

**Seattle Dances of Universal Peace
Planning Meeting
2/21/24**

Present: Jennifer (convener), Helen (scribe), Phil, Zarifah, Hassan (VfP), John, Martha, Elizabeth (and Darvesha), Ka

Opening Dance: “Allah Hu Ahad”

Treasurers Report:

We’ve taken in some donations at last two events. Total in cash and bank account is \$4865. Total includes donations made to NW Harvest and Hope Project, but not some final cash from fall retreat.

Interim Committee Report:

The last-minute switch of venue on February 10 was mostly handled by Ka. The group that was double-booked with us was a recording session, which prohibited having us anywhere else in the building or sending the other group to the Fremont location. We are not being charged for that meeting, with apologies for the mistake. So, March is now paid for.

Feedback on Feb 10th Dance:

7400 Woodlawn has a working relationship with various other venues. The Fremont location had cement floors, black walls and not much light, no parking. However, the dance went well, in spite of the barriers. Musicians worked well together, and acoustics were ok. The gathering was very heart-filled. 21 people attended, including some new people. Three people needed to do Covid testing and there was room enough for them to test. Decorations were simple, though moving tables still had to be done.

2024 Fall Retreat:

Camp Burton sent word that the only price raise will be a small amount for food in 2024. We will need to review our finances to see if we need to raise our costs. Will we be bringing in someone from outside the region who will need travel expenses covered? How do we feel about the format we used last year? Most people were supportive, and we can be smoother now that we have more experience. Ka would prefer that two people take more leadership for more continuity, who would come up with the program and make room for others. If the retreat is one day longer, there would be more time for more leaders. Should we establish a committee for fall retreat planning, or is this a policy issue that we all need to ponder? No one advocated for bringing in a far-away leader, which is the only short-term decision needed today. More discussion to come.

Scheduling Options Past April:

1. After the need to reschedule, we are paid at 7400 Woodlawn through March. Ka inquired about summer dates and storage of a small bag of decorations/Covid tests. We are booked 3/9 and 4/13. If we want them, 6/8, 7/13, and 8/10 are available. 5/25 (Memorial Day weekend) is the only possibly available date in May. Storing the small bag may mean a slight increase in a future contract. 7400 Woodlawn may be setting a 10% rate hike. The rental rate currently is \$33/hr.
2. Elizabeth and Hassan are interested in holding park dances again between May and Sept/Oct. Do we want to continue an indoor dance during this time? We want to maintain our long-term

relationship with 7400 Woodlawn. However, after lengthy discussion, we realized that, while we could monetarily afford to keep the indoor rental over the summer, the energy in our leadership team is limited, especially for organizing a second dance. We may want to inquire about a Sept indoor date later.

3. Ka will investigate the possibility of extending the current agreement through April and then renewing only for Oct 2024 through April 2025 for the time being. If Oct-April is possible, she is empowered to make that commitment. She will consult with the interim committee if the church is not willing to make this arrangement.
4. Are 2nd Sat and time of day are working for most people? We decided to keep our indoor meetings on 2nd Saturdays at 1:00pm for consistency, in spite of at least one long-time dancer not being able to attend at that time.
5. Gayan and Karuna are organizing a dance leader training retreat at Bonney Lake on the 1st or 2nd Sat of September. Elizabeth will tell them our preference is for them to do it on 1st Saturday, so some of our dancers could potentially attend their event.

Covid Testing:

Do we want to continue and should we purchase tests? We have about 25 expired tests. Newer ones now cost \$10-20 per test. Several of us have extra tests to share, so we are covered for the remaining two indoor dances without purchasing more.

How do we want to refer to venue (Name that links to website?):

Tabled until next meeting (or email) for lack of time.

Next Meeting:

Thursday afternoon 3/21, 4:00pm.

Facilitator: John

Scribe: Helen

Interim Committee: Jennifer, Hassan, John

Closing: Gratitude blessing (Phil)