

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha¹ Meeting – March 24, 2019 – Convened at 10:31 AM

Called to order by President Douglas Gustafson

Present: President Douglas Gustafson, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Jenn Day, Amy O'Brien Eble

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES of December Sangha Meeting and Succession Planning Meeting – Motion to approve by Zuiko – Second by Gus – Carries

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding - See Appendix A

TREASURER'S REPORT – Next meeting

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – Zuiko Redding

Myoho's work list is at the back of the shelves in the entry for people to refer to. If you find things that need to be done, either let Myoho or Zuiko know or write it on a sticky note and attach it to the list.

Work day – March 9 – We cleaned the basement floor and kitchen floor, did caulking on the discussion room ceiling and zendo² windows, cut rakusu³ pieces, and dusted the zafus⁴ and zabutons⁵. Thanks to Jenn, Chris, Myoho, Cody Scholtens from Bloomington-Normal, and Zuiko.

Next Work Day: May 18 Discussion: want to avoid neighborhood cleanup and plant sale days.

Active projects

- Backup sump pump – need to get battery.
- Install new top on exterior stair rail.

Projects needing attention – possible work day items

- Peeling paint on the wall of the downstairs bathroom cabinet.
- Wash front of house.
- Cabinet doors in downstairs toilet need to be planed.
- Garden cleaning.
- Need new snow shovel – does anyone have an extra?

Finished Projects – Caulked discussion room ceiling.

New Projects

- Purchase six-foot shelf boards for basement. Need three.
- Check status of roof – shingles are beginning to chip

¹ A community of Buddhists that practices together. Also used to mean the community of all Buddhists in the world.

² Meditation hall

³ Garment traditionally worn around the necks of Zen Buddhists who have taken the Precepts.

⁴ Thick round top cushion for sitting on during meditation.

⁵ Flat rectangular bottom cushion for sitting on during meditation.

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- Clean and paint porch floor
- Plant zebra grass along house in back
- Plane doors in office and library so they will shut
- Back gate
- Fence on alley
- Tuck-point limestone

Pending long-term projects – Things that need to get done sometime

- Painting: woodwork and walls in library, hall, office, Zuiko's room, and stairwell / touch up garage / touch up porch, paint porch deck.
- Fix ceiling in bathroom and probably Zuiko's sitting room. The plaster is falling down. Zuiko will contact Roger Brecht who did the kitchen for us for an estimate and possible work. Put off until next March.
- 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.
- Garage door may need replacement in the next few years
- Explore possibility of making the Center ADA accessible. Discussion: Take door/window pictures!

Did we miss anything?

We are still in need of people to help with this area or to take it over.

Communications Report – Lauren Manninen

Mailchimp

March 2019

435 Recipients (+1 from previous month)

18.2% Opened the email

78 opened from email

32 read newsletter from Facebook posting

Facebook Activity March

Page views: 118

Page likes: 695 +9 from last month

Page Reach: 1,862

Engagements with our posts: 228

Most popular post this month – Reached 766 people, 56 reactions, comments, & shares



ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

Monday Night Dharma⁶ – April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 6:30 PM

Buddha's Birthday Ceremony – April 7

Baika Practice – April 11, 25

Introduction to Zazen - April 17 7:30 PM

Annual Meeting – Sunday, April 28 following dharma talk

⁶ The nature of reality; Buddhist teaching

ANNOUNCEMENTS of OTHER EVENTS IN THE CEDAR RAPIDS AREA

Speaker on Islamophobia – Coe College, Hickock Hall Auditorium, April 2 at 7PM

Death Penalty Religious Responses – Cedar Rapids Downtown Library, April 25 at 6PM

NEXT MEETING: April 28

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Practice Report – March 24, 2019



General Impressions

People are returning now that winter is over. We had two people for noon zazen last week. It's important to practice together as well as on our own. Discussion: What can we do about the lack of attendance on Sunday? Hard to justify calling a teacher without participation.

I have two things to ask you to think about.

- The first is about ango. We usually have a period of more intense practice surrounding *Hossenshiki*⁷ (shuso⁸ ceremony) and I'd like to designate the period from May 15 to July 15 as our ango period. My proposal is that people who want to participate can commit to intensifying their practice during that time by choosing a part of the practice that fits their life and signing up to do that. Perhaps you want to commit to sitting at least once a day, coming every Sunday, bringing your practice more strongly into daily life, or reading at least one book. You can decide what works for you and consult with Zuiko and she will sign you up. At the end we could have an ango-ending ceremony and people could share their practice. Zuiko will write up an explanation and invitation and put it in the newsletter and on Facebook, as well as a flyer for the bulletin board. Discussion: There is a Catholic equivalent of this. Advertise it. Be creative.
- Half-day sitting - All-day sittings have not been popular lately and Zuiko is thinking of converting some all-day sittings to half-day ones. She would like people's input on this. Would morning or afternoon be better? What might the schedule look like? Discussion: Advantages of current all-day sittings is that they're less formal, people can come during and sneak into the walking meditation line, and we do full services, which are otherwise rare. We'll put a couple of these in next year's schedule.

Center Activities

- Introductory evening – Five people came. Zuiko did the evening.
- Sunday and daily sitting – Attendance on Sundays is nearly nil. People have reappeared for noon zazen.
- Baika⁹ practice – Four people these days. We have a steady group.
- Monday night dharma – We have four to five people. We're almost through *Don't Be a Jerk*.
- Rakusu sewing – We're sewing rakusus for incarcerated people who've received the precepts. The next date will be today, March 24. Cody Scholtens will begin sewing on Saturday, May 25, and others may join him. Discussion: We especially expect extra people on Sunday afternoon, May 26 because we have more people who have just decided to take the Precepts.

Special Events -

- March sesshin¹⁰ was cancelled. Discussion: Nobody had signed up, so Zuiko called Daishin and told him not to come. Zuiko sat the morning.

⁷ „Dharma Combat“ ceremony, an opportunity for a priest to show their maturation as a teacher

⁸ Head student

⁹ Buddhist singing and percussion instrument practice

¹⁰ Silent meditation retreat

Sangha Members' Activities

- Tim Macejak, Tim Yukl, Myoho, and Daishin McCabe sit with the men in the Iowa prisons.
- Kelly teaches the introductory evening
- Myoho and Daishin visit Newton. Zuiko will visit Newton in March. Daishin visits Ft. Madison.
- Lauren manages our Facebook page and the two newsletters
- Eric manages our web page and does technical support for our system.
- Gus writes thank-you notes to donors, supplies web site sayings, and mows the lawn.

Zuiko's Activities

- March 3 – inter-Buddhist precepts ceremony in Ames.
- March 10 - Sitting with Anamosa men.
- March 28 – Sitting with Ft. Madison men.
- March 30 – Sitting with Newton men.
- Writing for Facebook page, monthly newsletter, and *Ancient Way*.
- Working on book on “Eight Awakening Points of Great People” to be published by Sanshinji’s Dogen Institute.

Other Items

- Baika workshop – Saturday, June 22 – Kuga sensei and Kojima sensei are coming.
- Buddha’s Birthday – Sunday, April 7.
- Myoho’s hossenshiki – July 13 (Saturday). Zuiko is working on a budget for this.