

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – August 24, 2014 – Convened at 10:55 am

Called to order by Vice-President Bill Bomberly

Present: Courtney Cook, Travis Hunt, Troy Hunt

Directors – VP Bill Bomberly, VP Eric Higgins-Freese, Treas. Gina Vavra, Sec. Jen Yukl

Resident Teacher – Zuiko Redding

TOTAL PRESENT: 8

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES: Motion by Gina Vavra to approve the 7/27/14 minutes – Second by Courtney Cook – Carried.

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra

Accounts as of 8/23/14:

Checking (Hills)	\$2,425.06			
Savings (Hills)	\$912.48			
Other Savings (UICCU,LACCU)	\$13.13	Working Accounts		\$3,350.67
* N.T.F. Savings (LACCU)	\$4,097.63	New Teacher Fund Savings		\$4,097.63
36 mo. CD (LACCU)	\$15,465.14	06/12/15	1.492 % [1.5 % APY]	\$15,465.14
48-59 mo. CD (Hills)	\$21,542.42	02/15/16	1.99 % [2.0 % APY]	\$21,542.42
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)	\$26,244.24	52.8% CRZC	47.2% NTF	\$26,244.24
Grand Total				\$112,370.17

WORK DAY – Saturday, September 13 (9 am to 2 pm) Lunch will be provided by CRZC.

Work plans include: scrape/paint west side of porch fascia, paint back of top porch step to match tread, touch-up painting on garage, add kapok to zafus, and possibly take items to landfill.

[Addendum: In communication with Zuiko after sangha meeting, it was decided that the landfill run is a low priority. If there is time, other available jobs are: paint woodwork upstairs (start in library), clean pantry shelves, dust baseboards, clean basement stairs and floors, trim periwinkle in front garden, other garden work, and clean off the walk beside the house.]

BUILDING & GROUNDS – Jen Yukl

- Sewer line project (burst-pipe): Roto-Rooter will begin work on September 10. The July fundraising response was fantastic. On August 15, we were only \$300 away from our \$5,100 goal.
- 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 Yukl 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. Zuiko will send an email notice to request volunteers.
- Backyard: If anyone is interested in working in our garden to increase its beauty as a sitting place, please contact Zuiko. (Zuiko will add this to the email request noted directly above.)
- Water damage in stairwell and kitchen: In July, paint chipping was noticed in stairwell area. This could indicate an increase in activity. Zuiko will call Fitz to check on this. When the cause of current damage is determined to be fixed, we will make plans to scrape/repaint affected areas.
- 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 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
- Basement wall seeping: Plan is to wait until 2015 before contracting repair with Fitz.
- Water staining under kitchen sink: Check periodically to verify that past leaking is thoroughly fixed.
- Fireplace covering: Seems securely attached now. If needed, add weather stripping in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Doans and jshas: Some people are now in training and beginning to serve in these roles.
2. Adding dates of CRZC dharma talks to audio podcasts on iTunes: Bill Bomberry will be doing this.
3. Posting approved minutes on CRZC website has started: Eric Higgins-Freese has posted approved minutes dating back to February 2014 (no meeting in January). On the website, minutes are under About Us/Organization. Jen Yuki will send completed/approved minutes to both Zuiko and Eric.
4. Sangha Meeting Principles (adopted March 24, 2013): Copies made available and reminder given by Bill Bomberry about our decision to follow these guidelines. Bill encouraged us to review the document and bring any thoughts to our next sangha meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CRZC events

– For more information, see also the last section of Practice Report, Appendix A

1. Dharma School: Sunday, September 7 (2:00 – 3:30 pm)
2. All-day Sitting: Sunday, September 21 (5:00 am – 4:40 pm)
3. Zen Practice & Tradition course: September 9, 16, 23, 30 (7:30 – 9:00 pm)
4. Sesshin: October 17 – 19

ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area from the Inter-Religious Council

1. LGBTQIA+ Community Summit – FREE event! – Thursday September 4 (6pm - 9pm)
Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Cedar Rapids (Enter the event from the 1st Ave entrance)
Free, but need to REGISTER at: <http://www.lgbtfairhousing.eventbrite.com>
Explore and address critical issues for the LGBTQIA+ Community and Allies in a safe and supportive environment! Event brought to you by the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, the Marion Civil Rights Commission, PFlag of Linn County, Riverview Center, and numerous community partners and organizations.
Goals of this summit:
 - Broaden awareness of the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community in the Cedar Rapids and Marion areas.
 - Improve knowledge and access to resources and opportunities available to the LGBTQIA+ community.
 - Identify gaps and needs in the LGBTQIA+ community and work towards solutions.
2. Intersections – next civil dialogue & luncheon – Friday, September 5 (11:45am–1pm)
Welcoming the Migrant Children (a panel discussion)
Where: First Presbyterian Church, 310 Fifth Street SE, Cedar Rapids
Panel members include Erica Johnson, Immigrants' Rights and Racial Justice Advocate, ACLU of Iowa; Ann Naffier, Regional Attorney, Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON); and Edwin Alvarado, Diversity Fellow for the Latino Community, Diversity Focus.
See <http://interfaithallianceiowa.org/events/intersections> for details about registering.
3. Luminous Journey: The Visit of Abdu'l-Baha – film – Sunday, September 21 (1:30 pm)
Where: Whipple Auditorium, Cedar Rapids Public Library
Members of our Cedar Rapids Baha'I community will be there.

NEXT SANGHA MEETING: September 28

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am

Respectfully submitted by Jen Yuki

Practice Report – August 2014

General Impressions

- Members are not “students” or “consumers,” we are practitioners and owners. We all need to take ownership of our practice together, doing what needs to be done to make it grow and help all beings. Let’s look around and see what needs to be done, and then coordinate with others to do it. We will all see different things. Sometimes conflict will come up – this is a sign that we’re all in there working. There are two things to focus on when ideas conflict – the good of the sangha and working together to take all sides into account. Rather than pointing out a weakness as something that will make someone else’s idea irrelevant, let’s put weaknesses out there as something that, when it is addressed, will make the idea better.
- As teacher, Zuiko is responsible for directing the practice in the path of the Buddha’s teaching. She is not in charge of the building, organization, or other parts of the sangha.
- Bill Bomberly added that he recently reviewed our bylaws and continues to learn more about the combined responsibilities of resident teacher, sangha members, and board of directors in the operation of CRZC.

Center Activities

- Dharma school – No dharma school was held in August; we will meet again on September 7. Next year, dharma school will go on vacation in July and August. Family activities prevent many kids from coming.
- Introductory evening – One person came. Zuiko did the session, and Kelly Kruse came for training.
- Sunday orientation – Two people this month. Tim Yukl did this.
- Sunday sitting – Attendance has picked up.
- Daily sitting – With the warmer weather, we are beginning to have regular sitters at noon and evening zazen again. It’s good to have people to sit with.
- Rakusu sewing – Two people are sewing and almost finished. Thinking of a time for the ceremony in the fall, possibly in October.

Special Events

- All-day sitting – Two attendees and another for half of the day. One is from Prairie Zen Center in Champaign, Illinois. Note regarding Prairie Zen Center: Genmyo Smith will be leaving there in September to return to California. He will be returning for sesshin, and some members are looking for teachers and places to help supplement their practice.
- All-day sitting in Anamosa – Six attendees. Two stayed for part of the day. Very good sitting.

Zuiko’s Activities

- Mt. Pleasant – sat with about ten men on August 27.

Members’ Activities

- Thanks to Gina for showing a possible new member around the city.
- Kelly Kruse is training to do the introductory evening.
- Travis Hunt is training to be Sunday doan for sitting and dharma talk.
- Thanks to Bryan Davis for teaching Nadine and Zuiko how to catalogue books.

Announcements

- Zuiko will be at Great Vow Monastery in Oregon from October 1 – 7 for national meetings of Sotoshu and SZBA. We need people to take care of daily and weekend activities. Sign-up list will be posted next week.
- Shoryu Bradley will be joining us for October sesshin (Oct. 17 – 19). He sends his regards to everyone.
- There is rakusu sewing on the fourth Sunday of each month. People are welcome to join.