

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – July 24, 2016 – Convened at 10:51 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, Rev. Hoko Karnegis, Christopher Lui, Lauren Manninen

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES of 26 June – Motion to approve by Gus – Second by Gina - Carries

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT – Hoko Karnegis

Facebook

13 posts were made to the CRZC page in June, down from 14 in May.

Page likes as of 30 June stand at 496, up from 488 on 31 May.

The best-performing post in terms of reach was

- "Doing constructive things," with a reach of 357, 24 likes, and 7 shares
- "Universal life" reached 353 people and had 18 likes and 6 shares
- "Arborist" reached 317 people and had 11 likes, 3 loves, 1 comment and 5 shares.

1017 people worldwide were reached by at least one post this month.

CRZC Currents

The June issue of *Currents* went to 292 subscribers, up from 286 in May. Eighty-one recipients (34.9%) opened the publication. The current average open rate for religious publications at MailChimp is 25.8%.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Gina Vavra

- Discussed the current status of the New Teacher Fund (Linn Area Credit Union)
- The summer fundraising letter will go out today (a few members stayed after the meeting and helped with folding, stuffing, and sealing envelopes).

Accounts as of 07-24-16				
Checking (Hills)	\$1 265,68			
Savings (Hills)	\$6 983,03			
Other Savings (LACU & UICCU)	\$21 677,12		Working Accounts	\$29 925,83
N.T.F. Savings (LACU)	\$8 508,80		New Teachers Fund	\$8 508,80
49 – 60 mo. CD (UICCU)	\$21 469,30	04/01/17	2.13% APY	\$21 469,30
37 – 47 mo. CD (UICCU)	\$10 234,87	07/16/18	2.23% APY	\$10 234,87
37 mo. CD (UICCU) – Bump up	\$22 346,69	04/12/19	2.23% APY	\$22 346,69
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$32 254,10	44.3% CRZC	55.7% NTF	\$32 254,10
			Grand Total	\$124 739,59

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 – July 9 – back yard weeded and mulched, bench in back garden rebuilt, front gardens weeded and pruned, cleaned the entire first floor, installed Bit Defender on the laptop and netbook. Thanks to Eric, Reuben, Henry, Annora, Kelly, Eugenia, and Terry, Olivia, Henry, and Samantha Crutcher.

Next Work Day: To be set at August meeting for September
Possible work: Sesshin cleaning, garden work, setsu tip sewing

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.

Projects needing attention

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

Finished projects

- Air conditioner fan motor replaced on July 13. Cost around \$350.
- Finished majority of back garden work – needs a bit more but is attractive now

New Projects

- Service garage door (Gus will look at today)
- 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
- Should have a restorer of older homes look at flaking paint in kitchen above cutting table
- 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

Did we miss anything?

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

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Possible future teacher visit

- Kathy Early – could be ready to teach in about 2 years – interested in visiting Center
- Zuiko has been thinking about transitioning out and more time to do writing, translating, etc.
- Need to work out logistical things, like where Zuiko will live
- Hoko – teacher successions complicated, require everyone to think about direction of Center, core values, how can sangha and teacher partner?
- Zuiko – Let's talk about one piece of that each month
- Gina – What if someone else expresses interest? Candidates will likely be open to the idea that we're interviewing others if that turns out to be the case
- Hoko – one piece of this is the person's knowledge, skills
- Kelly and others will have insights about how hiring has been done in organizations they were part of

2. Go over draft of annual meeting minutes

Surveys

- How to get feedback from Center visitors without “hounding”
- Hoko – permanent survey online through free service, send URL to people who write their email address in contact book
- Eric will set up account, then we can talk about what questions should be

Need for More Space

- Gina plans to be able to offer her new living space for Center use
- Zuiko – Could do trial with low tables or carpets downstairs for storage of sesshin attendees' personal things

Be thinking about sesshin job-shadowing

Should we vote on the annual meeting minutes? People can send edits to Kelly in next 2 weeks, then she can send to Eric to be sent out to board for approval

3. Continued discussion of communications policy

- Hoko's thoughts – suggested checklist of questions, need to consider audience, Center has infrastructure in place and just needs to codify
- Deciding on correct vehicle – who is likely to receive Facebook posts vs. newsletters vs. email?
- Gina passed out Inter-religious Council policy and mentioned some issues they've worked through
- Examples – getting things out timely, using disclaimers when necessary, looking at website to make sure it captures what we want to communicate
- Gina will use the IRCLC policy as a template and work with others to evaluate our policy

- Eric – who in the Center needs to know about IRCLC events? Gina – that's why we need policy
- Hoko – when done take to board, but it will be living document

ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

Introduction to Zazen – August 17

All-Day Sitting - August 21

Next Sangha Meeting – Sunday, August 28

ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area

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: August 28th

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM

Motion to adjourn by Kelly – Second by Gus – Carries

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A:

Practice Report – June 26, 2016

General Impressions

I'm beginning to think seriously of letting go here. I got an email from a friend at Tassajara recommending one of her dharma sisters who's about ready to fly the coop, and that brought a successor one step closer to reality. Most of me wants to move on to all the writing I want to do, along with other things like being available as a guest teacher, sewing teacher, and for prison work. After two encounters with cancer, I often find Death looking over my shoulder as I chop vegetables or work at the terminal. “Duuude! Cool it!” I say, and he smiles. Impermanence comes to all. We don't think it will happen to us, but it will.

Let's keep working together to make our Center a steady, lasting 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. We want to be here, quietly, in five hundred years.

Center Activities

- Introductory evening – One person this month. Thanks to Kelly for taking care of him.
- 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. Next meeting is July 28 - Thursday
- Hanshan class – meets on Monday evenings at 6:30. We do thirty minutes of zazen, then an hour of discussion. 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
- Sesshin – was cancelled. We had only one participant and Zuiko needed some personal time. We have had activities on most Saturdays recently and that taxes her schedule a bit
- We got a newsletter out

Special Events

- None this month

Sangha Members' Activities – Tim Macejak gave a talk at Unity Church on Thursday, July 7. Tim Macejak and Tim Yukl are still visiting the Anamosa group. Gina is serving as our representative to the Inter-Religious Council

Zuiko's Activities

- July 10 – Sitting at Anamosa
- July 20 – talk with Prairie High teacher William Goodale on Buddhism to help design course material on Buddhism
- June 28 – visit to Ft. Madison, Iowa State Penitentiary Buddhist Group
- Editing translations for the Sotoshu website
- Writing for Facebook page and monthly newsletter

Announcements

- August 11, 25 – baika
- Mondays – discussion group
- August 21 – all-day sitting
- August 28 – Spiritual Dimensions of Climate Change at Prairiewoods