

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – January 31, 2016 – Convened at 10:36 AM

Called to order by President Eric Higgins-Freese

Present: President Eric Higgins-Freese, Vice President Douglas Gustafson, Treasurer Gina Vavra, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Martha Krejci, Kyaw Kyaw Oo, Kyi Kyi Ayc

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES of December 27 – Motion to approve by Gus – Second by Gina - Carries

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra See Appendix B for revised draft of budget

WORK LEADER’S 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.

Nothing of note happened in January.

Work day – none in January

Next Work Day: February 27

Possible work: tidying basement, sanding woodwork upstairs, paint zendo air intake, touch up zendo windowsills, put up coat rack in entry – other suggestions?

Pending projects

- Basement sealing – nothing done
- Flaking paint on stairway ceiling – nothing done
- Paint the air intake in the zendo. Have bought paint and Eric will do.

Projects needing attention

- Clean and organize basement – Sally, Denny Novak, and Zuiko will begin sometime in February

Finished projects

- Nothing this month

New Projects – need someone to look at washer – it walks

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

- 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
- 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

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Did we miss anything?

If someone would like to take over as work leader, let us know.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. The sangha voted \$600 for Zuiko's specialists' visits over the next year and she's wondering if we need to get a vote of the full board on that. If we didn't want to bother the board, she suggested scaling it back to \$480. People thought we should be conservative and assume it's going to be closer to \$600. Motion to recommend that figure to the board by Kelly – Second by Gus – Carries.
2. We talked about giving Nadine a raise. Nadine joined us in March 2014 and has really mastered the books, uploading dharma talks, and posting notices; and Zuiko is beginning to give her more responsibility and duties. She'd like to see her get a bit more than \$10/hr. It would reflect both her worth to us and our respect for her. How about \$11/hr? Motion to recommend that figure to the board by Zuiko – Second by Gus – Carries.
3. We talked about paying Hoko more. Hoko began working on our communications in March 2015. We're currently paying her \$600/year. This assumes she will spend about three hours a month on our work at \$16.66/hr. Zuiko is checking with her to see how much time she actually spends on our work. However, if we just raised her to \$20/hr, we would only be spending an extra \$120/year (for a new yearly total of \$720). Motion to recommend that figure to the board by Kelly – Second by Gina – Carries.
4. Concern about Amy Eble continuing on the board – Zuiko has sent her a couple of supportive messages over the past year and gotten no reply, and she hasn't been at the Center in a year or so. She understands that Amy is sick, but would like to see people on the board who are engaged and can bring their spirit and experience to the table. Perhaps another board member should contact her and explore this with her.
5. Review revised version of our 2016 budget – Gina will send to board.
6. Iowa Interfaith Power and Light has asked us to write a letter to Gov. Branstad with signatures by our members to urge him to comply with the national Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions 32% below 2005 levels by 2030. Many members read the letter and added their signatures at the meeting, and Zuiko will leave it on the front table in case others would like to.
7. Hoko has an eleven-minute report for us on our Facebook and newsletter activity. Zuiko will send out a link.

ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

1. An Evening with author Paul Rouzer – February 6
2. Introduction to Zazen – February 17

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3. All-Day Sitting – February 21
4. Next Sangha Meeting – February 28

NEXT MEETING: February 28

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 AM

Motion to adjourn by Gus – Second by Zuiko – Carries

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A:

Practice Report – January 31, 2016

General Impressions

January was a quiet month after the activity of December. February will be more active.

Center Activities

- Introductory evening – four people came and Kelly did the evening.
- Sunday sitting – attendance is small, but the people who come are solid. Also, having just one or two creates a good opportunity for people to learn how to ring the zazen bell and time zazen.
- Daily sitting – At least one person for two of the noon sittings. Sometimes a person in the evening.
- Baika practice – three people. We're actually becoming coordinated.
- Zen Practice and Tradition – two people – good class

Special Events

- New Year's Eve and New Year's open house were well-attended and very nice. We began with five people on New Year's Eve and three finished the evening. Two sat for a period before going on to other things. We had lots of help in preparation. Thanks to Nova, Beth, Gina, Kelly, Sally, Eric, and others for cleaning, cutting, and cooking.
- All-day sitting – two people and lots of quiet sitting.

Sangha Members' Activities

- None this month

Zuiko's Activities

- January 30 – Talk at Coexist even at Illuminations in the Cherry Building
- Article in *Ancient Way* on diligence
- Editing translations for the Sotoshu web site
- Writing for Facebook page and announcements – gets the dharma out there

Announcements

- All-day sitting – February 21 – Jisho Siebert will lead
- Zen Practice and Tradition begins January 5
- Paul Rouzer at Paul Engle Center – February 6
- Han Shan speaker – study group – begin February 8 – six weeks book – *On Cold Mountain: A Buddhist Reading of Han Shan's Poems* by Paul Rouzer
- Daishin McCabe leads March sesshin – work on chanting in March
- Sotoshu baika person June 11
- Daigaku Rummé coming June 19 - Kathleen, too

Appendix B:

**Cedar Rapids Zen Center
2016 Proposed Budget**

	Actual	Actual	Proposed
Income	2014 (Jan.-Dec.)	2015 (Jan.-Dec.)	2016 (Jan.-Dec.)
Bookstore/Library - UR	\$109.20	\$302.90	\$200.00
Contributions - UR	\$12,716.25	\$13,925.88	\$13,000.00
Fundraising - UR	\$10,472.00	\$6,085.66	\$6,000.00
Teaching Engagements - UR	\$867.00	\$1,269.00	\$800.00
Practice - UR	\$973.00	\$867.00	\$1,000.00
Prison Fund - TR	\$15.00	\$90.00	\$50.00
Miscellaneous Income (rebates) - UR	\$10.00	\$21.47	\$50.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$25,312.59	\$22,561.91	\$21,100.00
Expenses			
Housing			
a. Mortgage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. Maintenance	\$2,008.66	\$1,143.37	\$1,200.00
c. Renovation	\$8,917.57	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Insurance (house/org./work comp.)	\$2,054.00	\$1,647.00	\$1,650.00
Utilities	\$3,244.64	\$3,429.00	\$3,500.00
Personnel (health ins./wages)	\$4,991.14	\$5,060.04	\$4,600.00
Office Supplies / Admin.	\$1,303.44	\$2,566.14	\$1,800.00
Fundraising	\$404.59	\$573.72	\$600.00
Bookstore/Library (inventory)	\$236.41	\$268.40	\$250.00
Practice	\$2,320.93	\$2,772.67	\$2,300.00
Dharma School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Prison Practice (reimburses bookstore)	\$382.02	\$307.24	\$500.00
Community Support	\$525.40	\$250.00	\$300.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Teacher Savings (transfers to savings)	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$31,188.80	\$22,817.98	\$25,500.00
Operating deficit	-\$5,876.21	-\$256.07	-\$4,400.00
Withdrawal from reserves	\$5,876.21	\$256.07	TBD
Remaining cash reserves	\$2,119.42	\$7,392.35	TBD

TR = Temporarily Restricted

UR = Unrestricted