

**MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – November 23, 2014 – Convened at 10:40 am**

Called to order by Vice-president Eric Higgins-Freese

**Present:** Courtney Cook, Suisan Goldberg  
Directors – Vice-president Eric Higgins-Freese, Treasurer Gina Vavra, and Secretary Jen Yukl  
Resident Teacher – Zuiko Redding  
TOTAL PRESENT: 6

**COUNCIL was held.**

**MINUTES:** Motion by Gina Vavra to approve the 10/26/14 minutes – Second by Courtney Cook – Carried.

**PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding** See Appendix A

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Gina Vavra** See Appendix B: Third Quarter Report & Accounts

The 2014 Third Quarter Report and current account totals were reviewed and accepted as submitted. Gina noted that we went over budget in maintenance and renovation, due to unforeseen costs for a new sewer line. Discussed preparing next year's budget – plans made to work together on a draft at the January meeting. After sangha approval, the 2015 budget will be sent to our board of directors.

**BUILDING & GROUNDS – Jen Yukl**

1. Update on work day of November 8: Thank you to Kelly Kruse, Suisan Goldberg, and Zuiko for working hard outside. Work done – leaves cleared out of the front yard and onto the lilacs, periwinkle cut back, small garden area above periwinkle cleaned out, and some mulching done.
2. Next work day: Discussed cleaning needs to be done before the open house on January 1<sup>st</sup> and scheduled a work day in December. Addendum: Previously scheduled date of December 20<sup>th</sup> was changed to Saturday, December 13 (9:00 am to 2:00 pm). Lunch provided by CRZC.
3. Bench for entryway: Suisan Goldberg proposed that we look into purchasing a bench for the entryway through DailyZen.com. It would be handcrafted to fit the area. Decision made that Suisan will send in the measurements and get a bid.
4. Stove, left front burner fixed: Thank you to Troy Hunt for this repair.
5. Relocate library to basement: Decision made to look into feasibility and costs in the spring.
6. Water-damaged areas in stairwell and kitchen:  
Need to check back with Fitz as to whether it is okay to scrape and paint the stairwell. He plans to check the kitchen area and will let us know if anything needs to be done before we paint there.
7. Painting projects:
  - Interior, upstairs – woodwork and walls in library, hall, office, Zuiko's room, and stairwell
  - Interior, downstairs – a few places where cracking
  - Exterior – touch up garage
8. Garden and yard:
  - Garden border project: Denny Novak volunteered to assist with this. Will be scheduled in the spring. The plan is to dig out current railroad-tie border (wood is rotting), lay a brick border (bricks from past chimney), and spread gravel (need to purchase more gravel).
  - Apple Tree: was partially trimmed at October sesshin; remainder can be completed in the spring.
  - Other garden work: If anyone is interested in working in the garden to increase its beauty as a sitting place, please contact Zuiko.
9. Weeds in decorative brick work at street corners (Bever Ave. & 16<sup>th</sup> St. and Bever Ave. & 17<sup>th</sup> St.):  
Once or twice a year check brick work and remedy weed problem by using hot water, salt, or other.
10. Basement wall seeping: Plan is to wait until 2015 before contracting repair with Fitz.
11. Roof: Long-term plan is to put on a new roof in approximately 5 years (2019 or 2020).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Practice period – Summary of commitments given in practice report and within sangha discussion: Sunday attendance, daily zazen, study, being awake in daily life, monthly discussion group regarding practice, keeping a journal of practice, historical study, garden/flower arranging, art projects such as sumi-e painting, and fellowship opportunities like a movie night or sharing meals.  
*Zuiko noted that many centers have some type of practice period where people make a commitment to one or more of these practices for a given time period.*

## OTHER BUSINESS continued...

2. Continuing conversation (started Oct. 2014) – A couple of questions for people to think about:  
What do you like about CRZC? What ideas do you have for making it bloom?
  - Suisan Goldberg shared that communal activities will help us grow together.
  - Gina Vavra suggested that we have a brain-storming session. This does need to be as formal as the strategic planning sessions held in 2011. Suggestion made to plan this around a meal.
3. Preparing for open house on New Year's Day: Preparing vegetables and cooking: Dec. 27 – 31. Sign-up sheet will be posted soon. Cleaning of center will begin at work day of Dec. 13.
4. Board of Directors: Election at annual meeting in April. Think about serving CRZC in this way. It would be great to have some new board members. Let Jen Yukl know if you would like to be on the next ballot. The terms of Bill Bomberly and Tonen O'Connor (our clergy representative) will end. Jen will ask Tonen if she is willing to serve another term. Hoko Karnegis is another possibility.
5. Building & Grounds Coordinator: Request for someone to serve in this role. This involves communicating with Zuiko and others about needs/projects and providing a report for sangha meetings. If you are able to do this or have any questions about this commitment, contact Jen or Zuiko. [Note: This position does not require that you be a board member.]

## ANNOUNCEMENTS of events at CRZC

1. Rohatsu Sesshin: December 5 – 7
2. Baika practice: second & fourth Thursdays (5:30 pm)
3. Dharma School: Sunday, December 14 (2:00 – 3:30 pm)
4. Work Day: Saturday, December 13 (9:00 am – 2:00 pm)
5. New Year's Eve: Wednesday, December 31  
Zazen (7:30 – 10:40 pm) / Reading the Precepts (10:40 – 11:40 pm) / Noodles & Social Time (11:10 pm – 12 am)
6. New Year's Day: Thursday, January 1  
Zazen (noon – 12:30 pm) / Ceremony (12:30 – 12:45 pm) / Open House (1:00 – 5:00 pm)
7. Baika workshop with Hoko Karnegis: Saturday, January 17 (9:00 am, then lunch together)
8. All-day sitting: Sunday, January 18 (5:00 am – 4:40 pm)

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

1. **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (Inter-Religious Council) – Monday, November 24 (7:00 pm)**  
Guest Speaker: Clint Twedt-Ball, Co-founder & Co-executive Director of Matthew 25  
Location: Unity Center of Cedar Rapids – 3791 Blairs Ferry Rd. NE  
Offering: Non-perishable food items and/or cash will be donated to the Linn Community Food Bank. Refreshments will be served following the service.
2. **Judaism course with Rabbi Todd Thalblum – Sundays in January 2015 (Noon to 1:30 pm)**  
Location: Christ Episcopal Church, 220 40<sup>th</sup> St. NE
3. **Spiritual Awareness Day – Saturday, January 24 (11:00 am to 4:00 pm)**  
Location: Illuminations Healing Arts Center – 329 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Suite 115 Free will donation  
Flyers are available. The flyer lists timeslots for speakers from different spiritual paths.  
This Information is also available at <http://illuminationshealingarts.com/Events.php>
4. **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

## NEXT SANGHA MEETING: January 25

Discussion regarding the next scheduled sangha meeting led to the decision to cancel December's meeting. We will be preparing for the open house during that time. Motion was made by Zuiko to cancel the sangha meeting scheduled for December 28 – Second by Jen Yukl – Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm. Motion by Zuiko to adjourn – Second by Courtney Cook – Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jen Yukl

## **Appendix A:**

### **Practice Report – November 2014**

#### **General Impressions**

The weather is getting colder and we tend to hunker down and hibernate. This is natural when the days are short and the weather can be dangerous. However, don't hunker down so much that you forget to come to zazen. The constraints and efforts of winter can sap our spirits and sitting with others is a real help for that.

Would like to propose a practice period – a time of concentrating on practice – possible commitments: attend Sunday, zazen each day, study, being awake in daily life, attend discussion group...

***See Other Business, item #1, for summary of sangha discussion regarding a practice period.***

#### **Center Activities**

- . Dharma school – Two children came. Talked about the spirit of receiving food and made thank-you notes. Thank-you notes are an annual November activity. We don't have large numbers but the families are dedicated to this. All beings benefit if even only one child learns and practices the dharma.
- . Introductory evening – Five people came. Kelly Kruse 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 morning orientation – two people this month. Zuiko did the orientation. Would others like to attempt this? If interested, contact Zuiko for further details about what this involves.
- . Sunday sitting – good attendance. There is discussion of dharma at tea time. Zuiko encouraged bringing dharma questions to tea, especially questions about the talk. This also allows others to chime in with ideas. Trying to answer questions during the talk breaks the thread and makes it longer (trying to make it shorter).
- . Daily sitting – We still have regulars at noon zazen. And sometimes people at evening zazen.
- . Baika practice happens on the second and fourth Thursdays at 5:30 pm. Suisan Goldberg has joined, so we now have four besides Zuiko. All four practice hard. Everyone is welcome. You don't have to sing or be coordinated.
- . Rakusu sewing on fourth Sundays – Jake Snyder (from Bloomington, IL) will be joining the group. He will be here next weekend (November 29 – 30) to begin sewing, and he will be at Sunday morning activities.

#### **Special Events**

- . There were no special activities this month. This was an everyday month.

#### **Zuiko's Activities**

- . Anamosa – two people
- . Anamosa – participated in training for volunteers on November 19
- . Mt. Pleasant – cancelled this month because it falls on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Zuiko is considering rescheduling this visit to the third Wednesday in November of future years.

#### **Members' Activities**

- . Kelly Kruse is doing do the intro evening.
- . Jen Yukl continues to represent us on the Interreligious Council.
- . Tim Macejak and Tim Yukl are still leading practice at Anamosa.

#### **Announcements**

- . The baika teacher from Japan will not be coming. Hoko Karnegis will be here on January 17 for a morning workshop. Everyone is welcome.
- . Rohatsu sesshin is coming – sign-up sheet is up.
- . Don't forget New Year's activities – we always need people to help with cooking, cleaning, and setup.

**Appendix B:**

**Cedar Rapids Zen Center  
2014 Third Quarter Report**

	Full Year	To Date		
<b>Income</b>	<b>2013 (Jan. - Dec.)</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>	<b>2014 (Jan.-Sept.)</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Bookstore/Library	\$1,231.71	\$1,000.00	\$48.90	4.9%
Contributions	\$9,765.13	\$12,700.00	\$9,740.70	76.7%
Major/Special Gifts	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Fundraising	\$8,723.00	\$7,800.00	\$6,912.00	88.6%
Teaching Engagements	\$956.00	\$800.00	\$667.00	83.4%
Practice	\$875.00	\$500.00	\$818.00	163.6%
Prison	\$327.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	na
Great Sky	\$670.35	\$0.00	\$150.14	na
Miscellaneous Income (rebates)	\$656.10	\$200.00	\$10.00	5.0%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$43,113.29</b>	<b>\$43,000.00</b>	<b>\$18,361.74</b>	<b>42.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL W/O Major Gifts</b>	<b>\$23,113.29</b>	<b>\$23,000.00</b>	<b>\$18,361.74</b>	<b>79.8%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Housing				
a. Mortgage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
b. Maintenance	\$1,488.62	\$1,000.00	\$1,918.60	191.9%
c. Renovation	\$2,123.70	\$5,000.00	\$8,917.57	178.4%
Insurance (house/org./work comp.)	\$1,774.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,722.00	95.7%
Utilities	\$3,042.49	\$3,000.00	\$2,540.33	84.7%
Personnel (health ins./wages)	\$3,712.68	\$5,500.00	\$4,008.19	72.9%
Office Supplies & Services	\$1,873.79	\$2,000.00	\$1,105.05	55.3%
Fundraising	\$254.72	\$500.00	\$213.22	42.6%
Bookstore/Library	\$1,446.87	\$1,000.00	\$236.41	23.6%
Practice	\$1,871.56	\$1,900.00	\$1,554.04	81.8%
Dharma School	In line item 8	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Prison	Not included	\$400.00	\$209.27	52.3%
Community Support	\$250.00	\$700.00	\$525.40	75.1%
Great Sky	\$304.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$400.66	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$18,543.83</b>	<b>\$23,000.00</b>	<b>\$22,950.08</b>	<b>99.8%</b>
<b>Net Excess (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$24,569.46</b>		<b>-\$4,588.34</b>	
<b>Net W/O Major Gifts</b>	<b>\$4,569.46</b>		<b>-\$4,588.34</b>	

**Accounts as of 11-22-14**

Checking (Hills)	\$416.07			
Savings (Hills)	\$412.70			
Other Savings (UICCU,LACCU)	\$13.13		Working Accounts	\$841.90
* N.T.F. Savings (LACCU)	\$5,304.32		New Teacher Fund	\$5,304.32
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$15,523.30	06/12/15	1.492 % [1.5 % APY]	\$15,523.30
48-59 mo. CD (Hills)	\$21,650.48	02/15/16	1.99 % [2.0 % APY]	\$21,650.48
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$21,164.14	07/19/16	[1.3 % APY]	\$21,164.14
49-60 mo. CD (UICCU)	\$20,685.51	04/01/17	2.13 % [2.15 % APY]	\$20,685.51
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$26,882.97	52.8% CRZC	47.2% NTF	\$26,882.97
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$112,052.62</b>