

Oregon Network for Compassionate Communication
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Eugene, OR June 27, 2010

Present: Steve Blechman, Chuck Powers, Gary Baran
Guest: Selene Atkins (until lunch break)

The meeting began with a remembrance at 10:30 am, followed by a check in.

The minutes of the May 23, 2010 meeting were approved.

Review of action items:

1. Fred will contact Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates and ask whether they would like to participate in dialogue with Ray Davis—Fred has done this and is in the process of arranging to meet with Ray Davis, President of Umpqua Bank
2. Chuck will place the Oregon Prison Project description and photos on the ORNCC website--done
3. Fred will inquire about offering CEUs for trainings in Oregon—The NVC educators institute is already able to offer CEUs; we may want to take additional steps to arrange for other kinds of trainings and participants.
4. Fred will contact Bryn Hazel about NVC prison work---done

Old Business:

1. NVC materials update: Gary reported that Karen Booth has agreed to continue to house NVC materials (and make them available for sale) in Eugene; Sparrow dropped off at Gary's the materials she had; they are to go to Portland; after they have been moved to Portland, **Chuck will follow up with Karen and Joe to produce an inventory.**
2. Database use and issues: tabled to next meeting so board member Fred Sly can be included in this discussion.
3. Review of vision and mission statement and proposal (from Chuck) to include new language about social change: We agreed to put this on hold until we have a discussion about partnerships/affiliates (see new business item 6 below).
4. Possible complaints about trainings/trainers: The board agreed not to take on responsibility for this at the present time.

We paused to establish a Skype connection with John Brown and allowed him 10 minutes to tell us about his program, Rooms for Peace. John indicated that there is an application for affiliation on the RFP website. He would like us to review the application and consider enhancement possibilities described in an email about these; **Chuck will forward this email to other board members.** (We noted later, and after reviewing old Board minutes, that the ORNCC Board agreed in July 2006 to be a "charter member" of Rooms for Peace but that designation appears to no longer be used and the precise nature of ORNCC's affiliation with RFP is yet to be determined.)

(Old Business continued)

5. Board member selection and revitalization—
Selene said she may be interested in rejoining the Board.

After brainstorming ideas related to this item, the board agreed to the following:
We will draft a letter with a board member job description, to be emailed to those on our email list and posted on the ORNCC website, hopefully within 30 days. **Within two weeks, Chuck, Selene and Steve will produce an initial draft of this letter; Chuck will draft the job description part of the letter.**

Chuck will contact Teresa (the Governing Council liaison) to get information about the process of board nomination and to let her know we'd like assistance from the Governing Council for finding new board members.

We will attempt to contact former board members and those who identify themselves as trainers in Oregon and SW Washington and indicate some of the benefits they or others might derive from board membership. **Within 2 weeks, Chuck will produce an initial draft of this message. Chuck will also compile an email list of trainers and former board members.**

6. Reporting on ORNCC's ongoing efforts to act in alignment with our values—The board agreed to defer this item to a future meeting during which we will explore what we send out to people in our network, when and how, and who will be responsible for handling PR tasks of this sort.

New Business

1. Renewing domain name (nonviolentliving.org) which was used in the fall 2006 Nonviolent Living conference in Eugene--The Board agreed not to renew this domain name.

2. Discussion of Portland NVC gathering, possibly to be held in October. Selene suggested that trainers be invited to donate offerings, as part of a fundraiser. Chuck shared the vision he and Stuart Watson have been developing for an NVC Festival in a large gathering hall with breakout rooms for a variety of topics trainers and others could address; food and music would be available; ORNCC would offer a keynote speaker; this event would also be a fundraiser and an opportunity to introduce newcomers to NVC. Feedback on this proposal: Reservations were expressed about the scope of this event, especially in the absence of considerable infrastructure and local volunteer support. Some present expressed doubts that a major event could be organized effectively by October and, in any case, would not want ORNCC to take on major responsibility for the event, although would be willing to have ORNCC co-sponsor such an event and provide some financial support. Board members would like to see a specific request for such support. **Chuck agreed to provide the board with updates on this event as it develops.**

(Lunch break)

3. Format for minutes--The board members present agreed that we would prefer brief minutes rather than minutes that include a lot of detail about discussions. We agreed to visit this topic again at our next meeting so Fred Sly can be present.

4. Fundraising—We considered whether we support having a fundraiser specifically in support of the Oregon Prison Project, as Fred Sly has proposed. The board members present prefer to begin our fundraising efforts via electronic means rather than through an in person gathering, and not to have initial fundraising exclusively for the prison project, although we support having that project being one of the main targets for funds raised. Before proceeding further with fundraising we would like to have a completed short video about the prison project and a page on our website featuring ORNCC projects. **Chuck agreed to construct the webpage and email appeals and to coordinate this with an NVC community day (in Portland). Steve agreed to locate and review a video from Bay NVC to see if it would be suitable for this purpose, and to check with Bay NVC about permission to use that video. Steve will also follow up with Fred regarding his asking for permission to film in the Oregon State Penitentiary.**

5. The board had a general discussion about board policies and administrative functions. (No decisions were made about this topic.)

6. Discussion about partnerships/affiliations and the ORNCC vision and mission statement--Concerns were expressed about our lack of clear and agreed upon standards for determining if we would be willing to affiliate with other organizations, and about the challenges associated with vetting such organizations. No decision was reached about how to address these concerns at this time.

We discussed modifying the mission statement along the lines Chuck had proposed. No agreement was reached about this but we agreed to put this on the agenda for our next meeting.

Check out

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Action Items:

1. **Chuck will follow up with Karen and Joe to produce an inventory of NVC materials held by ORNCC.**
2. **Chuck will forward the email from John Brown, about various options possible with Rooms for Peace, to other board members.** (Chuck distributed a one page summary of this information to board members present at the meeting.)
3. **Within two weeks, Chuck, Selene and Steve will produce an initial draft of an email inviting people in our network to consider nominating themselves and/or others to serve on the ORNCC board; Chuck will draft the job description part of the letter.**

4. **Chuck will contact Teresa (the Governing Council liaison) for information about the process of board nomination and to let her know we would like the Governing Council to assist us in finding new board members.**
5. **Within 2 weeks, Chuck will produce an initial draft of a message requesting former board members and trainers to help us find new board members, and will also compile an email list of trainers and former board members that can be used for sending this message.**
6. **Chuck will (meet with Stuart and) provide the board with updates on plans for a Portland area NVC gathering.**
7. **Chuck will construct a webpage and email appeal for funds and coordinate this with an NVC community day (in Portland).**
8. **Steve agreed to locate and review a video from Bay NVC to see if it would be suitable for our fundraising purposes, and to check with Bay NVC about permission to use that video.**
9. **Steve will follow up with Fred regarding his asking for permission to film in the Oregon State Penitentiary.**

Possible Future Agenda Items:

1. Arranging for CEUs for trainings in Oregon (and other than those offered through the Educators Institute).
2. Database use and issues.
3. Proposal to modify ORNCC Mission statement to include explicit reference to social change.
4. Reporting on ORNCC activities (via email, website, etc.)—policies and administration related to this matter.
5. Format for minutes (consideration of Fred's specific proposal).
6. Further consideration of the topic of affiliation with other organizations and specifically with Rooms for Peace.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Baran Acting Secretary

