

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – March 22, 2015 – Convened at 10:40 am

Called to order by Vice-President Eric Higgins-Freese

Present: Directors –Vice-President Eric Higgins-Freese, Treasurer Gina Vavra, and Secretary Jen Yuki
Resident Teacher – Zuiko Redding TOTAL PRESENT: 4

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES: Motion by Gina Vavra to approve the 2/22/15 minutes – Second by Zuiko – Carried.

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra

1. Accounts as of 3/21/15:

Checking (Hills)	\$1,282.71			
Savings (Hills)	\$1,262.79			
Other Savings (UICCU,LACCU)	\$13.13	Working Accounts		\$2,558.63
* N.T.F. Savings (LACCU)	\$2,105.23	New Teacher Fund Savings		\$2,105.23
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)	\$32,388.93	44.3% CRZC	55.7% NTF	\$32,388.93
Grand Total				\$116,423.61

- Mutual funds progress since initial investment on January 13, 2014: The March 18, 2015 statement showed that our original investment of \$25,000 has grown to \$27,501.41 (an increase of \$2,501.41). [Chart above shows the mutual fund total at \$32,388.93 – due to a recent transfer from NTF savings.]
- CD to mature on June 12: We have some time to decide how to reinvest these funds.

BUILDING & GROUNDS – Jen Yuki

- Extended work period: next Sunday, March 29 (after dharma talk until 12:30 pm)
Plans include: caulk around zendo window and kitchen sink area, clean/organize basement, a landfill run, and any other general cleaning that may need to be done.
- Work day: was scheduled for Saturday, May 30 (9:00 am – 2:00 pm)
Plans were made to:
 - Repair front walk to street – sinking below the ground. During last summer's paving project, workmen took the walk up and didn't have gravel to put under it when they replaced it.
 - General cleaning that needs to be done
 - Garden work
 - Any other project that may come up – one of our painting projects could be an option.
- Bench for entryway – update: Zuiko and Suisan found a small bench online with Dot & Bo. Dimensions are 22 inches wide, 17 inches tall, and 10 inches deep. It will also make a good bench for zazen. Cost is \$68.99 (with shipping & handling of \$49.95, the total is \$118.94). Zuiko ordered one for us to try out. There is a 30-day return period. We may order another if it works well for our needs.
- Discussion about relocating library into basement: Eric brought up dampness as a possible obstacle to this project. Gina brought up the sunroom as a possibility, but there would not be enough space for books unless we were to cover some of the windows. If the basement is not a feasible option for the library, Zuiko would still like to create a private talking space there.
- Need to contact Fitz regarding several items: Jen will contact him.
 - getting okay to paint over water-damaged areas in kitchen and stairwell
 - checking out lump on library wall
 - putting up nine shades in Zuiko's bedroom
 - feasibility of relocating library to basement

BUILDING & GROUNDS continued...

6. 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 before we paint/ a few other places downstairs where paint is cracking / touch up garage
- Investigate relocating library to basement: Plan is to investigate costs and feasibility this 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: Gina provided the prices and options for six different laptops. Discussion led to a consensus to send the following proposal to the board.
Purchase an HP 350 G1 from Newegg.com. Cost is \$579. It has an i7-4510U (2 GHz), 8GB of ram, a 500GB hard drive, Windows 7 Professional (64-bit), and a limited one-year warranty.
2. Online backup options: Brief discussion, in which Eric suggested using Mozy. He pays \$17/month for his service and is pleased with it. Tabled discussion for now, but will revisit at later date.
3. Facebook page: Suggestion that we encourage members to “like” our Facebook page and to take photos when they come to CRZC for posting on this page. When you have photos or other items to post, please send them to Hoko at zendo_hoko@yahoo.com; she will post items that fit our mission. Zuiko added that poems or prose written about our practice can be posted.
4. Board of Directors: election at annual meeting on April 26
Summary of where we stand with candidates:
 - Clergy representative: The term of Tonen O'Connor will end. She is willing to serve one more year, but cannot complete a full three-year term. Daishin McCabe will be available in April 2016.
 - Other director positions: Bill Bomberry's term will end. Jen Yukl will be stepping down, leaving one year remaining in that term. Doug Gustafson and Kelly Kruse will be on this year's ballot.
5. Building & Grounds Coordinator: Zuiko plans to contact a member she suggested for this role.
6. Calligraphy Workshop: was scheduled for Sunday, May 24 (1:00 to 3:00 pm)
Daishin McCabe will lead the workshop. There will also be a short piece on sumi-e painting, taught by Gina. Decision made to find out if the Paul Engle Center is available. Zuiko will check on this. Gina will continue to correspond with Daishin as planning develops and will ask about the customary suggested donation for this type of workshop. [Our May sangha meeting is scheduled for this day and will be held as usual. We will invite Daishin to join us and will have lunch available.]
7. Sumi-e Painting Workshop: Gina is beginning to plan this for sometime in the summer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - CRZC

1. Extended Work Period: Sunday, March 29 (10:40 am – 12:30 pm)
2. Baika practice: second & fourth Thursdays (5:30 pm)
3. Buddha's Birthday Celebration: Sunday, April 5
4. Annual Meeting: Sunday, April 26 – after dharma talk / potluck lunch / should be done by 2:00 pm
5. Baika teacher from Japan in Minneapolis: Saturday, May 16
6. Calligraphy Workshop: Sunday, May 24 (1:00 to 3:00 pm)
7. Work Day: Saturday, May 30 (9:00 am – 2:00 pm)
8. All-day Sitting: Sunday, May 31 (5:00 am – 4:40 pm)
9. Precepts Ceremony: Saturday, July 11 (10:00 am) – Potluck in backyard after ceremony

ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area:

1. **Religious Tolerance Panel – Thursday, March 26 (6:30- 8:30 pm)**
Location: 616 A Avenue NE Panel: Leaders from local religious traditions, including Zuiko
Sponsored by The Order of DeMolay / Hosted by the Cedar Rapids Scottish Rite
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
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.

NEXT MEETING: April 26 – Annual Meeting of the Sangha and Board of Directors

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm

Motion to adjourn by Jen Yukl – Second by Zuiko – Carried

Respectfully submitted by Jen Yukl

Appendix A:

Practice Report – March 22, 2015 Zuiko Redding

General Impressions

It is spring and a time to renew our practice. Let's look at our practice and see how we can be more awake. Perhaps we can restore the times we used to sit but don't right now. Try coming to evening or noon zazen once a month in addition to Sunday attendance.

It was good to be at the Sotoshu meetings. Tenpyozan is coming along both organizationally and physically. They're hoping to get 501 (c)(3) status soon and then will be able to fundraise in America. We're hoping to organize some practice – either sesshin or work practice – there this year.

Facebook page – people who aren't able to come are in touch with us this way. Have seen visits from people who haven't been here in months.

Center Activities

- . Dharma school – Jonna Higgins-Freese led in Zuiko's absence.
- . Introductory evening – Two people came and Kelly did the evening.
- . Sunday sitting – good attendance. Let's bring our dharma questions to tea, especially questions about the talk.
- . Daily sitting – we have regulars at noon zazen. And sometimes people at evening zazen. Attendance usually increases as the days get longer.
- . Baika practice happens on the second and fourth Thursdays at 5:30.
- . Rakusu sewing – Eric is finished.
- . Have not had time to work with Hassan on study group.

Special Events

- . Daishin McCabe led the March sesshin. We had one attendee besides Daishin and Zuiko.

Zuiko's Activities

- . March 2 – 3 – attended Sotoshu (Association of Soto Zen Buddhists) board meetings in San Francisco. The board visited the site where Tenpyozan, the future training monastery, is being built. It looks as if the Japanese organization will be behind this with both funding and certification. Certification means that people who do monastic practice there will be recognized by Japan when they finish clerical training.
- . March 11 – talked to a confirmation class from St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. There were twelve kids and they had fine questions.
- . March 25 – will visit Mt. Pleasant for the first time since October.
- . March 26 – will be part of an interfaith panel organized by DeMolay to promote religious tolerance and understanding.

Announcements

- . Buddha's Birthday will be April 5. We need help with arrangements.
- . The baika teacher from Japan will be coming to Minneapolis on May 16. Zuiko will be going.
- . Eric's precepts ceremony will be Saturday, July 11 at 10:00 a.m. with a potluck in the back yard afterward. We have a grill.