

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – October 25, 2015 – Convened at 10:48 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, Christa Brusen, Sally Taylor

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES of September 27 – Will review and vote on these next month

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra

Hills Bank Checking:	\$3,371.81
Hills Bank Savings:	\$4,827.20
LACCU Teacher Fund:	\$4,907.12

Hills Bank 48-59 month CD	\$21,974.33
LACCU Maturity Date 7-19-16:	\$21,440.62
UICCU 49-60 month CD:	\$21,129.64
UICCU 37-47 month CD:	<u>\$10,065.42</u>
Total CDs:	\$74,610.01

Mutual Funds:	\$31,942.54
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Grand Total = \$119,658.68

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.

Work day – None this month

Next Work Day: November 21 (has since been cancelled due to blizzard)

Possible work: taking care of front yard, trimming lilacs, cleaning bricks, tidying up between the garages, washing porch floor and house front (Eric has a power washer), painting zendo air intake grill (Eric?)

Ongoing 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 – could use some attention from the shop vac (Sally volunteered)

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Finished projects

- Pest control – sprayed for roaches that came in with a visitor
- Apple tree trimmed and branches chipped at Sesshin
- Took down stump in back yard

New Projects – none *If you know of anything, let Zuiko know.*

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
- Gus will mow once wood from stump/apple tree dries

Does anyone have something to add?

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Ethics Procedure was discussed and an updated version of it with our changes posted on the website/Facebook. We are looking for opinions on the order of the sections and how to lay out a clear step-by-step process so that everyone understands what to do in the event of any misconduct. Motion to table until next month by Zuiko – Second by Gus - Carries

ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

1. All-day Sitting – November 15 at 5 AM
2. Introduction to Zazen – November 19 at 7:30 PM
3. Next Sangha Meeting – November 22 after dharma talk
4. Rohatsu Sesshin – December 4-6

ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area

1. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: "Gratitude and Hope in Violent Times", Monday, November 23 at 7 PM. Request from IRCLC: reading on theme from Buddhist tradition (quarter page). Please email reading and name of reader to Jen Yuki no later than 1 November.

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2. Between The Traditions: “Trinitarian and Unitarian Views of the Divine” Sunday, February 21 (2-4 pm) at Mount Mercy University, Flaherty Community Room, Basile Hall

NEXT MEETING: November 22

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM

Motion to adjourn by Gina – Second by Gus – Carries

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A:

Practice Report – October 25, 2015

General Impressions

I am grateful to all of you who have stepped up to help take care of the Center during my illness. Sangha is the third pillar of Buddhism and it's important to all our practice that we take care of each other. In taking care of this situation, we are beginning to develop a community for which we each take responsibility and for which we each have ownership. Let's continue this even after I'm better.

Sangha members have many responsibilities and sometimes fitting our practice and our practice community into those is difficult. However, if it is not a priority, the Center will not continue. We need not take on great tasks that exhaust us. Simply coming to zazen two or three times a month or looking for things that take a few minutes to do then doing them keeps us going. The Center is us and if we're not there, it's not, either.

Center Activities

- Introductory evening – one person came and Kelly did the evening.
- Sunday sitting – attendance is getting better
- Daily sitting – At least one person for two of the noon sittings. Sometimes a person in the evening.
- Baika practice – three people. We sing as practice rather than to improve

Special Events

- Sesshin – six people, very steady. Shoryu Bradley did fine dharma talks.
- Christa Brusen has been here for the last two weeks – helped with sesshin preparation, garden, and other things. Gathered information for putting a donation button on our web site.

Zuiko's Activities

- Went to Sotoshu workshop September 29 – October 1. Was elected to the board again.

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- *Zen no Tomo* - helping with translation – This is a little magazine published in Japanese. We hope to make it available to everyone, perhaps with a combination of Japanese and American writing.
- Editing translations for the Sotoshu web site
- writing for Facebook page and announcements – gets the dharma out there

Calendar

- What size and format would people prefer for a Zen Center calendar? Perhaps making it flexible to meet multiple needs would be best.
- We will ask Hoko about the technical aspects.
- Gus will investigate the smartphone version.

Announcements

- November all-day sit – November 15
- The idea of changing the start time for all-day sittings from 5 AM to 6 AM was discussed.