

## **Oneness Project**

Board Meeting, Hamilton, MT

January 9 - 11, 2009

Present: Phil Notermann, Linda Lindsay, Tony Rasch, Steve Gray, Munir Peter Reynolds, Shahar Solander

### *Dance*

Begin with looking at Items to Consider, what is important to cover this weekend.

### **CFTC Subpoena**

OP responded to subpoena and sent off materials in December. Munir spoke with Warren Miller, the attorney, and was told it looks good. Warren called earlier this week as he was preparing a bill against our retainer. Joel Kaleva, our attorney, sent a letter regarding our contact with the D&O insurance. They said until there is wrong-doing shown that impacts OP monetarily, there is no money available for our claim. We approved \$50,000 for a legal retainer with an understanding it may be more.

### *Break*

### **New Zealand Dance Tent**

*Phil – Is there anybody not in consensus with supporting the NZ tent? They are close to having enough money for their half.*

*Consensus*

### **Mission Statement**

It was discussed whether we may need to rewrite our mission statement to be brief and provide more clarity. We need to look at what is needed now worldwide. The things we can work on now involve informing, working with others, defining a process. Not letting what we've done drop away because we've had a shock. Keeping that thread alive and seeing it through a Dance support system. We also need clarity about our capability financially. The committee reviewed the original OP mission statement and the current one.

We now need to change our strategy in how we can support the Dances. It was decided to reread the letter we wrote to the ICC about our proposal to help them dissolve – what parts of that are still possible with a limited amount of money along with our own goals and objectives?

Shahar asked to clarify that we need to legally keep the Braveheart money separate from the other funds because it is earmarked for those specific purposes for which it was donated.

### **Common Ground**

The future of the facility was discussed, with many points being brought up.

### **Lunch**

### **Reconvene at 2:00 pm at Steve and Shahar's**

Munir presented an updated spreadsheet of the projected cash needs and resources for income in 2009. Discussion followed.

### *Break*

### **Things we want to fund**

- Unity Council telecons

- MTG
- Events? Lava, WDC, Whidbey, Family Camp

Someday the MTG may ask for payment and some of this could go to OP. We could assist local regions in setting up grant programs. Difficult thing is staffing and administration at an international level. We have a parking lot regarding grants in the future, alternative long-range planning. This is going to be a complex discussion. We're generating 6 months – a year ahead.

*Ellen Fietz-Hall joined us on the speakerphone...*

Fundraising was discussed, and Ellen encouraged general donations rather than ear marked ones. We don't want to compete with NA or whatever. If we finish the Unity Council process, then it would be great to have donations coming to go with our Endowment Fund revenues, which would be much less. We need to have a well-considered process, having clearly targeted goals, what we're fundraising for.

### **Letter to PeaceWorks**

We never did get a response from INDUP on the letter we send after our November meeting. The website idea we presented is the only aspect that feels appropriate at this time. We have a good team available now, who knows where we are now. The website is where Oneness can make the biggest impact with the least effort.  
*Sign off.*

**Adjourn 5:30 pm**

**Saturday, January 10, 2009**

### **Events**

- **Lava**

*Tony - proposed we go forward with Spring Lava 2009.*

*Consensus*

- **Wilderness**

Reviewed revised budget prepared by Shahar. Discussion followed.

*Phil – Propose we go ahead with Wilderness Camp 2009 using the proposed budget, keeping Darvesha on staff, several thousand \$ for scholarships, Zareen acting as volunteer registrar.  
Linda second.*

*Revised: Propose we go with the budget as presented, add in Darvesha and \$1000 for scholarships, with possibility for additional scholarships if available funds. The fee would have an original sliding scale of \$395-\$525 until late registration fees. The Events Committee will work out the details.*

*Consensus*

### **Lunch**

### **Oneness Project Board Fee Reduction**

*Tony – Propose we give ¼ price fee reduction for OP events to Board Members, committee chairs, and advisors.*

*Steve second.*

*Consensus*

## **The Letter to PeaceWorks**

Munir – The only viable part of this is the website, with the assumption that Shahar, Steve and I would focalize getting this done. We would have a team to gather data and work on this, and they could maybe match our money. I see the Unity Council as needing to sort some of this out. When we have a start date and some funds committed we can work on it thoroughly.

## **Conference Call 3:00 pm**

Present board members plus Ellen Fietz Hall, Patsy Boyer, and Katie Hamida, Narayan

Munir – Update on board meetings and decisions made so far:

**Investigation** – Before Christmas OP, Tony, and Munir sent in their information to attorney Warren Miller regarding the subpoena. We also have a retainer with our attorney in Missoula, Joel Kaleva. We're hoping our part in it may be dropped soon. We don't know how long the investigation will go on; we have a \$50,000 retainer with the attorney. Warren Miller is planning to get in touch with our D&O insurers and see if they can cover some of this. We don't know the extent of this on our staff time or finances.

**Schedule of Asset Return** – With Elendow unwinding, the amount on our spreadsheet shows what Eric expects to come back to us this year; this is our principle, not our earnings. We also have payoff of the SW Sufi Loan, April Lava, what other revenues affect our sources of Cash.

- We have discussed CG, \$133,000 mortgage at 7 ½ %, which is costing us about \$500 a month to carry the mortgage. If this money comes in January we may want to retire this mortgage right away. Starting in March we expect a more modest operation. Briefly, CG has been quite a topic because there has been some feeling with how the local Dance folks, the board, and Oneness sees it. How it's used and whether it continues to be used as it has been is an issue. We've had a local private school come forward to rent it with evening and weekend availability for our use for the Dances. We decided to take a closer look at it, get more information from them, liability insurance, getting the local DT to take a look at this more closely. Help everyone understand what is happening. CG could become a source of income here beginning in April, it could become a source of about \$600 a month, could even be \$1000 a month after expenses, maintenance. Tony took his proposal off the table for a time since there wasn't consensus. We talked about other ways of going forward, OP could manage the property with a standing committee.
- We talked about what kind of program we want to do, what kind of administration we can afford, everything has radically changed. We went through our Goals and Activities and couldn't believe how things have changed.
- We felt producing one more hardcopy newspaper as a picture of where we are now; an update on what has happened in the past and do some fundraising. This would be \$1000 - \$1500 including staff time, it would help us inform people and potentially do some fundraising. In the short term using a tool like this in a limited campaign and in 2010 if we are in concert with the MTG, etc. this group could raise more money. Munir, as director, needs to be in the background to deal with the investigation, deal with the UC and PW to complete the work we've done and see if by the end of the year we have a better idea. We can continue working with the international to see the website is complete.
- Events – We looked at Lava, which has basically been running at break even, do one more retreat in the Spring possibly with a volunteer registrar. Wilderness - Shahar has prepared a budget and talked to staff, reducing costs significantly, and the feeling of the board is if we make sure Darvesha and her travel is in the budget, Connie has expressed interest in being a volunteer registrar. We have concerns about people being able to pay for this, have a sliding scale of \$395 - \$525, letting people know the cost of the camp, with additional scholarship money. This would be a last hurrah, with a final being subsidy of up to \$5000 out of pocket. We'll have a cut off date 6 weeks before camp to make a projection, if debt looks larger than that we will cancel.
- Letter to PW – The thing that stands out as universally agreed on is we need a new international website. We have the resources to get this done. We will propose to PW that they partner with us on a

\$6000 budget to get this created this year, they pay half. Munir, Shahar, Steve, and Connie will work on this. It will help PW, MTG, OP and UC work on this together and resolve some things that need to be worked out. It will keep us working forward; we continue to work on the international needs of the MTG and the informational needs of the Dances worldwide.

- Staffing – Shahar after February will be ¼ time and Munir 1/6 time. They'll both have to develop other sources of work. We have a lot more money in Dancing \$, but that won't come back in maybe 10 years. We'll have a little of money to work with next year if the Elendow money comes in; we'll be a much more lean operation. The events will be a way for people to come together, to share, and maybe do more fundraising.

### **Conference Call Close 4:05 pm**

#### **Common Ground**

*Tony – Move we pay \$70,000 of the Common Ground mortgage in January after we receive close to the \$200,000 Elendow payment and pay the balance in April after we get the \$119,000.*

*Phil second.*

*Consensus*

It was discussed that it would be most helpful for the Hamilton Dance Team to understand OP has been hit; they want to feel they've been consulted, they have the facts. Oneness cannot financially support things as we have in the past for this one community. A lot of local people have been hooked into Oneness for a long time, and they've been beneficiaries of the generosity of Oneness.

The good news is we aren't dissolving Oneness. It's going to look different but we're going forward. A fortune's been lost, but everybody's pulling in now to make that happen.

### **Adjourn 4:55 pm**

### **Sunday, January 11, 2009**

Present: Phil Notermann, Linda Lindsay, Tony Rasch, Steve Gray, Munir Peter Reynolds, Shahar Solander

#### **Minutes of Fall 2008 Board Meeting**

*Steve – Move we approve the minutes of our Fall 2008 board meeting.*

*Phil second.*

*Consensus*

#### **Minutes of OP Conference Call 12-13-2008**

*Linda – Move we accept the minutes of OP's Conference Call 12-13-2008.*

*Steve second.*

*Consensus*

#### **Minutes of OP Conference Call 12-19-2008**

*Phil - Move we accept the minutes of OP's Conference Call 12-19-2008.*

*Linda second.*

*Consensus*

#### **Statement of Organizational Identity, Relationships and Activities** (Policy Manual 2008, p. 53)

*Phil – Propose we suspend the Statement of Organizational Identity until further review.*

*Steve second.*

*Consensus*

## **Sources and Uses of Funds**

The Committee reviewed the Sources and Uses of Funds statement which we had prepared this weekend. The committee made several modifications, including putting back in the hardcopy newsletter to go out in February. We hope to retire 70,000 of the Common Ground in February and then in May \$63,000 + 200 to pay off the balance. We added \$600 to the April and May Common Ground income. We put in a \$50,000 reserved for Warren Miller if necessary for March and \$2000 for a fall board meeting, November 12-15, 2009. Add in monthly conference call expense, \$20 a month.

Steve – We need to check the Montana Usury laws with regard to the SSC loan. If they don't pay it in June their interest goes up to 13%, and that may be more than allowed by MT law.

*Linda – Move we accept the presented spreadsheet of Estimated Cash Needs and Sources subject to regular review.*

*Phil second.*

*Consensus*

## **OP's Equipment and Data at Michael Sheehan's**

We will leave the equipment with Michael to use and ask if he will keep the hard drives with all our data for the time being. We need to have a back up of his files. We have a traveling hard drive.

With Nuria, she has put data together with lists of all grantees. She's going to transfer records to OP office, possibly in DVD form. It is in Access.

We need a backup of all files, Michael's, Nuria's, Munir's and Shahar's.

## **Common Ground**

Tony presented a new page of information regarding possibilities.

- Lease to Two Creeks Community School
- Committee of OP to manage property, generating \$750 in monthly income
- Sell to folks who would serve as 'Temple Keepers' [Tony & Kay]

Discussion followed regarding possibilities. More research will be done. Local members of the board and staff will meet with the rest of the Bitterroot Dance Team to obtain their input.

## **Goals and Activities**

Linda would like OP to inquire of Joel if anyone coming on the board now would be held responsible for matters that happened in the past.

Shahar will send out a copy of *Goals and Activities* as rewritten so far for further edits and changes. Approval can be by email or conference call.

## **Future Conference Calls**

January, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> at 11 am mountain, 10 pacific, to discuss Common Ground specifically

February, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm mountain, 2 pm pacific

March, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 am mountain, 10 am pacific

**Adjourn 11:10 am**