

Soul Community meeting minutes 03/04/04 - 5pm to about 10 pm

Attendance: (circa 50%) Norma Kutzner • Charlotte Warren • Nancy Broyles • Howard Richards • David Faubion • Joel Goldberg • Rita Mills • Jeannie Clark • Rose Jones • Guest: Teresa

Summary:

Howard, needing to leave at 5:30 for a meeting in Oxnard, expressed his positive feeling about the Soul Community as based on our meeting last week at Nancy's. His view is that we show progress in reaching consensus on our new goals. He urged that we bring the gardening project back as a priority of our general focus. He would like each of us to meet with him to compile a Health Care Directive (HDC) a type of living will (more about it at the next meeting). This week, he prepared an HDC for Charlotte Warren.

We conducted our brief attunement with candle and mild music followed by two minutes of silence to help us feel our relationship with one another at our deeper level and become conscious of purpose in coming together.

Following the attunement, the notes from the previous weeks meeting were read to the group, corrections were offered as need; for the most part, the minutes were approved as read. We decided after reading the minutes that the minutes are important enough to have one of us record the minutes for each meeting. This, we decided, will bring continuity for us, which will build upon our work as a whole.

David and Charlotte pledged to type the notes for online distribution to each of us. We decided to keep the minutes in a binder, which will allow each of us to reference the minutes for the purpose of continuity, consensus, and issues. Minutes from the meeting will be read at the next meeting

Check-in, deep listening: Our group went around the circle sharing our responses to last week's meetings. We shared new thoughts and ideas as well. All of us took responsibility for time management—We agreed to use hand signals to alert the current speaker to a time overrun

The following is a summary of each of our vision for our Soul Community direction:

Joel Goldberg endorsed that the social aspect of us coming together to share food and share our personal issues, concerns, and needs. His sense is that our search for our meeting-place will be a challenge depending on how much longer we can stay at the mediation center. He also noted that not all of us are living in housing as viable for a meeting-place, which would make the search more challenging—putting pressure on those who have suitable housing. • He noted that the Legal Ashram was important to keep afloat as long as enough of us could support it. He encourages support for the other projects that we have in mind.

Nancy Broyles spoke of how she enjoyed having us at her home last week, though she realizes how much time, energy, and dollars (she spent \$20) that it takes to host a meeting. She encountered much more cooking and prep-time than she had anticipated. She was very appreciative of those (Norma primarily, and Charlotte) who stayed to help her cleanup. Nancy suggests that, if we want to have potluck meetings at her house, we do the following:

1. Each person needs to bring a food item sufficient for at least ten to twelve others.
2. Ideally, we would plan what each person will bring so that the meal is nutritious and wholesome
3. A cleanup committee of two or more in addition to the host and
3b. A committee of two or three to help the host setup
4. Place emphasis upon the ideal that our close deep caring and sharing is vital for the spirit of our community, adding that a home environment might promote the spirit of community, if we could rotate the meeting-place among enough of our homes

David endorsed the socialization efforts of our group and its internal community as important, though he feels that is equally important to reach out into the larger Santa Barbara, for example the Food Not Bombs community of you helping the homeless community. David endorsed the value of inviting activist speakers from the greater community to speak their vision and insights. He is in favor of reviving the co-op gardening venture, and perhaps at 599 Via El Caudro. He expressed the value of having guests at or meetings, and that the guests speak, at least, about their personal life struggles, goals, and needs. He mentioned George, an activist from Peru who will return to Peru soon; he will need a place to park his car paying for two months. George has an eco-tourism business in Peru and wants to form an intentional community in Peru with activists; he has a valuable story to share as a guest. David encouraged Teresa

to share her story as an activist with the indigenous American community working with Buddhists in Japan.

Rita Mills expressed regret that Maria had left the group and misses the incredible healing drive in the community from Maria and Jack who have helped people to see and deal with their personal issues. Maria and Jack offer holotropic breath-work as a way to bring fulfillment to our members. Rita expressed interest in bringing speakers to share, though she is more interested in cultivating our resources of expertise in our membership. With respect to the challenge that the timing of our speaking poses, as much as she would like to think that the issue might just go away, she thinks the issue is likely recur until we have defined a structure that works for are diverse group. Rita offered her place for potluck meetings later in the spring.

Jeannie Clark introduced her close friend, Teresa, and welcomed her to our community. Jeannie suggested that we give an equal time to our internal community building with our outreach. She expressed her dislike for the mediation center as our meeting space: as an issue of allergies to pathogens.

Teresa expressed her appreciation for being invited and to speak and her interest in and appreciation for our goals and practice. She told us about her involvement with communities of Indigenous Americans and their association with Buddhists from Japan visiting the Americas. We asked her many sincere questions about her experiences with the Indigenous Americans and the Buddhists in Japan. She answered each question with articulate clarity and lovely sincerity.

Norma wanted to be sure that we are aware that Jack and Maria do care about all of us, and do want to keep in touch with the Soul Community as a group and its individuals. Norma would, as well, like to make her home available later in the spring for our meetings. She told us about the park near her home where we could hold our meeting.

Rose expressed her feeling that we would create more solidarity by meeting in our homes environs. Therefore, she is willing to have meetings in her Goleta home. Concerning the legal ashram, she felt we might sublet our use of the facility that is the Mediation Center to other groups.

Charlotte Warren expressed her continual time constraints due to her family issues for which she will return to in the month of May. She expressed her interest in have each of us share an area of expertise that we might have. She expressed her affinity for the idea of have guest speakers come to us with their expertise. Concerning the timing issue, she expressed her idea of allowing equal time to all members who wish to contribute. Ultimately, as Nancy articulated, the principle of democracy for all in terms of our right for fair time to speak also means the right not to speak: pass or postpone, as one chooses. We agreed that our clarification of those choices might well encourage more openness.

At about 6:15, after the deep listening and sharing process, we shared potlatch and continued our discussion in various areas of concern. Teresa shared her story about the Navaho in Four Corners, NM. We all thanked and praised Teresa and invited her to our community.

We decided to meet at Nancy's for the next meeting.

David accepted Jeannie's recommendation that he facilitate the next meeting.

Charlotte offered to assist David in recording the minutes electronically for distribution to each SOULSB list member, and to assist in building an agenda.

As a group, we decided to accept the invitation of the Green Party of SB to include our name to the list of endorsers of the Green Party program "Reigning in Corporate Power" as part of our expression of outreach to the larger community. Nancy, active with the SB Greens, offered a closing toast to commemorate our new approach.