

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – September 27, 2015 – Convened at 10:43 AM

Called to order by President Eric Higgins-Freese

Present: President Eric Higgins-Freese, Vice-President Douglas Gustafson, Treasurer Gina Vavra, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Ryan Wheeler

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES of August 23 – Motion to approve by Zuiko – Second by Gina – Carries

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra

Accounts as of 09-26-15

Checking (Hills)	\$3,353.52			
Savings (Hills)	\$4,812.84			
Other Savings (UICCU, LACCU)	\$13.13	Working Accounts		\$8,179.49
* N.T.F. Savings (LACCU)	\$4,505.93	New Teacher Fund		\$4,505.93
37-47 mo. CD (UICCU)	\$10,009.16	07/12/18	2.23 % [2.25 % APY]	\$10,009.16
48-59 mo. CD (Hills)	\$21,974.33	02/15/16	1.99 % [2.0 % APY]	\$21,974.33
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)	\$30,220.27	44.3% CRZC	55.7% NTF	\$30,220.27
Grand Total				\$117,276.58

WORK LEADER’S 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 – None this month

Next Work Day: Let’s schedule in November (21 Nov) – sesshin in October

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.

Ongoing projects

- Basement sealing – nothing done
- Flaking paint on stairway ceiling – nothing done
- Would like to paint air intake in the zendo. Have bought paint and Eric will do.

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Projects needing attention

- Clean and organize basement – could use some attention from the shop vac

Finished projects

- Drip under the sink – Valenta came, didn't find anything, fixed garbage disposal. Didn't charge us.

New Projects – none *If you know of anything, let Zuiko know.*

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
- 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

Does anyone have something to add?

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

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Update on Zuiko's Health

Zuiko has been diagnosed with adenoid cystic carcinoma, a rare form of cancer that is slow growing and usually located in the secretory glands. In Zuiko's case it is in her bronchiae and surrounding them in the upper chest. The growth she has is about the size of a fist and has been probably growing slowly for the past 10 years. Here is a link to learn more about this type of cancer:

<http://www.oralcancerfoundation.org/facts/rare/ac/>

One of her air passages was being compressed by the growth pushing on it, so a stent was placed in her left bronchia on September 18 and she is doing well with that. Zuiko also had a PET scan on Thurs. September 17, to see if there are any other growths present in chest or abdomen. None were found.

The plan for treatment is six weeks of radiation therapy to remove the growth and then to monitor and remove any new growths as needed. This kind of cancer is slow growing and does not easily spread to other areas of the body. However, even though it can be removed from an area with radiation and surgery, it will likely grow back and needs to be monitored closely.

Zuiko is in good spirits and ready to tackle this head on. She will need your support during this time. There are also many ways to help, including coming to zazen, making a serving or two of warm and comforting food, and just checking in to see what needs to be done that you can do.

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2. Ethics Procedure – put on website/Facebook for comment for 1 month with the goal of voting on it at the October meeting.
3. Communication
 - Eric suggested putting news bar on Center website with upcoming events and requests for volunteers
 - Ryan – people won't go back to website if it doesn't change. Eric changes picture on main page quarterly – can we do this more often?
 - 50-word sayings on Facebook page have been popular – could pick one up and post it on the website once each month.
 - “Sangha-Local” email list – Zuiko will send this to Eric to use for announcements. Should be spontaneous, not a regular thing.
 - Need to publicize dharma school once changes are complete.
 - 37% open rate for the monthly “Currents” e-newsletter
4. Sangha Meeting Principles – passed these out for people to take home and read

ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area

1. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: “Gratitude and Hope in Violent Times”, Monday, November 23 at 7 PM. Request from IRCLC: reading on theme from Buddhist tradition (quarter page). Please email reading and name of reader to Jen Yukl no later than 1 November.
2. Intersections Civil Dialogue and Luncheon: “Taking a Look at the Pope’s Encyclical on Climate Change” Friday, October 2 (11:45 am to 1:00 pm) at First Presbyterian Church – 310 Fifth St. SE, \$10/person. Registration required by the Tuesday before; email crintersections@interfaithallianceiowa.org or call (319) 364-6148.

NEXT MEETING: October 25

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM

Motion to adjourn by Gus – Second by Ryan – Carries

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A:

Practice Report – September 27, 2015

General Impressions

Leadership is part of practice. It's very helpful in identifying where we're stuck to our ideas and in helping us to take care of that. And it is a contribution to the dharma, both now and in the future. Let's each take our place as a leader in something at the center. In order to develop our practice, we must be doers rather than passive consumers. This is, after all, our center. It does not belong to Wal-Mart Corporation and there is no one else but us to take care of it.

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Find your niche and sink in. Look around for things you'd like to do and begin coordinating with others to do them. Or take advantage of some of the present opportunities. We need people to coordinate our communications and publicity, make sure broken things get fixed, and coordinate new fundraising efforts. Yes, time is at a premium for most of us, but this offers a chance to practice and make sure the dharma is here for us when we come.

Center Activities

- Introductory evening – Five people came and Kelly did the evening.
- Sunday sitting – exceedingly sparse attendance.
- Daily sitting – Attendance has waned as people take their last vacation time.
- All-day sitting – none this month.
- Baika practice happens on the second and fourth Thursdays at 5:30.
- Zen Practice and Tradition – three enthusiastic students. One already comes to noon zazen.

Special Events

- Sewing – Jisho Siebert came on September 26 to sew okesa for dharma transmission

Zuiko's Activities

- Was unable to go to Milwaukee's Thirtieth Anniversary celebration
- *Zen no Tomo* - helping with translation – This is a little magazine published in Japanese. We 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
- presentation for kids from the Hindu temple this afternoon again

Announcements

- October sesshin (October 16 – 18) with Shoryu Bradley. People are welcome to come even for a short time.