

INTERBEING SANGHA OF KINGSTON

**SANGHA CARE MEETING MINUTES – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020**

Participants: Anne Coward, Keith Gawronski-McNinch, Stana Luxford Oddie, & Linda Tucker

1. Review since last meeting
  - a. moved to Salti Yoga studio (October 2019)
  - b. purchased 12 folding chairs
  - c. purchased wall mount rack for folding chairs
  - d. purchased cabinet for books and meeting supplies
  - e. moved online to Zoom due to COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020)
2. Treasury report
  - a. donations collected since 2019 retreat: \$500
  - b. expenses since 2019 retreat: \$570
  - c. current assets
    - i. TD Bank account: current balance \$1,639.49
    - ii. Sangha property: library books, Buddha & bells (and items above, stored at Salti Yoga)
  - d. current expenses
    - i. MailChimp account: (free account)
    - ii. Zoom account \$22.60/month
3. Membership & Growth – discussion
  - a. Reflecting on past and current participation
    - i. Attendance has fluctuated over the 4 years we have been meeting
    - ii. Membership shifted from original KUF members to majority non-KUF community members
    - iii. Most new practitioners from Salti have not continued on Zoom
    - iv. Some community participants who attended at KUF have started to come regularly on Zoom.
  - b. Insights from Plum Village tradition regarding sangha building
    - i. They considers Sangha Building to be most important practice
    - ii. Spread Thay's teachings and giving people opportunities to practice mindfulness together
  - c. Intentions and ideas regarding membership & growth
    - i. Past outreach: advertising via printed flyers in Kingston & online ads (Facebook)
    - ii. Start spreadsheet of possible new participants, outreach through Sangha Care Team existing connections. Stana offered to create spreadsheet and coordinate.
    - iii. Outdoor walking meditations – possible avenue for new Kingston participants during COVID
    - iv. Run new ads on social media.
    - v. Add time at beginning of sangha for more socializing (new policy for bell minders to log in 10 minutes early and give time for participants to settle in and chat before meeting)
4. Decisions on proposals
  - a. We decided to add 10 minutes at the start of weekly meeting
  - b. Officially combine sangha care and bell minders as one leadership team
    - i. We decided to consider leadership as one team.
    - ii. We decided to change the descriptions on website and newsletter to reflect new team.
    - iii. We decided to continue to welcome any sangha member to attend sangha care meetings (without serving as a bell minder).
  - c. Outreach to wider community (background: online sangha model)
    - i. We decided to use sangha funds for online ads. Keith will report on status to group.
    - ii. We decided to be explicit about seeking to grow and serve wider online community including Kingston but also focus outreach beyond Kingston.
  - d. Transition to a shorter name ("Interbeing Sangha" without Kingston)
    - i. We decided to move towards using "Interbeing Sangha" without "of Kingston" informally.

- ii. We decided to still use “Interbeing Sangha of Kingston” formally for official documents, website address, email address until future date if/when we can transition to official change.
- e. Plan for continued use of Salti Yoga (post-COVID)
  - i. We decided to pursue a hybrid online and in-person model when it is safe to return to in-person meetings at Salti Yoga.
  - ii. We will confirm our desire to stay at studio in future, and present our hybrid plan to Kayla Stanistreet, owner of Salti Yoga.
  - iii. We tabled a proposal to allocate budget for webcam/laptop equipment for studio until it becomes needed when we move to hybrid model.