

PFOD Community Mtg 12-11-2016 SUMMARY AND NOTES

Summary of Community meeting:

On Sunday, December 11, 2016 approximately 30 community members gathered for the annual Community meeting. The **Goals of the Community Meeting were to create an opportunity** where participants of all programs at PFOD have the opportunity to:

- Share the successes the community has had together
- Share their appreciation for the community and programmatic offerings
- Engage with other community participants
- Give small group feedback to the Board of Directors on a unifying topic
- Receive a broad overview of the organizational financial status.

After a meditation period, there was an ice - breaker “laughing” exercise.

Anumodana - Harmonizing the collective goodness: The community had been given the opportunity to consider and to submit by email before the meeting, any and all successes and appreciations they saw during the year/18 months. These were compiled and read aloud to engender the spirit of community harmony and goodwill.

Annual Financials: Then there was an explanation of the progress of the 2016 budget and upcoming 2017 budget.

After a break for snacks, the community had an opportunity to give feedback and expound on the new Vision Statement. Below are the notes from the different stations.

VISION STATEMENT SECTION 1 - We envision a City Sanctuary/Refuge, where we as laypeople can set aside our worldly burdens within a community that nurtures virtue, contentment and calm, so wisdom can arise.

- Mindset/Motivation: What makes you seek safety as a refuge
 - Refuge = consistent, reliable, a framework to depend on
 - Schedule, consistency in responses, predictability
 - Virtuous actions/words - safety + standards. Gift of fearlessness
- Examples of refuge @PFOD
 - Any time of sharing/conversation.
 - Confidences,
 - Safety in behavior + words
 - November 8th - day after election - Open door meditation + counseling
 - Upasika gatherings
 - Metta practice
- Establish virtue and contentment - a calm
- Set example
- Relationship with the Buddhist relief organization
- Be available in times of difficulty
- Support virtue, contentment & calm via the teachings
- Knowing the precepts are important to those that practice here.

- Practicing right speech makes a difference
- Reflecting, reflective response and sharing from our own experience is key.
- What is/has been a refuge?
 - Safety acceptance
 - Space to settle.
 - Friendliness
 - Shared sense of values.
 - Culture
 - Community
 - A physical place. It feels different here.
 - Something to look forward to.
 - A warmth
 - Accessibility
 - The teachings - a reliable framework for understanding them.
 - Stability. The world changes; there is consistency here.
 - Always something to get centered around
 - A Physical place to go.
 - Any way to have this place always open?
 - What made it a refuge?
 - Post election
 - Programs, classes books
 - Knowing the culture and rules
 - The presence of the teachers; their proximity/wisdom
 - The physical energy of the place/building
 - A community ; a place
 - Refuge is personal, an internal tool.
 - What can we do to create refuge?
 - More info for newcomers (ie: come early to talk/learn
 - Welcoming communication
 - Help newcomers understand the rules/culture

VISION STATEMENT SECTION 2 - We aim to provide support for personal explorations into the Buddha's teachings, guidance in training our minds, and direct contact with lineage of Ajahn Chah monastics

- Exciting to have contact w/ monastics of Aj. chah
- Unsurprised, fits, well phrased
- Want to know about Aj. Chah & other lineages. Why here/
- Training is unusual
- Day long Retreats are so useful
- Could use more guidance in the mind
- Some would like a chance for personal Q & A time
- I like the statement
- There could be more external, service oriented opportunities
- I would like to encourage more service outside of dhamma practice as a community
- Seeing kids is so encouraging - it helps parents
- Powerful to meditate with kids

- “Theravada” is not mentioned, Ajahn Chah.
- Presumes you know who Ajahn Chah is.
- We are in different places on our path and model for each other.
- A chance for personal exploration - reading Parami on Tuesdays really helped
- Friday - Matthew’s leadership (and assts) a big part. He is always on course. Reliable, and I can see growth.
- Children’s Program is a big support, very important.
- The Vision Statement really resonates with me.
- The lineage of Aj. Chah monastics is very special
- Grateful for programs and have found them very valuable
- Dana system is a huge support - not mentioned enough
- Upasika class is supportive to my practice
- We have no gathering for being skillful when sharing about current events - meshing Buddhism and our “real lives”
- Fellowship may be missing from statement.
- I appreciate that it’s expansive, a broad view of what one can expect to achieve.
- It seems in line with what I experience here, very right on, describes what happens.
- I feel content with the statement
- It’s direct & not ambiguous
- Provide is a good word to frame the attitude of dana
- Thinking through dana has been on my mind lately.
- It’s important to me how this community gives w/o requirements, quid pro quo. Its freely given.
- We are encouraged to ask questions
- The statement is thoughtful
- Grateful for questions of others
- The questioning helps open my mind, encourages us to be our own person. It feels safe.
- Classes support personal exploration, guidance & direct contact.
- Admitting we suffer is supportive
- I’m surprised that I’m not surprised about the vision. It’s all there
- The center does this all well. I came for all of that.
- “Finally” - does this imply the third, or is it different?
- “Training our minds” - wondering what this meas
- We must provide metta to ourselves.

VISION STATEMENT SECTION 3 - We envision a community of mutual support and companionship as we strive to apply these teaching in our daily lives, and walk the eightfold path.

- Book Group
- Being together allows for modeling skillfulness
- List of supporters/”care” group
- Service projects
- Gathering before programs periodically for information Sharing/explaining our practices
- Nametags/Greeters
- Donut Sundays
- Regular Community Teas after Sunday Sila

- Dhamma teas at people's homes - make ways to connect
- COMMUNICATING SOME OF OUR TRADITIONS TO NEWCOMERS
- FAQ
- Newcomers pamphlet
- How do we support individuals after surgery, etc
- Sangha is 100% of the path
- We experience a warm, homelike feeling. Share our hearts
- Safety
- Grounding

Closing meditation and end at 1:15pm