chat. “We’re gathering feedback but are not going to fix it right now.” Then things are more transparent to everyone, at least.
- Designing the meeting as a meditation session to discuss how to bring our work to earth.
- There are a variety of areas where we’ll work with PT, where they in turn will go out and work with different parts of the sangha. We are formulating different methods for this – dialogic, Theory U. “Working with the PT in ways that are consistent with our Shambhala Principles” is in this context. If we stayed with CoE as a dialogue point, it might be “how might you support a conversation in your sangha around the CoE?” Harvesting: “how did it work for you to try to work with your colleagues in this way?”
- Turning the PT toward the community sounds like the perfect next step. Time to reduce the “me” fests! We are here to support the community.

- We need to repeat this over and over. People are starting to shift away from “what’s your favorite model” to “how can we support the community.” Please keep reminding everyone about this over and over.
- We have fallen into the lure of content, and fixing things, so we need to keep in mind what we are doing to support processes, rather than the content.
- Can we reaffirm the nature of the role of the PT at the Full PT call? Helping people shift from “my content” (which manifests, for example, in long essays) to “our process.” Reminders are needed. This can bring together heaven and earth.
- Role of the convenors are quite important here – being willing to cut conversations when they go off track
- **ACTION ITEM:** We will discuss this further at the extended PTSC meeting

8. PT Working groups - Updates from individual working groups

1. Community building – offerings needs some project management around its Google Doc; moving forward on expanded SDB access (Abbey Fox) to communicate in targeted ways to local leaders in ways that can support their work.
2. Processes – Monday: combined meeting with synthesis and dialogic methods groups; another group is discussing going back to the teachings of the Vidyadhara on governance that might be applicable to current times
3. Culture change – met with Arawana Hayashi, who has agreed to consult with us in future; the meeting last week was inspiring and we have a vision moving forward to turn meetings over to group members; making progress on building trust and a sense of community
4. Tech/Comms – Comms lead wants support with messages, and how to respond. If nobody responds and she need a response, she will add it to the agenda for the next meeting. Autoreply should say “we are not a decision-making body” and “we are doing these responses in batches.” [note: there is already an autoreply on the email; input still needed for particular responses]
5. Governance –
 - Models had their first meeting; convener reports that people are tired of the “me plan” participants and are thinking about a better way to move away from that. Tomorrow is the next meeting.
 - Charter group will convene next week. The group may dissolve because of the strong polarization within.
 - Negative feedback about posting documents
6. Healing & learning – no update today

NEXT STEPS

9. Summary of decisions taken

- Post meeting minutes for review on a new thread with CAPS on the subject line requesting a response
- Upcoming meetings: schedule a few weeks in advance; use noon Eastern Time as the anchor point, alternating Saturdays and Sundays
- Scheduling clarifications:
 - PTSC long meeting April 21, 11 AM to 3 PM Eastern
 - No PTSC meeting on the weekend of the Full PT call
 - Next call thereafter: May 5 at noon Eastern
- Add discussion of Lady Diana's gathering to the agenda for the extended PTSC meeting
- SC members will send individual messages to MLN volunteers
- Add further discussion of the Full PT meeting to the agenda for the extended PTSC meeting

10. Summary of action items

- a. All: 24 hour review of April 7 meeting minutes
- b. LaDawn: revise the MLN template letter and repost for review by April 14; repost the list of who is mailing whom at the same time
- c. MLN letter writers: send personal messages by April 20
- d. Susan and dian marie: put together the structure and process for the extended PTSC meeting by April 21

11. Next meeting