

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

**MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – May 24, 2015 – Convened at 10:40 AM**

Called to order by President Eric Higgins-Freese

**Present:** President Eric Higgins-Freese, Treasurer Gina Vavra, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Rev. Daishin McCabe, Ken Burnside, Courtney Cook, Suisan Goldberg, Kevin Krumvieda

**COUNCIL was held.**

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

**TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra**

1. 2015 First Quarter Report – See Appendix B
2. Investment Recommendation
  - LACCU CD will mature on 6-12-15 currently at \$15,639
  - The next CD that will mature in February 2016 is currently at \$21,864.66
  - Current checking and savings - \$1,398.80
  - Last year we brought in \$23,188.25 in contributions and fundraising efforts, however we also need to account for our \$4,800 a year New Teacher savings
  - Recommend adding \$5,639 of CD to General Checking to cover rest of year’s expenses
  - Recommend investing in a \$10,000, 37 month CD at 2.25% APY or as close as possible depending on availability – maturity date would be approximately July 2018
  - Motion to send this information out to board for a vote by Kelly – Second by Courtney - Carries

**BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT – Zuiko Redding**

1. *Work day – Saturday, May 30*

Plans include: weeding in front and back yards, trimming lilacs, planting perennials, repairing the front walk, cleaning bricks, tidying up between the garages.
2. Schedule next Work Day: June 27  
  
Plan work to be done:  
  
Possible projects:
  - Clean and organize basement – pretty organized but some items could be thrown out. Other items could be made more orderly and organized for easy access.
  - Clean zendo – zafus, zabutons, floor, and altar
  - Clean other areas of center
  - Garden work when weather permits
  - Painting (see list in “pending projects” below)
3. Finished projects
  - Bench for entryway – update: There are two new benches in the entryway.
  - Garden border – Denny Novak and two friends finished that on Thursday.
  - Kitchen leak – was leaking around faucet base. Faucet was replaced by Valenta Plumbing on May 7

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### 4. New Projects

- 42" TV in the library needs a home. We have had it for about five years and haven't taken it out of the box. Was given to us by Amy and Jeremy Eble.
- Also need to rehome the big 90s vintage TV in the closet. It came with Zuiko and is no longer useful. Has a DVD player and a VCR with it.
- The dehumidifier in the basement has a problem – need someone to look at it

### 5. 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 – Zuiko wants to reconsider this.
- 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.
- If you see projects that need doing, do yourself if they are very simple or let Zuiko know.

### 6. Zuiko will reach out to someone who might be able to serve as work leader.

## OTHER BUSINESS

#### 1. Fundraising

We will have a \$4,000 shortfall this year. A proposal has been made to explore fundraising ideas that might be useful to us. Ellen Westzel has offered to help with this. (Ellen is a founding member of the sangha who has some expertise in fundraising.) Suisan will contact her. We would like to form a committee to work on this.

#### 2. Ethics/Grievance Procedure

Procedure needs to be written. Zuiko mentioned that Kyoki Roberts (Pittsburgh Zen Center) has been working on one for Tenpyozan. She will get a copy for the board to look at. She suggested that we read our meeting procedures at a sangha meeting every six months.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – CRZC

1. All-Day Sitting: Sunday, June 21
2. Precepts Receiving Ceremony: Saturday, July 11 (10 AM) – Potluck in back yard following the ceremony
3. Work Day: Saturday, June 27 (9 AM – 2 PM)
4. Next Sangha Meeting: Sunday, June 28 following dharma talk

## NEXT MEETING: June 28

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM

Motion to adjourn by Gina – Second by Zuiko – Carried

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

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#### Appendix A:

Practice Report – May 24, 2015

##### General Impressions

It's spring and our attendance is stronger. We have more people at noon and evening zazen. Whether you do it at home or at the center, try to do zazen daily. Because it's good for nothing, it will help your life.

I've been working a lot on Tenpyozan's organization, helping to get bylaws written and to apply for nonprofit status. It's been taking more time than I want it to, but it's important work. I think a lot about the future of our faith in America these days. It will take root and provide peace with all our efforts. Let's all work together.

Facebook page – Hoko is now posting dharma words each week. The presentation is really beautiful. How would it be to select a few of these later in the year and make a calendar for next year?

##### Center Activities

- Dharma school – we are adjourning dharma school for the summer.
- 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 has increased as the days get longer and warmer.
- Baika practice happens on the second and fourth Thursdays at 5:30.
- Zuiko is having second thoughts about the study group on Islam. Hassan may not be available much. Would we like to go ahead with the book alone or choose another topic? One thought is Shohaku Okumura's book on the daily chants. (We also talked about the Avatamsaka Sutra since Daishin had read from it during his dharma talk.)

##### Special Events

- Calligraphy workshop this afternoon (24 May)

##### Zuiko's Activities

- May 27 – will visit Mt. Pleasant
- April 28, May 2 – spoke at vigil for Nepal in Cedar Rapids (April 28) and Iowa City (May 2)

##### Announcements

- June 11-14 – Zuiko will be in San Francisco. We will need people to cover zazen and dharma talk.
- All-day sitting – June 21 – solstice
- Eric's precepts ceremony will be July 11 at 10:00 a.m. with a potluck in the back yard afterward. We have a grill.

**Appendix B:**

**Cedar Rapids Zen Center  
2015 First Quarter Report**

	Full Year	To Date		
<b>Income</b>	<b>2014 (Jan. - Dec.)</b>	<b>2015 Budget</b>	<b>2015 (Jan. - Mar.)</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Bookstore/Library	\$109.20	\$100.00	\$26.00	26.0%
Contributions	\$12,716.25	\$12,700.00	\$3,394.00	26.7%
Fundraising	\$10,472.00	\$9,000.00	\$770.00	8.6%
Teaching Engagements	\$867.00	\$800.00	\$320.00	40.0%
Practice	\$973.00	\$900.00	\$287.00	31.9%
Prison	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Great Sky	\$150.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Miscellaneous Income (rebates)	\$10.00	\$100.00	\$6.50	6.5%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$25,312.59</b>	<b>\$23,600.00</b>	<b>\$4,803.00</b>	<b>20.4%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Housing				
a. Mortgage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
b. Maintenance	\$2,008.66	\$2,000.00	\$267.04	13.4%
c. Renovation	\$8,917.57	\$5,200.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Insurance (house/org./work comp.)	\$2,054.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,618.00	77.0%
Utilities	\$3,244.64	\$3,200.00	\$1,021.49	31.9%
Personnel (health ins./wages)	\$4,991.14	\$4,900.00	\$1,928.82	39.4%
Office Supplies & Services	\$1,303.44	\$1,800.00	\$203.40	11.3%
Fundraising	\$404.59	\$500.00	\$183.79	36.8%
Bookstore/Library	\$236.41	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Practice	\$2,320.93	\$2,300.00	\$1,058.09	46.0%
Dharma School	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Prison	\$382.02	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Community Support	\$525.40	\$500.00	\$150.00	30.0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$26,388.80</b>	<b>\$23,600.00</b>	<b>\$6,430.63</b>	<b>27.2%</b>
Net Excess (Deficit)	<b>-\$1,076</b>		<b>-\$1,627.13</b>	na
<b>SAVINGS</b>				
New Teacher Savings (transfer)	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$1,200.00	25.0%

**Accounts as of 5-22-15**

Checking (Hills)	\$1,332.87			
Savings (Hills)	\$62.80			
Other Savings (UICCU,LACCU)	\$13.13		Working Accounts	\$1,398.80
* N. T. F. Savings (LACCU)	\$2,912.29		New Teacher Fund	\$2,912.29
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$15,639.00	06/12/15	1.492 % [1.5 % APY]	\$15,639.00
48-59 mo. CD (Hills)	\$21,864.56	02/15/16	1.99 % [2.0 % APY]	\$21,864.66
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$21,301.55	07/19/16	[1.3 % APY]	\$21,301.55
49-60 mo. CD (UICCU)	\$20,905.79	04/01/17	2.13 % [2.15 % APY]	\$20,905.79
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$32,534.88	44.3% CRZC	55.70% NTF	\$32,534.88
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$116,556.97</b>