

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – June 28, 2015 – Convened at 10:45 AM

Called to order by President Eric Higgins-Freese

Present: President Eric Higgins-Freese, Treasurer Gina Vavra, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Ken Burnside, Suisan Goldberg, Travis Hunt, Allen Wang

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES of May 24 – Motion to approve by Gina – Second by Travis - Carries

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra

Accounts as of 06-27-15

Checking (Hills)	\$1,571.95				
Savings (Hills)	\$5,012.80				
Other Savings (UICCU,LACCU)	\$13.13			Working Accounts	\$6,597.88
* N.T.F. Savings (LACCU)	\$3,304.53			New Teacher Fund	\$3,304.53
37-47 mo. CD (UICCU)	\$10,000.00	07/12/18	2.23 % [2.25 % APY]		\$10,000.00
48-59 mo. CD (Hills)	\$21,864.66	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)	\$32,165.49	44.3% CRZC	55.7% NTF		\$32,165.49
				Grand Total	\$116,139.90

BUILDING & 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.

1. Work day – Saturday, June 27 – 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
Work done: Walk near curb rebuilt, hostas on incline weeded and mulched, tidying up of front garden, hanging shades for Zuiko
2. Schedule next Work Day:
Possible work: weeding in front and back yards, trimming lilacs, cleaning bricks, tidying up between the garages, washing porch floor and house front, upstairs woodwork painting
3. Projects that need attention
 - 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)

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4. Finished projects
 - Rebuilding walk near curb
 - Dehumidifier fixed – Zuiko cleaned the filter
5. 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.
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 / a few other places downstairs where paint is cracking / touch up garage
 - 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.

Does anyone have something to add?

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

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

1. There is a request for someone to offer a Buddhist prayer at the Vigil Recognizing Gun Violence on July 12 at 8:00 PM. We would like to have someone from the Sangha do the reading but Zuiko will be there as well. Zuiko will send an email asking for volunteers.
2. Ethics/Grievance procedure needs to be written. We should find some members willing to work on modifying one Zuiko has received from Tenpyozan to fit our organization. (She passed out copies of that one at the meeting.) Please contact Zuiko if you are interested in helping.
3. Light in the alley
 - Currently pay \$11.81/mo. to Alliant for light and \$2.20 for electricity
 - Suggestion: Floodlight with sensor mounted on garage, which would cost less
 - Initial outlay would be around \$150 (light + installation); would pay for itself in a little over a year
 - Ken brought up idea of using solar light, which should cost nothing beyond initial outlay
 - Motion to research solar light by Ken – Second by Allen - Carries
4. Shared "cloud space" for Sangha and committees
 - Zuiko using Dropbox frequently to share documents with Hoko and others; finds it very helpful
 - Suggestion: People on fundraising or ethics committees could also use
 - May have enough available Dropbox space now; could buy more if needed
 - Motion to make Dropbox space available to Sangha/committees by Gina – Second by Suisan - Carries
5. Dharma School
 - Zuiko suggested moving dharma school to same time as Sunday zazen
 - Kids would assemble in library, parent/other member to give lesson/supervise activity and treat
 - Similar to what many churches do, allows parents to trade out/in coming to regular service
 - Motion to approve new dharma school concept by Kelly – Second by Travis – Carries

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6. Report on Fundraising Activities – Suisan Goldberg
 - Productive meeting with Ellen Westzel; many possible ideas
 - Basement water problem – probably need \$5,000 to fix – GoFundMe project?
 - Motion to further investigate basement cost and send GoFundMe suggestion out to board by Eric – Second by Ken – Carries
 - Need to make better use of website – donation button; online store
 - Allen could help with technical things such as adding donation button, setting up PayPal
 - Incense: Could buy in bulk and sell smaller amounts (possibly as a kit with an incense burner; possibly with sangha members donating the cost)
 - Could sell T-shirts, cards, other products through online store and via “gift cart” in Center
 - Members could work on mailings for online store during work periods
 - Zuiko showed examples of Zen calligraphy pieces that could be sold
 - Gina creates sumi-e paintings and jewelry that she could sell
 - Could make calendars with dharma quotes listing CRZC events
 - Possible sources for calendar images – Zuiko’s dharma quotes put together by Hoko for Facebook, Travis’ photography
7. A 42” flat screen TV was donated to the center a few years ago and we should think about a good use for it. Donate to a non-profit in Cedar Rapids, raffle it off at the potluck? Need to investigate possibilities. Zuiko will call Paul Engle Center and ask if they can use it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – CRZC

1. Precepts Receiving Ceremony: Saturday, July 11 (10 AM) – Potluck in back yard following the ceremony
2. Sesshin: July 17-19
3. Introduction to Zazen: July 15 (7:30 PM)
4. Next Sangha Meeting: Sunday, July 26 following dharma talk

NEXT MEETING: July 26

Meeting adjourned at 12 PM

Motion to adjourn by Kelly – Second by Travis – Carried

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A:

Practice Report – June 28, 2015

General Impressions

My concern these days is to encourage people to come to all-day sitting. Maybe we need an ad campaign – “Zazen will revolutionize your life!” It will, actually. We usually think that we need the time we might be doing zazen for other things – that report we need to finish, paying bills, you name it. Interestingly, if we do more zazen we have more time. We get clear about things and we can make decisions more quickly and not waffle. We also begin to see our judgment, fear, and anger coming and head it off at the pass before it gets close enough to paralyze us.

I’d also like to see us adopt an ethics statement this year. My thought would be to use the one at Pittsburgh Zen Center as a model or to adopt it the way it is. Kyoki Roberts is a professional in ethics and conflict resolution. I would also like to see us read our Sangha Meeting Principles once or twice a year at meetings so we can remember them.

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Facebook page – I posted some pictures of the celebration at Tenpyozan. Visit and have a look. It's really beginning to take shape physically, organizationally, and with respect to practice. There's talk of getting a group together to cut brush for fire mitigation. If you're interested, we'll keep you posted.

Center Activities

- Dharma school – we are adjourning dharma school for the summer
- Introductory evening – Two people came and Kelly did the evening.
- Introduction to Zen Practice – one person
- 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.
- All-day sitting – just Gina and me. Come for an extra sit or two.
- Baika practice happens on the second and fourth Thursdays at 5:30.
- It would be good to have a study group in late summer or fall.
- Sewing – Denny Barrick will be coming from Ames on July 25 – come sew with us (≈ 8AM – 4PM)

Special Events

- Nothing this month.

Zuiko's Activities

- No Mt. Pleasant visit this month – no men at the moment. Visited on May 27th last month.
- June 12 – 13 – attended Sotoshu conference and framework raising ceremony at Tenpyozan. Also a meeting of the Tenpyozan advisory committee

Announcements

- Sesshin – July 17 - 19
- 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. We need to think about a list of who's bringing what so we don't have a table full of chips and dip. Or cakes. We do have a grill and some charcoal downstairs that we can use to grill veggies and veggie burgers.