

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – February 26, 2017 – Convened at 10:47 AM

Called to order by President Eric Higgins-Freese

Present: President Eric Higgins-Freese, Vice President Douglas Gustafson, Treasurer Gina Kendall, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Travis Hunt, Gibson Kluge, Christopher Lui, Lauren Manninen, Tony Rose, Zeki Salah

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES of 22 January - Motion to approve by Gus – Second by Zuiko – Carries

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Kendall

Accounts as of 2-25-17

Checking (Hills)	\$5,398.44		
Savings (Hills)	\$7,216.00		
Other Savings (UICCU,LACCU)	\$5.00		\$12,619.44
N. T. F. Savings (LACCU)	\$4,112.64		\$4,112.64
CD	\$21,700.44	04/01/17	\$21,700.44
CD	\$10,350.25	07/16/18	\$10,350.25
CD	\$22,598.61	04/12/19	\$22,598.61
CD	\$29,075.58	05/25/19	\$29,075.58
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$33,665.25		\$33,665.25

Grand Total \$134,122.21

- April 1 - \$21,744 CD maturing. Ideas for new CD?
- We are pretty safe on checking and savings, probably don't need to hold any out.
- Want to keep CD maturity dates staggered, like they are now.
- Motion to send recommendation to the board to roll whole CD amount over into new CD with whichever of our local institutions has the best rate at the time by Eric – Second by Kelly - 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.

Work Day – February 11 – Annora, Chris, Gina, Kelly, and Tim vacuumed the basement floor, changed light bulbs, cleaned and oiled the zendo floor, and did lots of clerical work. Thanks so much. Thanks also to Denny Novak for the pizza.

Next Work Day: None until May. March is sesshin and April is Buddha's Birthday and annual meeting.

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Pending projects

- Basement sealing – This will be delayed until 2018 (due to worsening condition of stairway ceiling/ kitchen wall).
- Flaking paint on stairway ceiling, kitchen paint – Zuiko interviewed two contractors. Need discussion of bids and referral to the board for approval.

Projects needing attention

- None this month.

Finished projects

- Eric wiped two old computers and took them to Goodwill.
- Eric took away password on laptop. It seems to be working.

New Projects

- Change bulbs in enclosed fixtures in entry, kitchen, and hall to LED bulbs. Zuiko found some that will function in closed spaces (she will double-check these).

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

- Painting: woodwork & 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.
- What can we put on our porch in the future? Buddha statue was recently stolen.

Did we miss anything? – Input from members

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

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Plaster and Painting in Kitchen and Stairwell
 - Zuiko showed us two bids – Eire Painting, R&B Stucco, Plaster and Painting
 - Motion to recommend hiring R&B to the board by Gus – Second by Chris - Carries
2. Should we be paying Zuiko's mileage? Table until next meeting.
3. Donation to Tenpyozan – Table until fundraising packet arrives.
4. Emergency/Special Project Fund
 - Zuiko's idea - Put funds into a separate account (if surplus) for projects like the upcoming plaster work to avoid taking from CDs
 - Have one savings account that was opened in order to get CDs from that credit union; could use that account
 - Would not want to put too much away – next CD after April one matures July of 2018
 - Will recommend for board agenda
5. Recruiting New Members to Board
 - Term expires this April – Amy and Ryan
 - Lauren and Chris would consider serving
 - Gus will get with Eric about sending out call for volunteers

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6. Transitioning Gina Out of Treasurer Role
 - Due to Gina's ordination later this year, having her continue as treasurer would be problematic; need a volunteer
 - Could separate out role of writing checks and give that to someone else – possibly Nadine
7. Where are we on paying Hoko for web work? Gina will look into this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

Monday Night Dharma – March 6, 13, 20, 27 6:30 PM

Zen Practice and Tradition – March 7, 14, 21, 28

Introduction to Zazen - March 15 7:30 PM

Ohigan Sesshin – 17-19 March (please register)

Next Sangha Meeting – Sunday, March 26 following dharma talk

NEXT MEETING: March 26

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM

Motion to adjourn by Gina – Second by Travis – Carries

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A:

Practice Report – February 26, 2017

General Impressions

Attendance on Sunday is up and there seems to be enthusiasm for the practice. Gina is beginning to sew her okesa in preparation for ordination and everyone is welcome to join her. Also, Lauren Manninen is beginning rakusu sewing in preparation for receiving the precepts.

Center Activities

- Introductory evening – One person – Kelly did the evening.
- Sunday and daily sitting – Usually six or seven people. We have lots of newcomers.
- Baika practice – Two or three people these days. Next meeting is March 9.
- Study class – Meets on Monday evenings at 6:30. We do thirty minutes of zazen, then an hour of discussion. We're reading *The Six Perfections* by Dale Wright. We're reading and discussing just a few pages at a time. At the moment we have five people who come regularly.
- All-day sitting – We had two people and a fine sitting.
- World Peace Ceremony – Let's begin doing this again on February 5.

Special Events

- None this month.

Sangha Members' Activities

- Tim Macejak and Tim Yukl visit the Anamosa group.
- Kelly does the introductory evening.
- Gina is our representative to the Inter-Religious Council.
- Eric is managing our webpage.
- Gus writes thank-you notes to donors.
- Lauren is taking over setting up both newsletters.

Zuiko's Activities

- February 3 – Sotoshu board meeting in Los Angeles
- February 12 – Sitting at Anamosa.
- February 23 – Sitting at Ft. Madison.
- Editing translations for the Sotoshu website and writing for Facebook page and monthly newsletter.

Announcements

- March 4 – Day of sewing with Gina and Lauren.
- May 1 – Ashok Chawla will begin a six-week series on Hinduism and Buddhism at the dharma group.
- July 8 – Gina's ordination.

Communications Report: January

Facebook

Eight posts were made to the CRZC page in January, up from 6 in December.

Page likes as of 31 January stand at 549, up from 543 on 31 December.

The best-performing post in terms of reach were

- "Stop learning," with a reach of 480, 11 likes, 1 comment and 6 shares.
- "Believe in ourselves" reached 475 people and had 22 likes, 3 loves, 1 comment and 5 shares.
- New Year photos reached 335, with 21 likes, 4 love, 8 comments and 2 shares.

793 people worldwide were reached by at least one post this month, down from 1,435 in December.

CRZC Currents

The January issue of *Currents* went to 324 subscribers, up from 310 in December. One hundred fourteen recipients (35.7%) opened the publication, as compared to 106/34.5% last month. The current average open rate for religious publications at MailChimp is 23.6%.