

Report of the Space Visioning Group to the Council
August 8, 2009

The Space Visioning Group met on July 22, 2009, with Marion Buckley, Lynne Peralme, Joan Denman, Phyllis Mark, Jennifer Sanders, Mary Whetsell, Janet Bronstein, and new member, Roger Sparks, participating.

Members who had inspected the approximately 22 properties (lease, sale, property on which to build) reported on their findings. In brief, conclusions from this discussion were (1) none of the twenty-two properties investigated was significantly better (meeting our search criteria) than our present location, so we need to keep looking, (2) based on the prices for the space we need, we need a stronger financial base, (3) in today's market, prices are somewhat negotiable.

Alternative financial arrangements were discussed, including a rent-to-own agreement, and the possibility of several members (not identified, though!) pooling financial resources to buy a property.

The following recommendations to the Council were developed:

1. Based on the effort expended by all surveyors, we want to recommend to the Council that we develop a relationship with a realtor who can continue the search for us.
2. Based on the types of properties seen, on discussion of our financial situation, and on the larger vision of the group, we want to recommend to the Council a long range plan of building our own space, with a possible interim plan of leasing a larger, workable space (more space, not too great an expense either monthly or initial outlay).
3. We also want to recommend to the Council that we put more energy into increasing membership as a more immediate plan for improving our sustainability.

We closed by generating a poem-like expression of our vision for our Center, everyone contributing 1-2 words after contemplation:

Supportive
Space
Hospitality
Sacred, big sky space
Inviting
Refuge
Clear
Magnetizing and enriching