

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – January 25, 2015 – Convened at 10:50 am

Called to order by Secretary Jen Yukl

Present: Kyaw Kyaw Oo
 Directors –Treasurer Gina Vavra, and Secretary Jen Yukl
 Resident Teacher – Zuiko Redding TOTAL PRESENT: 4

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES: Motion by Gina Vavra to approve the 11/23/14 minutes – Second by Zuiko – Carried.

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra

1. Accounts as of 1/24/15:

Checking (Hills)	\$2,343.16			
Savings (Hills)	\$12.79			
Other Savings (UICCU,LACCU)	\$13.13	Working Accounts		\$2,369.08
* N.T.F. Savings (LACCU)	\$6,105.70	New Teacher Fund Savings		\$6,105.70
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$15,581.68	06/12/15	1.492 % [1.5 % APY]	\$15,581.68
48-59 mo. CD (Hills)	\$21,650.48	02/15/16	1.99 % [2.0 % APY]	\$21,650.48
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$21,233.49	07/19/16	[1.3 % APY]	\$21,233.49
49-60 mo. CD (UICCU)	\$20,796.57	04/01/17	2.13 % [2.15 % APY]	\$20,796.57
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$26,968.11	52.8% CRZC	47.2% NTF	\$26,968.11
Grand Total				\$114,705.11

2. Proposal to transfer \$4800 from NTF savings into mutual fund: Consensus of those present was to make this transfer. Jen Yukl will contact the board to approve this financial decision.
3. 2015 Proposed Budget: See Appendix B. Reviewed and accepted with one minor revision, the addition of “(bank expenses)” after “Miscellaneous Expenses” to clarify what this line has been used for in the past. This addition has been made in Appendix B. Jen will contact the board for final approval of the budget.

BUILDING & GROUNDS – Jen Yukl

1. Update on work day of December 13: Thank you to Kelly Kruse, Eric Higgins-Freese and his sons Reuben and Henry, Gina Vavra, and Zuiko. Cleaning was done in discussion room, sun porch, and pantry (shelf paper changed). Reuben and Henry dusted baseboards and helped wash windows.
2. Extended work period on Sunday, February 8 (until 12:30 pm): Discussed scheduling a work day in February, but opted for an extended work period after the dharma talk on February 8.
Work planned: Caulk behind kitchen sink and clean center in preparation for guests on February 15.
3. Bench for entryway: Update given and decision made to wait. See update below.
 Update as of Dec. 4, 2014, in email from Suisan Goldberg:
I got the measurements and sent them to Elana at DailyZen.com. She wrote back and said that their artist named "Blue" was totally "immersed" currently in designing and manufacturing Altar Tables but would someday (if we were in no hurry), transfer that concept to benches. I was not given any estimates due to Blue's current concentration on the Altar Tables. My impression was that if we were willing to wait an indefinite amount of time, we'd get an estimate, but that it wouldn't be any time soon.
4. Pending Projects:
 - Painting: woodwork & walls in library, hall, office, Zuiko's room, and stairwell / water-damaged areas in kitchen and stairwell – waiting for okay on these areas from Fitz / a few other places downstairs where paint is cracking / touch up garage
 - Relocate library to basement: Plan is to investigate costs and feasibility in the spring.
 - Garden & yard this spring: garden border project and finish trimming apple tree
 - Weeds in decorative brick work at street corners: Check and remedy once or twice each year.
 - Basement wall seeping: Plan is to contract repair with Fitz sometime this year.
 - Roof: Long-term plan is to put on a new roof in 2019 or 2020.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Need for new laptop for center: During review of the proposed budget, it was noted that we should look into replacing the laptop used by our administrative assistant, treasurer, and librarian.
2. Health insurance for Zuiko / Request for assistance with specialist co-pays: The insurance premium has decreased from \$85 to \$29. However, this decrease means that Zuiko will have to pay \$20 more for visits to specialists. Consensus was to have the center cover this extra amount in specialist co-pays. Jen will send this on to the board for a final decision.
3. Hire Hoko Karnegis as Facebook administrator: Katie Roemerman has been posting for us, but will soon be moving to attend grad school. Consensus was to send this proposal to the board with a suggested pay rate in the range of \$10 to \$15 per hour, for up to two hours each month.
4. Free kinhin at all-day sittings and sesshins: Suggestion made by Zuiko to consider starting this in the afternoons, possibly in early mornings as well. This allows people to get up and walk in areas of the center during sitting zazen. Clarification made that this would be in addition to scheduled periods of kinhin. Decision made to begin this practice in the afternoon of the February 15th all-day sitting.
5. Practice period: Several ideas were proposed at the November meeting. Zuiko will continue gathering ideas and decide how and when to start this type of practice.
6. Continuing conversation about growing as a sangha – started Oct. 2014 with these two questions: What do you like about CRZC? What ideas do you have for making it bloom?
A suggestion from November's sangha meeting was to plan a brain-storming session. It was decided not to do this right now, but to continue this conversation at our Sunday tea time.
7. Board of Directors: Election at annual meeting on April 26. The following was discussed.
 - The terms of Bill Bomberry and Tonen O'Connor will be ending.
 - Tonen is willing to serve one more year as our clergy representative if needed, but not a full term. Zuiko mentioned one possibility, but this teacher may not be available this year.
[Addendum: After the meeting, Zuiko thought of another teacher who may be available sooner, and will contact them about joining our board.]
 - Bill does not plan to run for reelection this year. We need someone to fill his slot. Jen also noted that if we are able to find another person to run, she would like to step down from the board and not complete the last year of her term. She will not be able to be reelected as secretary. Three possible board candidates were suggested. Gina offered to contact them.
 - Officer positions were briefly discussed. The election of all officers, by current board members, occurs each year. Right now, our current known officer needs are for president and secretary.
8. Building & Grounds Coordinator: Brief discussion about filling this role. One name was suggested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Dharma School: Sunday, February 1 (2:00 – 3:30 pm)
2. Extended Work Period: Sunday, February 8 (10:40 am – 12:30 pm)
3. Baika practice: second & fourth Thursdays (5:30 pm)
4. All-day sitting: Sunday, February 15 (5:00 am – 4:40 pm)
 - Visiting teacher, Jisho Siebert, will give the dharma talk.
5. Ohigan Sesshin: Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15
 - Visiting teacher, Daishin McCabe, will give the dharma talks on Saturday and Sunday.
 - Sitting schedule for sesshin available at www.cedarrapidszencenter.org
6. Buddha's Birthday Celebration: Sunday, April 5
7. Annual Meeting: Sunday, April 26
8. Baika teacher from Japan: in Minneapolis on May 16

ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area from the Inter-Religious Council

1. **University of Religion Buddhism course – four Saturdays – February 7, 14, 21, & 28 (2:00 to 4:00 pm)**
“The Life, Teachings, & Legacy of the Buddha” presented by Zuiko Redding
Location: Mount Mercy University, Flaherty Room in Basile Hall
Cost: \$20 for all four sessions / Registration forms available

NEXT SANGHA MEETING: February 22

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm. Motion by Gina Vavra to adjourn – Second by Zuiko – Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jen Yuki

Appendix A:

Practice Report for December 2014 and January 2015

– Zuiko Redding

General Impressions

Zazen at sesshins and all-day sitting: It is very helpful for us to sit more than one period of zazen. Encouragement was given to choose one all-day sitting or sesshin to attend in each year.

I will be gone for a number of Sundays this next year, and I'm looking to all of you to take care of things. It's a good time to begin taking charge of the practice, the organization, and the place. I will be gone for national meetings in March and possibly June, and to visit my teacher in Japan in October.

I would like people to think about a six-week study group looking at awareness in Buddhism and Islam. The imam at the Islamic Center, Hassan Selim, is interested in doing this with us. Hassan has suggested the book, Common Ground between Islam & Buddhism by Reza Shah Kazemi (foreword by the Dalai Lama). If we could get together two or three people from each faith, we could have a fruitful discussion. Let me know what you think. [Consensus at sangha meeting is that this would be a good topic for our next study group.]

Center Activities

- . Dharma school – two children came in December and four in January. We talked about Buddha's Awakening in December and about the New Year in January.
- . Introductory evening – five people came in December and seven in January. Kelly did the evening. One participant wrote to say how much she had enjoyed Kelly's presentation and how much she'd gotten from it.
- . Sunday orientation – two people. Zuiko did the orientation. Would others like to attempt this?
- . Sunday sitting – good attendance. There is discussion of dharma at tea time. I want to encourage bringing dharma questions to tea, especially questions about the talk.
- . Daily sitting – still have regulars at noon zazen and sometimes people at evening zazen.
- . Baika practice – on second and fourth Thursdays at 5:30. We now have five members besides Zuiko.
- . Rakusu sewing – Eric is almost finished. Would be nice to have the ceremony in July.

Special Events

- . Rohatsu sesshin (December 5 - 7) – a quiet sesshin with two people; very informal and warm.
- . New Year's Eve – began with six people and there were three at the end; very fun.
- . New Year's Day – attendance lower than usual, perhaps because we didn't send out personal invitations this year. Everyone had a good time.
- . Baika workshop on January 17 with Hoko Karnegis – four people spent the morning learning new songs and practicing with doing their best. The spirit showed.

Zuiko's Activities

- . Anamosa – all-day sit in December / New Year's celebration in January
- . Mt. Pleasant – didn't go in December and January
- . Talk at Spiritual Awareness Day on January 24 at the Cherry Building – about 50 people attended

Members' Activities

- . Kelly Kruse, Jen Yukl, Tim Macejak, and Tim Yukl are continuing their activities.

Announcements

- . The baika teacher from Japan will be coming to Minneapolis on May 16. Zuiko will be going.
- . Jisho Siebert – February all-day sitting / Daishin McCabe – March sesshin. Try to put in an appearance at least for a period or two. You'll get a lot out of it.

Appendix B:

**Cedar Rapids Zen Center
2015 Proposed Budget**

INCOME	Full Year	To Date	2014 Budget	2015 Budget
	2013 (Jan. - Dec.)	2014 (Jan. - Dec.)		
Bookstore/Library	\$526.92	\$109.20	\$1,000.00	\$100.00
Contributions	\$14,274.82	\$12,696.25	\$12,700.00	\$12,700.00
Fundraising	\$7,137.00	\$10,472.00	\$7,800.00	\$9,000.00
Teaching Engagements	\$635.00	\$867.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
Practice	\$509.00	\$993.00	\$500.00	\$900.00
Prison	\$210.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Great Sky	\$51.74	\$150.14	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Income (rebates)	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$23,519.48	\$25,302.59	\$23,000.00	\$23,600.00
EXPENSES				
Housing				
a. Mortgage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. Maintenance	\$617.90	\$2,008.66	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
c. Renovation	\$7,101.66	\$8,917.57	\$5,000.00	\$5,200.00
Insurance (house/org./work comp.)	\$1,592.00	\$2,054.00	\$1,800.00	\$2,100.00
Utilities	\$3,000.40	\$3,194.19	\$3,000.00	\$3,200.00
Personnel (health ins./wages)	\$5,604.47	\$4,991.14	\$5,500.00	\$4,900.00
Office Supplies & Services	\$2,380.74	\$1,301.14	\$2,000.00	\$1,800.00
Fundraising	\$494.08	\$404.59	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bookstore/Library	\$895.93	\$236.41	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Practice	\$2,133.07	\$2,296.22	\$1,900.00	\$2,300.00
Dharma School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prison	\$0.00	\$412.53	\$400.00	\$500.00
Community Support	\$240.00	\$525.00	\$700.00	\$500.00
Great Sky	\$327.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses (bank expenses)	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$24,392.67	\$26,341.45	\$23,000.00	\$23,600.00
Net Excess (Deficit)	-\$873.19	-\$1,038.86		
SAVINGS				
New Teacher Savings				\$4,800.00