

Oregon Network for Compassionate Communication
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of January 23, 2011

Present: Gary Baran, Steve Blechman, Cindi Fisher, Aiyana Lucas, Sally Marie, Gray Moen, Chuck Powers, Fred Sly

Guest: Stuart Watson (present for first part of meeting)

New actions items are indicated in boldface .

1. Steve began the meeting at 10:18 am with a brief meditation and remembering. This was followed by a ceremony welcoming the new board members and then a check in.
2. Stuart Watson, co-founder and current member of the Governing Council of ORNCC, presented a brief history of ORNCC.

ORNCC grew initially from small groups in various Oregon cities. A few people from the groups in Portland, Eugene, Salem, and Bend got together, beginning in about 2000, and continued to meet over a couple of years to coordinate NVC activities and accept donations. They decided to form a nonprofit organization for several reasons, including avoiding having lots of cash go through personal accounts, having protection from law suits, and attracting grant funding. A non-profit attorney provided the structure (with a board and governing council, in lieu of large number of voting members). ORNCC received nonprofit status in 2004. The board wanted to see training that is financially accessible, to sponsor projects, get NVC more into the culture and organizations, not just get more people to trainings offered by individual trainers, i.e. to support a movement. Some years ago ORNCC sponsored a week long visit by Marshall to several Oregon cities and hired Stuart (at about \$6/hr) to coordinate that visit and establish core teams in each area to organize for those areas. Stuart was trying to get groups going and coach them. Some thrived and some waned after the Marshall event. Mostly volunteers have carried on ORNCC apart from that. In 2008 the Board sponsored a nonviolence conference in Eugene. This was fairly successful but also depleted the Board. Continuing issues: How are we going to support special projects, things not done by individual trainers? How can we build community apart from individuals participating in practice groups? How to re-inspire people who have been to trainings but haven't been active lately? The Board has been thinking about these issues for years.

3. The Minutes of the December 19, 2010 Board meeting were approved.
4. Action items from previous meeting
 - a. Fred followed up to correct a caption of a photo on the website by sending the information to Chuck who corrected the caption.

b. Fred sent a letter to Ray Davis of Umpqua Bank requesting information that will support our making a decision about whether to continue to bank with Umpqua Bank.

c. Chuck emailed minutes of the December meeting to all board members and requested them to bring their calendars to the January meeting so we can plan the year's schedule.

d. Fred contacted Seniors Make Sense to find out their requirements for supporting people working for nonprofits and brought this information and their contract to the board meeting. Fred had an interview with Marietta Schlumpf, program manager of SMS Services who explained their program and who also provided a Host Agency Orientation Manual for ORNCC's use if we decide to engage the services of a SMS volunteer. Fred would like the Board to decide which board member will coordinate volunteer services. Currently Fred is doing that job and is willing to continue to do so. **The Board agreed to take up this matter at a future meeting.**

e. Pavanna Smith had agreed to check with Seniors Make Sense to see if she could work for ORNCC even though ORNCC does not have a physical office and, if so, to provide us with a resume, references, and a statement of what she is hoping to experience working for ORNCC. Pavanna did so and also secured the agreement of the NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) director in Beaverton that she could use their office to perform services for us, NAMI agreed. Subsequently, Pavanna was offered another six month position at NAMI and, because this offer included a training that she was excited to receive, she accepted this offer. Fred agreed that she could take his classes in exchange for incidental work for ORNCC, but they have not yet come to a specific agreement about how to go forward with their relationship.

f. Fred learned that Sura Hart and Jean Morrison are available to provide a Teach4Life Educator's Institute 5 day training June 20-24 in the Portland area; and Chuck agreed to coordinate the Board's role in this effort. Fred contacted Portland Village School which agreed to provide space for both Institutes; the first June 15th - 19th, and the second June 21st - 25th. Portland Village School said they normally expect to receive 15% of the total amount of monies collected in registration fees in return for using their space. Because the first workshop is for them no space fee is required for the first workshop, only the second. PVS would be delighted if registration fees collected for the second workshop could be used to offset some of the production costs of the first workshop and, at present, sees no reason why that could not be the case. Fred had agreed to photograph the space and send these photos to Jean and Sura so that they could plan, and he did this. (See below for update about the Educator's Institute.)

g. To help orient new board members, Chuck sent board member manuals

(including the bylaws) to all Board members before the January meeting, and reminded members that lunch would be potluck. Steve invited Stuart Watson to come to the January board meeting to offer a brief history of the organization.

The Board planned to schedule a discussion, at the January meeting, of the history, mission and structure of the organization. Steve planned a ritual for welcoming members to the board for which Fred dropped off 4 medium and 4 large ORNCC T shirts to Steve.

5. Treasurer's report--accepted as presented.

6. Election of new Board Officers

President--Gary nominated and Fred seconded Steve, who was elected unanimously.

Vice President-Fred nominated and Cindi seconded Aiyana, who was elected unanimously.

Treasurer-Sally nominated and Gary seconded Chuck, who was elected unanimously.

Secretary-Steve nominated and Gary seconded Fred, who was elected unanimously.

7. Oregon Prison Project report. Fred's project report was attached to an email sent to Board members and he responded to some comments about the project.

8. Scheduling--The Board agreed to the following schedule for 2011 meetings; Skype meetings will be from 10 am to noon. In person meetings will be from 10 am to 4 pm. Gary agreed to provide orientation to Skype for Sally and Cindi.

Sun Feb 20 Skype

Sat Mar 26 Eugene

Sat April 23 Skype

Sun May 22 Portland

Sat June 18 Skype

Sat July 30 Eugene

Sun Sept 18 Portland

Sun Oct 16 Skype

Sat Nov 5 Eugene

Sat Dec 10 Portland

9. Old Business

a. Chuck offered an update on the Teach4Life training sponsored by ORNCC. Negotiations with PVS are in process. The Board voted to authorize Fred to sign a contract with PVS re. rental and food arrangements. **Chuck will finish creating the flyer and send it to Sura and Jean, and will coordinate help in publicizing the training.**

10. New Business

a. Cindi shared her projects involving mental health work, restorative circles (she has been to 2 of Dominic Barter's trainings), and The Village Vision. She will be hosting some restorative circles following a presentation by Robert Whitaker.

She said she would like ORNCC to sponsor a restorative circle project. **Cindi agreed to submit a proposal of her vision of how the board could support the facilitation of Restorative Circles, under the broader umbrella of Restorative Justice.**

b. Request for training support from NVCTraining Institute (NVCTI), to be held in 2012. Chuck reported that Susan Skye would like ORNCC to locate a facility for and market the event. (A group in Ohio will handle the registration.) In exchange, the Training Institute leaders are offering a seat at the training to one of us. ORNCC is interested in exploring this further and **Gray has agreed to contact Susan for more details.**

c. Chuck proposed a project on recycling excess book inventory (consisting of Speak Peace books, CDs and cassettes and some other material) and raised the question, What can we do with these materials that would further our mission? Some Board members took some of the books and agreed to get them to people with a request for a donation to ORNCC.

d. **Fred introduced the possibility of bringing an IIT to Portland area and agreed to contact CNVC to see if that might be possible. He will craft a letter regarding this for review by Board members before sending it to CNVC.**

e. Discussion about 2011 objectives, marketing of NVC, and initial discussion on fundraising: Fundraising priorities: Teach4Life, OPP support, developing restorative justice project, possibly sponsoring trainings. **Steve agreed to head a sub committee of the Board to brainstorm ideas for fundraising to be presented at its next meeting. Gray and Chuck agreed to take part in this. The subcommittee will report back to the whole Board at or before its next meeting.**

11. Board members agreed to send their contact information to Fred who will distribute it to all Board members.

12. Checked out, adjourned at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Baran, Acting Secretary