

PeaceWorks, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Telecon Minutes

September 29, 2009

(Action items in italics)

BOD Members Present: Darvesha MacDonald (Interim President), Allaudin Sandy Hill, Kabir Stuart McKinnon, Maitreya Jon Stevens, Halima Sussman

Also present: Munir Peter Reynolds (Interim Executive Director); Martha Bracken (IN office manager)

*Toward the One,
the Perfection of Love, Harmony and Beauty, The only Being,
United with all the Illuminated Souls who form the embodiment of the Master,
The Spirit of Guidance.*

AGENDA

Welcome and Check in

Minutes from 22 September BOD meeting

Note on BOD recruitment

Key Tasks/Issues

Interim Treasurer

IN Website

Unity Council Recommendations

Upcoming PW Inc BOD telecons

Closing Check In

Next Telecon Date: Wednesday, 7 October, 3 p.m. Mountain Time

Topic: Review the Unity Council recommendations together

MINUTES

Welcome and Check-In

Munir welcomed everyone to the meeting. By consensus Munir was asked to facilitate the meeting. Munir asked Allaudin to serve as “deep listening coach,” making sure that the process of the group works and is integrated. Following the Sufi invocation everyone offered a greeting and check-in to the group.

Kabir –I’m holding the question about how best to be of service. Also, how can I skillfully join my contribution with others? I’m also aware of the myriad details, finances, Pubs etc. that need to be addressed. I would like to spend some time connecting so we can form a sense of our group when we are together.

Darvesha – Nice to be with a new group and I’m looking forward to working together. Thanks for being here.

Halima – I’m pleased to be in this circle. I’ve been working with the Unity Council for several years and our task is to implement and create a bridge that can take the Dances into the future with grace. I look forward to how that can happen in a grounded way. I hope we can enjoy ourselves, so that we feel like we are working in way inspires us.

Maitreya – I’m here because Munir asked me to do this. I’m bringing “beginner mind” to the whole thing. I will do my best to wrap around everything.

Allaudin – It’s an honor to be asked. I’m drawing a blank on what I can offer. I can be helpful. We need to honor the past and the original visions and carry it forward in a way that is “user friendly.” I’m bogged down in bureaucracy elsewhere and do not want that to happen here.

Martha – I have so many mixed feelings. Fear sadness, mystery, and the elephant in the middle of the room that everybody wants to get rid of. (PeaceWorks office, Pubs, etc.) I’ve managed this office for 15 years – who will I be if I don’t do this? And, I also know that it’s good, it’s time for a change. It’s refreshing to have new ideas and folks coming in. I appreciate you all stepping up to that. I feel like I’m losing my job and don’t know if I’ll still fit in or not.

Munir thanked everyone for their honest and helpful comments.

Minutes of the September 22, 2009 board meeting were approved via email by that board of directors. Munir will send the Sept 22 minutes out with the minutes from this meeting. Halima suggested that this board write a letter to the former board thanking them for their work. “I feel a lot of gratitude to this board.” *Munir agreed to draft a letter to the outgoing board and Halima will edit.*

Note on Board recruitment – Munir reported that Noor Habib Gulliver of Germany declined to serve on the PeaceWorks board. The board discussed issues related to having a member from outside North America. Darvesha emphasized that we need functional input coming to this board, but not “representation”. Kabir suggested that we park this item for the time being unless the right fit for a new member appears. “We’re transitioning to a non-representative structure. There are benefits of having a small board now.”

Key Tasks/Issues

Munir briefed the board on what he saw as the key items to be addressed between now and the end of the year. They included:

Pubs Inventory – closing out or giving away unneeded items and deciding how to go forward with remaining items

Administration – Closing Seattle office and transitioning to a new personnel structure
International Network Website development
Finances – taking control of bank accounts, etc., development of the 2010 PeaceWorks budget, need an interim Treasurer
Communications with the Regions – Feedback from the UC report and communications on regional issues with PeaceWorks

Munir said he hoped that a structure could be adopted to carry these things forward so that the work of the board would be done in committee.

Kabir said, “I have been thinking about the need to not drop any balls as we move forward. Also, we all need to acquire the knowledge we need to make good decisions. What would our ideal committee structures be – I’m not sure I know yet. How often can we put our heads and hearts together as a board? I have a feeling that in the near term that we might want to meet more frequently.” The other board members agreed. Allaudin agreed and said that this stage is like learning to read or write: early intervention is important. “I need to understand what I’m going to be doing as an individual here. Also, how are we working together as well? These two things need to be understood.”

Halima said that the UC recommendations affect all the areas we have named. The UC suggested this board tap other people in the community to be part of these committees. We have to bring everything back to this body, but it doesn’t all have to be done there. A big piece of this is financial - the nuts and bolts. Someone is going to be needed to hold this as a concentration and ground this. We need to get “real” about this soon.

Kabir McKinnon as Interim Treasurer

Allaudin moved that Kabir be appointed Interim Treasurer, provided that there are no problems with a Canadian serving as Treasurer for a California Corporation. Halima seconded. *Kabir and Munir will research whether there is any problem with a Canadian serving as treasurer or being a signer on the checking account.*

IN Website

Munir briefed the board on developments regarding the new IN website that is now under construction. Darvesha and Halima are the two board members assigned to this project. Allaudin asked if this something that we could involve younger people in? Maitreya said that he would be “up” for this. Halima said she will involve Maitreya in this website development. (In a telephone meeting following the board meeting Darvesha and Halima agreed that Johara Reynolds will serve as designer and content manager for the website and will continue developing website design elements working with the two of them. Further, *Halima and Darvesha will gather input and ideas from Patsy Boyer, Maitreya, Kyra Eptstein and others as we go forward.*)

Unity Council Recommendations

Munir reviewed the activity to date to distribute the Unity Council report to the dance network and set up telecom forums for feedback. *Halima asked Munir to send the UC recommendations to the MTG and Jamiat Khas listserves as soon as possible. She also asked him to note clearly on the www.danceunitycouncil.com that log in is not required in order to leave a comment.* Kabir said it would be good for PW board members to listen in and/or participate in these forums. The UC recommendations could provide a blueprint for the new board. He would welcome the opportunity to work through them as a group.

Upcoming PeaceWorks Board Telecons

Bearing in mind the need to give more background to the new Board, the Board set up the following meetings/telecons:

Wed, Oct 7, 2009; 2 p.m. Pacific, 3 p.m. Mountain; 5 p.m. Eastern –
Review the Unity Council recommendations together

Wed Oct 14, 2009; 2 p.m. Pacific, 3 p.m. Mountain; 5 p.m. Eastern –
Briefing and discussion of other issues and current needs

Wed Oct 21, 2009; 2 p.m. Pacific, 3 p.m. Mountain; 5 p.m. Eastern –
Additional discussion and establishment of formal committees/working groups.

Closing round of check-in:

Kabir – This feels like a good beginning...to hear voices of others. I have a mixture of excitement and trepidation. I certainly feel confident that we can do things that will be useful and also will be a lot of fun. I want to make sure the container is open for all of us.

Maitreya – I don't really know what's going on, but I look forward to the informational meetings that are scheduled. I'm seeking for a context to the stuff I've read.

Darvesha – I feel so hopeful. This has been a beautiful, beautiful meeting, very different than any past ones.

Halima – I feel hopeful too. I feel positive and hope that we can be good stewards for something precious.

Martha – I just got an email from Darvesha. I feel relieved that the mystery of this group of people out there that things are in good hands and my future too.

Allaudin – I have to thank you for kick-starting this process. It's a central practice in my life.