

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – June 26, 2016 – Convened at 10:37 AM

Called to order by President Eric Higgins-Freese

Present: President Eric Higgins-Freese, Treasurer Gina Vavra, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES of 22 May – Motion to approve by Eric – Second by Zuiko - Carries

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra

- Discussed putting funds from CD that is maturing in new CD rather than mutual funds as has been done in the past, due to Suresh’s advice and Brexit vote
- Best CD deal offered by banks we’ve worked with in the past appears to be Hills Bank, 55-month at 2.05%
- One way to handle this would be to authorize Gina to put the funds into this CD, or whichever one is the best deal on that date
- Motion to recommend this course of action to the full board by Eric – Second by Kelly – Carries

Financial Institutions	Terms	Rates	Min
UICCU	28 Month Special	1,80%	\$500,00
Collins Community Credit Union	60 Month	2,30%	\$50 000,00
Collins Community Credit Union	60 Month	2,25%	\$10 000,00
Collins Community Credit Union	30 Month	1,85%	\$10 000,00
Dupaco	60 Month Bump Up Special	2,24%	\$5 000,00
Dupaco	25 Month Special	1,74%	\$5 000,00
Hills Bank & Trust	55 Month	2,05%	\$500,00

Mutual Fund Trend	Investment
June 2015	\$31 942,54
September 2015	\$30 118,05
December 2015	\$30 662,18
March 2016	\$31 073,12
June 2016	\$31 034,08

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 – May 21 – none this month

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Next Work Day: July 9

Possible work: Sesshin cleaning, garden work, setsu tip sewing, computer work, clean fridge coils

Thanks to Gus, Sally, and others, we are keeping the weeds at bay and the grass mowed.

Pending projects

- Basement sealing – Zuiko will call possible contractors
- Flaking paint on stairway ceiling – does anyone know a good handyman?
- Computer – install iTunes upstairs. Zuiko tried it and it didn't work. Also install Bitdefender on laptop and netbook

Projects needing attention

- Clean and organize basement – Sally, Denny Novak, and Zuiko will begin this sometime

Finished projects

- Air conditioner checked over. Needs a new fan motor – will cost around \$350. Zuiko will call this month

New Projects

- Clean fridge condenser coils – work day project?
- Service garage door
- Furnace tuneup – Zuiko will call Colony in the fall
- Look at the discussion room heating grate – will the one downstairs fit it?
- New runners for porch – one is a bit flimsy

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

- 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
- 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

Did we miss anything?

If someone would like to take over as work leader, let us know.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Communications policy – when to share/what to share. Let's look at the Inter-Religious Council's communications policy and consult Hoko for ideas. Motion to have Gina investigate and share ideas at the July meeting by Zuiko – Second by Eric - Carries
2. At the July meeting, we can look at the minutes from the Annual Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

Sesshin – July 15-17 – please register

Introduction to Zazen – July 20

Next Sangha Meeting – Sunday, July 24

ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area

Book Drive for inmates at Federal Prison in Thomson, IL – Contact Rev. Catherine Quehl-Engel at cquehl-engel@cornellcollege.edu to donate

Children of Abraham – Politics and Religion – September 25 2-4 PM, location TBA

Inter-religious Thanksgiving Service – “Healing Our Divisions” – November 21 6:30 PM, Cedar Rapids Public Library, Whipple Auditorium – Zuiko will be keynote speaker

NEXT MEETING: July 24th

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM

Motion to adjourn by Gina – Second by Eric – Carries

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A:

Practice Report – June 26, 2016

General Impressions

The last few months have had a lot of activity for me, but July and August promise to be more free and I want to keep them that way. In September I'll be going to Sotoshu meetings in Los Angeles and at the end of October, I'll be going to Japan.

Let's keep working together to make our Center a fruitful practice place. This is what the Buddha wanted. We don't need to be large or impressive, we need to unfold dharma. Being large and impressive sometimes attracts the wrong people.

Center Activities

- Introductory evening – no one this month. Thanks to Kelly for driving over.
- Zen Practice and Tradition – We have one person taking the course.
- Sunday and daily sitting – not much change lately.
- Daily sitting – At least one person for two of the noon sittings. Sometimes a person in the evening.
- Baika practice – now has four members. We gained a member after Rev. Moriyama's workshop. We are gradually gaining steadiness in practice.
- Hanshan class – is becoming a weekly discussion group. We'll meet again on July 11. Zuiko wants to take up the Six Perfections (giving – *dana*, morality/ethics – *sila*, patience – *ksanti*, effort – *virya*, concentration – *dhyana*, wisdom – *prajna*). There's a fine book on these by Dale Wright.

Special Events

- June 11 – Baika workshop with Rev. Yuko Moriyama. We had four people and Rev. Moriyama was a dynamic and enjoyable teacher. Thanks to Gina, Annora, and Lina for help in setting up and clearing away.
- Rakusu sewing – Stefan Robinson in Bloomington-Normal has finished his rakusu. The ceremony will be in Bloomington-Normal next April. Two other members of that group are interested in sewing.

Sangha Members' Activities – Nothing new this month. Tim Macejak and Tim Yukl are still visiting the Anamosa group. Gina is serving as our representative to the Inter-Religious Council. Gina traveled with Zuiko to the ordination at Prairie Zen Center and to the installation at Sanshinji. Thanks to her for her driving and other help.

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Zuiko's Activities

- May 27-29 – sat with people in Bloomington-Normal. Helped with ordination at Prairie Zen Center in Champaign.
- June 9 – talk to Prairiewoods men's group on Buddhism. Ten people came.
- June 12 – regular sitting at Anamosa State Penitentiary
- June 17-19 – attended Hoko Karnegis' installation as Vice Abbot at Sanshinji in Bloomington, Indiana
- June 23 – all-day sitting at Anamosa
- June 26 – sitting at Thu Vien Hong Duc (Vietnamese) temple in Des Moines
- June 29 – visit to Ft. Madison, Iowa State Penitentiary Buddhist Group – will visit once a month
- Editing translations for the Sotoshu website
- Writing for Facebook page and announcements – gets the dharma out there

Announcements

- July 15-18 - sesshin
- July 23 – Hoko Karnegis will give a baika workshop – 10 AM-noon here