

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – February 22, 2015 – Convened at 10:55 am

Called to order by Vice-President Eric Higgins-Freese

Present: Ken Burnside, 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 Zuiko to approve the 1/25/15 minutes with date correction for Ohigan sesshin in announcement section – Second by Gina Vavra – Carried.

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

TREASURER'S REPORT – Gina Vavra

- Accounts as of 2/21/15:
 Gina noted that our mutual funds are doing well (an increase of \$452.87 since November 2014).

Checking (Hills)	\$2,814.85			
Savings (Hills)	\$12.79			
Other Savings (UICCU,LACCU)	\$13.13	Working Accounts		\$2,840.77
* N.T.F. Savings (LACCU)	\$6,506.48	New Teacher Fund Savings		\$6, 506.48
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$15,581.68	06/12/15	1.492 % [1.5 % APY]	\$15,581.68
48-59 mo. CD (Hills)	\$21,759.08	02/15/16	1.99 % [2.0 % APY]	\$21,759.08
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)	\$27,420.98	52.8% CRZC	47.2% NTF	\$27,420.98
Grand Total				\$116,139.05

- \$4800 from NTF savings will be transferred into mutual funds: approved by board on 2/2/15.
- 2015 Proposed Budget: approved by board on 2/2/15.
- Insurance through Church Mutual: Gina noted that it was time to renew this and sees no changes that need to be made in our coverage.

BUILDING & GROUNDS – Jen Yukl

- Update on extended work period of Sunday, February 8 (until 12:30 pm): Thank you to all who worked on this day to clean the zendo and other areas, as well some organizing in the office. A special thanks to Kyaw Kyaw Oo and Kyi Kyi Aye who provided a wonderful lunch.
- Extended work period was scheduled: Sunday, March 29 (10:40 am – 12:30 pm)
 Plans made: caulk around window in zendo and in kitchen sink area, clean/organize basement, a landfill run, and any other general cleaning that may need to be done.
- Bench for entryway – discussion regarding purchase plan:
 Suisan Goldberg has sent measurements to DailyZen.com; however, their craftsman is busy at this time with other projects and will not be available for some time. Discussion led to the decision to look at some other vendors. Zuiko and Suisan have looked at some benches with Dot & Bo, including a single-person bench that could be easily moved into the zendo if needed. Suisan will look into prices and bring these to our March meeting.
- 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. New laptop for center: Decision made to replace the laptop used by our administrative assistant, treasurer, and librarian. Price range of \$400 to \$600 was suggested. Gina will investigate prices.
2. Fundraising ideas: Discussed ways to close the gap from a budget shortfall last year and to prevent one this year, rather than taking money from our reserves.
 - crowdsource – GoFundMe or some other site (\$4,000 to cover us this year)
 - Nonin's calligraphy – auction, raffle, or as a gift for donations over \$500
 - matching funds – solicit members for matching grants
 - calligraphy and/or sumi-e painting workshop – Daishin McCabe, Gina Vavra
 - identify large donors - \$1,000 area
 - Tim Macejak's book, CRZC mug, or other item – gift for donations of \$250 or more
 - invite people to provide skills that are often contracted for – repair, construction, etc.
 - sell items in our store – here and online – mugs, bags, t-shirts, trinkets, etc.
 - push membership a bit more – website, newsletter, bulletin board
 - push Amazon Smile (CRZC gets 5% of your purchase if you register with them)
3. Board of Directors: election at annual meeting on April 26
 - Clergy representative: The term of Tonen O'Connor will end. Two other candidates have been considered. Daishin McCabe responded with interest, but will not be available until April 2016. Tonen is willing to serve one more year, but cannot complete a full three-year term.
 - Other director positions: Bill Bomberly's term will end. Also, Jen Yukl will be stepping down, leaving one year remaining in that term. This past month, Gina contacted several sangha members about serving. Doug Gustafson and Kelly Kruse responded that they are available.
4. Building & Grounds Coordinator: Zuiko plans to contact a member she suggested for this role.
5. Update on request for assistance with increased specialist co-pays: The insurance premium which the center pays has decreased from \$85 to \$29. However, this decrease means that Zuiko will have to pay \$20 more for visits to specialists. Sangha consensus at our January meeting was to cover the increase. This was communicated to the board and approved on 2/2/15.
6. Update regarding proposal to hire Hoko Karnegis as Facebook administrator: Consensus at the January sangha meeting was positive. A suggested pay range was sent to the board, and the following was approved on 2/5/15.

Hire Hoko Karnegis to provide support with Facebook posting and to send email announcements, for a six-month trial period at \$50 per month, with her time not to exceed three hours each month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Dharma School: Sunday, March 1 (2:00 – 3:30 pm)
2. Extended Work Period: Sunday, March 29 (10:40 am – 12:30 pm)
3. Baika practice: second & fourth Thursdays (5:30 pm)
4. Ohigan Spring 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
5. Buddha's Birthday Celebration: Sunday, April 5
6. Annual Meeting: Sunday, April 26
7. 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 – one more session left – Saturday, February 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
2. **Lest We Forget: A Service of Remembrance for Victims of the Holocaust – Sunday, April 12 (7:00 pm)**

Featuring Holocaust survivor Renata Laxova – More information available at www.holocausteducate.org
Location: Mount Mercy University Chapel, 1330 Elmhurst Drive
If someone from our community would like to participate in the service, please let Jen know.
3. **Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – Thursday, April 30 (6:30 pm)**

Location: Cedar Rapids Public Library, Beems “A” Auditorium

 - The PBS documentary, *The Armenian Genocide*, will be shown, with discussion following.
 - A petition, asking the State of Iowa to acknowledge this genocide, will be available to sign.
 - Refreshments

NEXT SANGHA MEETING: March 22

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Suisan Goldberg – Second by Ken Burnside – Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jen Yuki

Appendix A:**Practice Report for February 2015 – Zuiko Redding****General Impressions**

I am seeing that people could sit a bit more. I'd like to encourage you to commit to doing at least one all-day sitting or sesshin each year. It's good to sit one period, but there are many benefits to sitting for a half-day or a day. Or more. However, even two or three periods together is helpful.

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. An email notice will be sent out this week, asking for zazen coverage March 1 through March 6.

Hassan Selim and a number of our folks are interested in looking at Buddhist and Islamic perspectives on attention and I'll work on making this happen after I return from California on March 6. Because Hassan has to be at the mosque for evening prayers, we may need to adjust the time. It will likely happen on Monday evenings and would go for six weeks.

Center Activities

- . Dharma school – snowed out in February. Eric and Jonna will lead dharma school on March 1.
- . Introductory evening – No one came. It was really cold. Kelly and I talked for awhile before she went home.
- . Sunday orientation – three people this month. Zuiko did the orientation. Two were Coe College students doing an ethnography.
- . Sunday sitting – good attendance. Let's bring our dharma questions to tea, especially questions about the talk.
- . 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. We're losing Katie to grad school.
- . Rakusu sewing – Eric is almost finished. Would July be good for the ceremony?

Special Events

- . Jisho Siebert at all-day sitting – It was small, but warm and settled. One member came, along with Jisho's husband, Daishin.

Zuiko's Activities

- . February 12 – talk to Kennedy High School class
- . Inter-Religious Council course on Buddhism – four Saturdays in February – is going well. There are 25 people.

Announcements

- . Zuiko will be at Sotoshu board meetings and visiting relatives the first week of March.
- . The baika teacher from Japan will be coming to Minneapolis on May 16. Zuiko will be going.
- . 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.