

Report of the Space Visioning Group to the Council
October 30, 2009

Several Space Visioning events have occurred since the August Council meeting.

On October 2, Marion Buckley, Janet Bronstein and Mary Whetsell met with Randy Russell who has not been able to attend scheduled group meetings but who has experience with planning the transition we're looking at and strong interest in helping us. The results of this meeting were that (1) a timeline was created for making a decision about the short-term goal of an interim move to a bigger, more appropriate space, and (2) a clearer vision of the long term plan is needed before beginning long-term capital fundraising, including looking at options for ownership structure, operation structure, and design. If an interim move is made, it was noted that a projected rent of \$2000/month will require an average increase in monthly donations of \$25 per giver. The importance of community gatherings to educate the membership about the details of options, and to determine how far and how fast the membership can move, was emphasized.

On October 11, several members of the group had lunch with Joanne Martin-Braun and afterwards had a very energetic and exciting meeting. Joanne gave her impressions of our sangha and space, discussed the Sakyong's vision for building, and made suggestions for informing and energizing the community, including the leadership. One clear conclusion was that for increasing the sustainability of the community, more – and more involved – members are needed. Joanne also made suggestions for supporting the leadership, including: (1) creating special times for the Council (e.g., retreats with practice, business and celebration), (2) paying for one retreat a year for the Director and one other Council member, and (3) connecting with other Center directors.

On October 25, the Space Visioning Group (Marion Buckley, Roger Sparks, Lynne Peralme, Chuck Whetsell, Janet Bronstein, Joan Denman, Randy Russell) met to summarize the results of the above events and formulate recommendations to the Council.

Regarding the question of the new space process, the recommendations are:

1. Select a commercial realtor by March 2010 to do a serious search for a short-term move.
2. The following timeline of decisions to be made by the Council regarding short-term and long-term plans was proposed:
 - a. In April 2010, decide upon a short list of ownership models to consider for a long-term (permanent) move,
 - b. By August 2010, decide whether to make a short-term move or not, based on the findings of the realtor,
 - c. In about April 2011 (flexible, based on interim events), make a decision about a concrete long term plan, begin fundraising and specific planning.
3. Council needs to clarify the decision process, particularly community involvement. A series of community meetings is proposed.
4. Council should initiate a membership drive independent of the movement toward a new space, but educate members and potential members about the new space process.