

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – January 28, 2018 – Convened at 10:50 AM

Called to order by President Douglas Gustafson

Present: President Douglas Gustafson, Vice President Eric Higgins-Freese, Treasurer Myoho Kendall, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Brian Brandsmeier, Henry Higgins-Freese, Reuben Higgins-Freese, Christopher Lui, Brian Merrick, John Rathbun, Julie Shaw, Ruth Zannoni, Lin Zhang

COUNCIL was held.

Pause for minutes – waiting for Kelly so that we can review and approve at that time. Practice Report delayed while Zuiko called Kelly.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Myoho Kendall

- Current funds are largest amount Center has ever had
- Zuiko suggests putting surplus into extra fund for extra projects
 - Easier to track
 - Most typical expense is building maintenance
 - Gus – 2018 budget just approved by board via email, consult with Kelly/Myoho on suggestions to manage surplus fund
 - Zuiko – don’t know if surplus needs to be a line item, could label existing savings account we currently are not using and move it there, act as reserve fund
 - Example – could take funds from that account to fix basement
 - Wants separate from new teacher, new roof, etc
 - Range of \$0-\$6K
- Motion to ask Myoho/Kelly for a recommendation to be discussed with full board by Gus – Second by Brian Merrick - Carries

Accounts as of 1-27-18

Checking (Hills)	\$3,595.66		
Savings (Hills)	\$7,230.35		
			\$10,826.01
N. T. F. Savings (LACCU)	\$8,526.06		\$8,526.06
CD	\$10,582.99	07/16/18	\$10,582.99
CD	\$23,106.78	04/12/19	\$23,106.78
CD	\$29,657.04	05/25/19	\$29,657.04
CD	\$23,140.71	06/03/19	\$23,140.71
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$37,224.75		\$37,224.75
		Grand Total	\$143,064.34

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding - See Appendix A

MINUTES of 17 December – Motion to approve by Gus – Second by Chris – Carries

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – Zuiko Redding

If you see something that needs attention, let us know. If you’d like to do something about it, let us know that, too. Then do it. We need everyone’s eyes out there.

2 | Jikyouji – Sangha Meeting Minutes

Work Day – January 20. We cleaned the entry, zendo, and pantry. We also cleaned and oiled the upstairs hallway floor. Thanks to Jenn, Myoho, Kelly, and Chris. And to Denny for the pizza.

Next Work Day: February 24

Pending projects

- Need to get work done on the backup sump pump. The control panel seems to be broken. Zuiko will call Grainger about this in January.

Projects needing attention

- Peeling paint on the wall of the bathroom cabinet.
- Caulk discussion room ceiling.
- Install new email program on the desktop.

Finished projects

- Myoho has developed a list of things we should be doing for work on Sundays and work days. This creates a framework we can add things to – if you see something that needs doing, let her know. She passed a draft version out to us and attendees suggested a few tweaks.
- Follow-up on thermostat – We seem to be saving a bit. I compared our gas bills for December 2017 and March, 2017, when the average temperature was 36 degrees. We paid \$2.71 per day in December, and \$2.93 per day in March. I didn't compare our electric bills because we have too many other electrical appliances. I am usually the only one using the stove and hot water and my usage doesn't vary much by month.
- Phone service update – We will now be getting 12 mbps of connectivity and phone service for \$89.99 for the next 12 months. The price will then rise to \$109.99. At that point it looks as if we can call in again, get the newest package, and get our rate reduced again. (confirmation number – C77599142)

New projects

- Fix ceiling in bathroom and probably Zuiko's sitting room. The plaster is falling down. Zuiko suggests contacting Roger Brecht who did the kitchen for us for an estimate and possible work.
- Replace rail on concrete steps – Julie will investigate materials/boards.
- Paint the porch deck.
- Paint the side of the bathroom cabinet next to the kitchen wall. Kelly noticed that the paint is flaking.

Pending long-term projects – Things that need to get done sometime

- Painting – Woodwork and walls in library, hall, office, Zuiko's room, and stairwell / touch up garage / touch up porch.
- Roof – Long-term plan is to put on a new roof in 2019 or 2020.
- Refinish floors – Would be nice to begin with the zendo and the entry.
- Possible finishing of basement corner into discussion/class space.
- Sealing of basement against moisture
- Garage door may need replacement in the next few years

Did we miss anything?

We are still in need of people to help with this area or to take it over.

Communications report – Lauren Manninen

Mailchimp

January 2018 363 Recipients (+14 from previous month) 25.6% Opened the email (+5.3% from previous month!)

Facebook Activity (January 1st through 28th)

Page views: 209 (+33 from previous month!)

New page likes: 633 to 653 (+20 from previous month)

New page followers: Increase from 627 to 647

Page Reach: 1018

Engagements with our posts: 642 (Almost double from previous month)

Most popular post this month – Reached 281 people, 16 reactions, comments, & shares



OTHER BUSINESS

- Delay next topic in Strategic Plan due to other things that needed to be discussed. Motion by Gus – Second by Zuiko - Carries
- Volunteers for all day sitting (Father's Day), when Zuiko and Myoho will be gone, Julie and John so far
- Eric would like to make some changes to the mobile version of our website because the menus don't work very well, would do on parallel site and show us before activating (he doesn't get paid). Motion by Eric – Second by Gus - Carries
- Brian Merrick works at Blackhawk County jail and would like to bring books on non-Christian religions for jail library; will pick up at next meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

Monday Night Dharma – January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26 6:30 PM

Baika Practice – February 8, 22

4 | Jikyouji – Sangha Meeting Minutes

Introduction to Zazen - February 21 7:30 PM

Sangha Meeting – Sunday, February 25 following dharma talk

ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids Area

Know Your Neighbor – March 12 6:30 PM, Beems Auditorium, Cedar Rapids Public Library, Judaism/Native American Spirituality/Unitarian Universalism

NEXT MEETING: February 25

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM

Motion to adjourn by Reuben – Second by Henry – Carries

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A:

Practice Report – January 28, 2018



General Impressions

It's appropriate to have one of Ashoka's pillars on our agenda because, with these meetings, we govern our sangha. Ashoka, though he ruled as an emperor, tried to give as much governance to local communities as he could. He had these pillars placed in various places to instruct the people in how to conduct their affairs as individuals and as a community (see Wikipedia for more on Ashoka's pillars). I put a picture of Bodhidharma sitting on the practice report to remind us that good decisions come from that space we give ourselves when we sit aimlessly.

Center Activities

- Introductory evening – Eight people came. Kelly did the evening with Zuiko assisting.
- Sunday and daily sitting – Good attendance on Sundays and noon zazen.
- All-day sitting – Two people sat with Zuiko. We had a fine, quiet day and the food was good.
- Baika practice – Three people these days. Next meeting is February 8.
- Monday night dharma – We have around five people at the moment. We are now discussing the fifth perfection, meditation. People have useful things to say and ask good questions.
- Rakusu sewing – Brian Brandsmeier will be joining sewing this afternoon. Welcome! Everyone is making good progress.

Special Events

- None this month

Sangha Members' Activities

- Myoho Kendall, Tim Macejak, and Tim Yukl visit the Anamosa group. Daishin McCabe visits Ft. Dodge and Newton.
- Kelly teaches the introductory evening.
- Lauren manages our Facebook page and the two newsletters.
- Myoho represents us on the Inter-Religious Council.
- Eric manages our webpage and does technical support for our system.

5 | Jikyouji – Sangha Meeting Minutes

- Gus writes thank-you notes to donors, supplies website sayings, and mows the lawn.
- January 8 – Myoho spoke about Buddhism at the Inter-Religious Council's panel on understanding others' faiths
- Brian Brandsmeier and Sara Klosterboer are investigating the possibility of re-starting dharma school. If you would like to learn more or help, please contact Brian.

Zuiko's Activities

- January 14 – Sitting at Anamosa – four people
- January 25 – sitting at Ft. Madison with Myoho – four people
- January 27 – sitting at Newton with Myoho – ten people
- Editing translations for Sotoshu and writing for Facebook page, monthly newsletter, and *Ancient Way*

Announcements

- We need people to write for the newsletter. Stories, thoughts and pictures are welcome.
- Zuiko will be leading March sesshin
- Zuiko will be at the Sotoshu board meeting February 7-8
- John and Julie will lead the June 17 all-day sitting
- Precepts Receiving Ceremony – July 7, 2018