

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

**MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – July 26, 2015 – Convened at 10:50 AM**

Called to order by Vice-President Douglas Gustafson

**Present:** Vice-President Douglas Gustafson, Treasurer Gina Vavra, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Ken Burnside, Suisan Goldberg, Tim Merfeld

**COUNCIL was held.**

**MINUTES of June 28** – Motion to approve by Zuiko – Second by Ken - Carries

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

**TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra**

Checking (Hills)	\$1,226.24			
Savings (Hills)	\$5,012.84			
Other Savings (UICCU, LACCU)	\$13.13		Working Accounts	\$6,252.21
*N.T.F. Savings (LACCU)	\$3,704.94		New Teacher Fund	\$3,704.94
37-47 mo. CD (UICCU)	\$10,009.16	07/12/18	2.23 % [2.25 % APY]	\$10,009.16
48-59 mo. CD (Hills)	\$21,864.66	02/15/16	1.99 % [2.0 % APY]	\$21,864.66
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$21,370.59	07/19/16	[1.3 % APY]	\$21,370.59
49-60 mo. CD (UICCU)	\$21,016.81	04/01/17	2.13 % [2.15 % APY]	\$21,016.81
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$32,106.33	44.3% CRZC	55.7% NTF	\$32,106.33
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$116,324.70</b>

**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 – none in July
2. Schedule next Work Day: August 8<sup>th</sup>? (Since set for August 22<sup>nd</sup> after members’ feedback)  
Possible work: taking care of front yard, trimming lilacs, cleaning bricks, tidying up between the garages, washing porch floor and house front, upstairs woodwork painting
3. Ongoing projects
  - Basement sealing – Zuiko has called Fitz and gotten a callback. There are several firms in Cedar Rapids that specialize in this. Does anyone know of a dependable firm? If not, Zuiko can call for estimates.
  - Flaking paint on stairway ceiling. Does anyone know a dependable handyman to take care of this? Can you do it yourself? (Possibly Fitz can.) We suspect that moisture is getting into the plaster from the air and causing this.
  - Zuiko has emailed the city recycling folks about the old CRT TV in the library closet. Denny Novak will take it away when we figure out where it should go.
4. Projects that need attention
  - Recycle run – Denny will probably do this
  - 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.

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5. Finished projects
  - Lots of work done on back yard. Put up strings for trumpet vine on front porch.
6. New Projects
  - Would like to paint the air intake in the zendo. Would anyone like to take that on?
  - Would like a bench for the back garden. If you know of anything, let Zuiko know.
7. Pending 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 – This is new – would be nice to begin with the zendo and the entry
8. Projects that are always around
  - Clean zendo – zafus, zabutons, floor, and altar
  - Clean other areas of Center
  - Garden work when weather permits

Does anyone have something to add?

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

### **NEW/OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Ethics/Grievance procedure needs to be written. Zuiko has suggested we use the same one as was drafted for Tenpyozan. We need a volunteer to look it over and suggest any changes that we might need. Eric has sent out copies. Please look it over and we will discuss at next meeting. It is important for everyone to understand what our values are.
2. The light in the alley – Ken found a solar-powered light, but it's motion-activated and we need one that works on a timer. He will exchange it and look to put it up possibly this week.
3. Report on Fundraising Activities – Suisan Goldberg
  - "Start the Cart" fundraising campaign requesting starter money for the online store and Zen Center gift cart – envelope on table in entryway
  - Suisan wrote to Allen about setting up the donation button on the CRZC website
  - Can submit a few lines on fundraising efforts to Hoko for the e-newsletter
  - GoFundMe campaign? Zuiko needs estimate for basement repairs first.
  - Zuiko's friend who was a photography professor could take photos of items for sale
  - Please contact Suisan with additional fundraising ideas – always open to those!
4. Automatic Monthly EFT Donations – Zuiko Redding/Gina Vavra
  - Zuiko passed out draft pre-authorized payment agreement at meeting
  - Money would come out of person's account each month unless/until written request to stop
  - Center would get charged 5 cents for each transaction
  - Could have form on website to be printed, signed, sent with voided check
  - Bank would send trainer for Zuiko and Nadine
  - Motion to approve use of monthly EFT donation agreements by Gina – Second by Kelly – Carries

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5. A 42-inch flat screen TV was donated to the Center a few years ago and we should think about a good use for it. Zuiko will contact non-profits to see if anyone could use it – any ideas in your local communities, please let her know.
6. Gina would like to lead a series of four one-hour sumi-e painting classes (there would be a discount for signing up for all four). This could be done at the Center unless the amount of interest indicated that a bigger space would be needed. A number of possible timeframes were discussed with Saturday afternoons in November agreed upon as a good time to consider. All proceeds would go to the Center. Zuiko and Suisan will help publicize.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS – CRZC

1. All-Day Sitting: Sunday, August 16
2. Introduction to Zazen: August 19 (7:30 PM)
3. Next Sangha Meeting: Sunday, August 23 following dharma talk

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area

1. Children of Abraham group – “Marriage in the Modern Era”: Sunday, August 23 (2-4 PM) at Coe College, Kessler Auditorium in Hickok Hall
2. Intersections civil dialogue and luncheon sponsored by Inter-Religious Council of Linn County: Friday, September 4 (11:45 AM to 1 PM), First Presbyterian Church, \$10/person, topic and presenter TBA

#### NEXT MEETING: August 23

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 PM

Motion to adjourn by Ken – Second by Suisan – Carries

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

#### Appendix A:

### Practice Report – July 26, 2015

#### General Impressions

We are now getting people who drop by and ring our doorbell. I'm getting a lot of practice in being patient with interruptions. These are usually new people in town who have stopped by to see what we have. Hopefully, some of them will return.

I'm hoping to get a bit farther with our ethics statement in this meeting. These are things we don't want to deal with but it's much easier and more harmonious to have a policy in place before there is a problem. When there is a problem and no process, there's nothing to guide us in taking care of things.

I would also like to see us read our Sangha Meeting Principles once or twice a year at meetings so we can remember them. Let's do this at the next meeting. (Kelly will bring some copies.)

Facebook page – Nothing new here. We continue to grow in the number of likes, most of which are in Cedar Rapids.

**We need a communications director – let Zuiko know if you can help.**

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This is an important part of our practice. Over 300 “likes”, people sharing posts, more people both receiving and opening e-newsletter.

### Center Activities

- Dharma school – we are adjourning dharma school for the summer
- Introductory evening – One person came and Kelly did the evening. He was back for noon zazen on Tuesday.
- 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 – cancelled this month.
- 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 came to begin sewing yesterday.

### Special Events

- Eric Higgins-Freese received the precepts on July 11 at 10:00 a.m. We had a fine potluck on the porch since it was raining. Congratulations to Eric.
- Vigil against gun violence on July 12. It was attended by around 300 people and the police chief and others spoke. There were prayers, including a Buddhist one given by Zuiko.

### Zuiko’s Activities

- *Zen no Tomo* helping with translation – hope to make it available to everyone, perhaps with a combination of Japanese and American writing
- Editing translations for the Sotoshu web site
- Writing for Facebook page and announcements – gets the dharma out there

### Announcements

- All-day sitting August 16
- No all-day sitting in September. Zuiko and possibly Gina will be at Milwaukee Zen Center’s thirtieth anniversary celebration on September 20