

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – July 27, 2014 – Convened at 10:32 am

Called to order by Vice-President Bill Bomberry

Present: Kelly Kruse

Directors – VP Bill Bomberry, Treas. Gina Vavra, Sec. Jen Yuki / Resident Teacher – Zuiko Redding

TOTAL PRESENT: 5

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES from May and June

1. 5/25/14 minutes: Motion by Jen Yuki to approve with a few amendments in grammar and punctuation – Second by Zuiko Redding – Carried.
2. 6/22/14 minutes: Motion by Gina Vavra to approve with amendment removing “flexible” in description of HDPE DR 17 pipe under Building & Grounds, as well as changes in wording for clarity – Second by Kelly Kruse – Carried.

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding

See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra

1. Accounts as of 7/27/14:

Checking (Hills)	\$545.34				
Savings (Hills)	\$1,012.48				
Other Savings (UICCU,LACCU)	\$13.13		Working Accounts		\$1,570.95
* N.T.F. Savings (LACCU)	\$3,702.16		New Teacher Fund Savings		\$3,702.16
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$15,465.14	06/12/15	1.492 %	[1.5 % APY]	\$15,465.14
48-59 mo. CD (Hills)	\$21,434.91	02/15/16	1.99 %	[2.0 % APY]	\$21,434.91
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$21,095.02	07/19/16		[1.3 % APY]	\$21,095.02
49-60 mo. CD (UICCU)	\$20,575.05	04/01/17	2.13 %	[2.15 % APY]	\$20,575.05
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$26,261.13	52.8% CRZC	47.2% NTF		\$26,261.13
Grand Total					\$110,104.36

WORK LEADER’S REPORT – Zuiko Redding

1. Work Day: Saturday, September 13 (9 am to 2 pm). Lunch will be provided by CRZC. Work plans include the exterior painting items listed below in Building & Grounds, adding more kapok to zafus, and taking items to the landfill.

BUILDING & GROUND’S – Jen Yuki

1. Washer – new motor: was installed by Lampe Appliance on Thursday, July 24. Total cost was \$635. Zuiko would like to pay half of this, since most of the washing done is hers; therefore, the cost to CRZC will be less than \$500. It was noted that that there were no other problems with our machine and that purchasing a new washer would cost approximately \$800.
2. Sewer line project (burst-pipe): On June 30, the board approved the \$4800 to \$5100 bid from Roto-Rooter to install HDPE DR 17 pipe (high-density polyethylene w/ 50-yr. warranty). Plan is to wait until after July fundraising letter response before contracting this work.
3. Garden border: Zuiko is looking for assistance with digging out current railroad-tie border (wood is rotting), laying a brick border (bricks from past chimney), and spreading gravel (will need to ask Tim Yuki if he can supply us with more gravel). It would take one or two afternoons and could be done independently of a regular work day. Decision made to have Nadine Borngraeber send out an email request for volunteers.
4. Basement wall seeping: Plan is to wait until 2015 before contracting repair with Fitz.

BUILDING & GROUNDS continued...

5. Painting:
 - Exterior – scrape and paint west side of porch fascia / repaint back of top step to match tread / touch up garage. Plans are to complete this exterior painting at our Sept. 13 Work Day.
 - Interior, upstairs – woodwork & walls in office, Zuiko's room, part of library, and stairwell
 - Interior, downstairs – a few places where cracking
6. Water staining under kitchen sink: Check periodically to verify that past leaking is thoroughly fixed.
7. Water damage in stairwell and kitchen: Zuiko reported that there may be an increase in activity in the stairwell area. She noticed some paint chipping recently and will call Fitz to check this. When cause of current damage is determined to be remedied, we will make plans to scrape and repaint affected areas.
8. Fireplace covering: Seems securely attached now. If needed, add weather stripping in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Doans and jishas: Discussion during Practice Report was continued. This included concern about hesitancy to take on the doan role and what may be done to remedy this. As previously noted, Zuiko has taken over as doan for services and would like to teach others. We also need volunteers for jisha and doan duties every Sunday, even if there is not a special service – to take care of the altar, keep time for zazen, ring bells, assist in offering incense, aid the doshi with the lectern and recorder, and give announcements between the dharma talk and work period. Zuiko will send out an email of request to active members, with further explanation of these roles.
2. Zuiko contacting board members: Discussion, stemming from the purchase of new motor for washing machine, led to a consensus that Zuiko can include *all* board members in emails about center needs (without first consulting board president). Jen Yuki noted that this may aid in hastening additional useful input when making these types of decisions.
3. Twitter button on website: This has been added.
4. Adding dates of CRZC dharma talks to audio podcasts on iTunes: Bill Bomberry volunteered.
5. Posting approved minutes on website: Bill Bomberry will send memo to Eric Higgins-Freese about getting this started. Decision made to post approved minutes starting with those of January 2014.
6. Thank-you letter from Boys & Girls Club: was received for \$100 donation sent in June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See last section of Practice Report, Appendix A, for more CRZC announcements

1. Event at Prairiewoods / announcement from Inter-Religious Council:
The Future Is Calling Us to Greatness – Thurs., Aug. 14, 7–9 p.m. at Prairiewoods – Speaker: Michael Dowd
Science and religion are not enemies; they must work together if we are to survive the 21st century. A worldwide movement has been emerging for decades at the nexus of science, inspiration, and sustainability. Beliefs are secondary. This program will focus on six main points of agreement held in common by tens of millions of religious and non-religious people around the world. Michael Dowd is a heart-centered evolutionary theologian, a climate hawk, a bestselling author, and one of the most inspiring science and religion speakers in America today. Registration is requested and can be done at <http://pw.retreatportal.net/calendar/viewEvent.aspx?programcode=14PEE07528>. A free-will offering will be accepted at the door. [For more information about Rev. Dowd, visit www.MichaelDowd.org.]

NEXT SANGHA MEETING: August 24

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jen Yuki

Appendix A

Practice Report – July 2014

General Impressions

- Energy seems low at the moment. Attendance is sparse, not much communication.
- Solid energy at summer sesshin – everyone right in there – began really chanting the sutras in the cadence of English. This is important to me because it is a sign of our practice – doing it all together, not being perfect but showing our effort. Effort shows even if there is no skill.
- Zuiko has taken over as doan for services, both because she enjoys it and the challenge it offers and because seeing and hearing her should give others a better idea about how the whole thing goes. If you think you'd like to try this, see Zuiko and she'll be happy to teach you.
[See further discussion regarding doan and jisha duties under Other Business, #1.]

Center Activities

- Dharma school – No dharma school this month.
- Introductory evening – Two people came. Cat did the session.
- Sunday orientation – No one this month. Tim is still available to do this.
- Sunday sitting – Attendance has been sparse, probably because summer has finally come.
- Daily sitting – With the warmer weather, we are beginning to have regular sitters at noon and evening zazen again. Eric has been bringing the kids on Tuesday. A family visiting from India has been sitting in the evenings, too.
- Rakusu sewing – Two people are sewing and almost finished. Thinking of a time for precepts ceremony in the fall, possibly on a Saturday with an afternoon picnic.

Special Events

- Sesshin – Three people came; four on one day. All are old friends of CRZC. One is from Boone and comes about once a year. We got the fundraising letter ready for mailing at the work periods.

Zuiko's Activities

- July 2 – talk at St. Mary Monastery to first monastic profession nuns about to take final vows
- Sat with Anamosa men on July 13
- Sat with Mt. Pleasant men on July 23
- Wedding – Amanda Zimmerman and James Ellickson – Backbone State Park

Members' Activities

- Tim Yukl and Tim Macejak continue to visit the Anamosa group.
- Thanks to everyone who helped with sesshin – Gina Vavra, Jean Kirby, Navaab Munirih

Announcements

- Shoryu Bradley will be joining us for October sesshin. He sends his regards to everyone.
- We're doing rakusu sewing on the fourth Sunday of the month. People are welcome to join.
- There will be an all-day sitting at Anamosa on August 7 (Thursday).
- Would you like to ring the zazen bells on Sunday morning? If so, see Zuiko. We need people to do this and it's a fine practice. If we have two or three people, we can set up a rotation.