

Minutes
Urgent Intersangha Gathering
August 3, 2019

- 11:00 - 11:05 Welcome and meeting roll call (one unique representative per meeting)
- 11:05 - 11:15 Meditation -- Gensho
- 11:15 - 11:25 Overview of RR dissolution and creation of RRWS and RD – Jean
 - History of Board concerns about separating the non-profit RR from for profit RR, legal implications. Unable to come to resolution with regards to IRS issues.
 - About 15 months ago NL accused of sexual assault. Prosecutors did not opt to go forward. ATS hired investigator with significant experience investigating sexual assault cases. Independent investigator found NL had violated Buddhist tenants of sexual misconduct.
 - ATS didn't want NL to represent anymore. They dissolved due to fiscal impact of donation loss due to situation
 - Compounding of fiscal issues and NL refusal to step down. Suits and countersuits ensued. Board offered settlement talks. He walked away twice. Finally Board decided to close down to care for morale of organization. Settlement ensued creating:
 - Refuge Recovery World Service
 - This is a NEW organization. Not the same as RR. RR officially dissolved on July 31, 2019.
 - Recovery Dharma
 - Formed about six months ago to house literature outside of RR
 - 240 groups at this time
 - Different from RR:
 - Explicitly trauma informed
 - Explicitly community led. No teacher on board. Not determining who can lead retreats
 - RR has a board, not listed on RR website
 - There is a transition team now. Figuring out election process. Needed Board to establish non-profit status
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- 11:25 - 11:50 Q&A. Here are some common questions, and others are welcome:
 - Can I use the RRWS book in my RD meeting? Yes
 - Book is on Amazon
 - Can we add to book?
 - There is a lit committee reviewing suggestions for 2nd edition
 - Can I use the RD book in my RRWS meeting? We don't know the answer
 - YOUR QUESTIONS HERE
 - Are RD on RRWS page? If you want it removed from WS site you have to do it. Have to go to and ask to be removed after changing name with Jean.
 - Is WS going to have a lot of involvement on local level? Jean: Has heard that WS wants to adopt more 12 step model. Rachel Savage has

approached local WS groups asking to be admin on their page. It is possible WS will be more prescriptive for local groups.

- How fast are other cities moving? Jean: It's been meeting by meeting. Some smaller cities have already made a choice. Some intersangha's made move away from WS before RD began. Chicago is meeting this weekend.
- How often will books be updated so libraries can decide if they want to stock them. Jean: It will be much more thoughtful and slower now that book is out.
- Where is meeting information going to be? This meeting was on RR PDX website. Cara is going to start RD PDX website and it should be up ASAP
- What does non-affiliated meeting look like? Not sure. They would not be on either RD or WS website but on Buddhist Recovery Network
- If unaffiliated group wants to be listed on RD can they be? Yes! RD would not list them as RD group but under whatever name they wanted

- **11:50 - 12:05** **BREAK**

- 12:05 - 12:15 To meetings: Who knows what their meeting want to do?
 - RRWS only
 - RD only
 - Some mix of the two
 - None of the above
- List attached. Vancouver has opted to not be part of Portland Intersangha
- 12:15 - 12:25 To individuals: What do you want to do?
 - Went around the room. No notes taken.

BREAK

- 12:25 - 12:35 Are separate Intersanghas a thing now?
 - Abby, Sarah, JohnTony, Hannah, Semi stepped down Hanah, Semi, Sara said they would do new RD IS.
 - Jeremy says since RR IS is dissolving do we need to step down or are we going to go on as a new IS?
 - Michael: are we going to have an RD intersangha? Group conscience?
 - Joel: Is there a mission statement?
 - Jean: Vote? Do we vote to dissolve RRPDXIS? Vote taken. Unanimous vote to dissolve.
 - JohnTony: We need to do some front end stuff if we are going to have a new RDIS.
 - Cliff: Are other cities doing new IS? Jean, yes?
 - Motion to create IS for RD: m/s/c.
- Use the September 28, 2019 meeting to do RD meeting?
- Should we separate into groups to discuss future of new IS?
- Percy-Is the IS going to be inclusive to all Buddhist meetings?

- Cliff, let's wrap so healing can begin and groups can make a decision about IS. Agreed. Moved on in the agenda.

No one opts to take over RR FB or newsletter.

- 12:35 - 12:55 Communicating with local treatment facilities
 - o Michael has spoken to Hazeldon who is excited that we are going toward RD. Michael has talked to many treatment facilities. They have been very concerned about the sexual misconduct stuff and have been looking toward RD. Same with Kaiser and other powers that be. They want RD meetings. Central City Concern also wants RD.
 - o [Not sure man's name]: Groups should have a say since they gave money.
 - o Jeremey – could we decide if WS groups wanna be in PDX IS? Can we give money back if they want it? Sarah, this is not an effective solution because IS spends the money on group meeting space and food. Jean: Oakland is going through something similar but the whole community went RD so funds transfer was easier. Jean: It would be easier when we make a decision on one IS or two so we can figure out \$. The \$ is not going anywhere so we don't have to decide today.
 - o Jess, IS purpose? Opinion is that it is for the specific program to help with programming and distribution of funds. IS can't manage all programs.

- 1:05 - 1:25 Disposition of RR PDX Intersangha funds – about \$585 in PDX Intersangha account
 - o Abby asked what intent of funds were. Jeremey reminded that there has been a Buddha Bowl committee. Sarah reminds that it hasn't been ratified.
- Hannah: Move to make RD IS exclusively for RD meetings. m/s/c : 21 Yes, 5 Abstain, 0 opposed.
- Cliff: Let's allow some closure and figure out RD and \$ later.

- 1:50 - 2:00 Closing, with gratitude and appreciation, as an entire group. 2 minute meditation.