

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha¹ Meeting – July 28, 2019 – Convened at 10:40 AM

Called to order by President Amy O’Brien Eble

Present: President Amy O’Brien Eble, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Treasurer Myoho Kendall,
Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Robyn Groth, Camille A, Jon Gibson, Zac Lowell

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES of ANNUAL MEETING – Motion to approve by Zuiko – Second by Myoho – Carries
MINUTES of May 26 Sangha Meeting – Motion to approve by Myoho – Second by Amy – Carries

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding - See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Myoho Kendall – See Appendix B for 1st Quarter Financial Report

- This is last month’s report due to delayed meeting
- Interest rates are going up
- There is only \$100 left to pay for from hossenshiki², some teachers refused honoraria

Accounts as of 06-22-19

Checking (Hills)	\$4,330.68	
Savings (Hills)	\$3,737.94	
Savings (LACU)	\$2.13	
Savings (UICCU)	\$5.75	
NTF Savings (LACU)	\$4,007.34	
CD (UICCU) 2.67%	\$23,891.12	09/24/20
CD (LACU) 2.82%	\$30,495.76	11/30/20
CD (UICCU) 2.67%	\$22,773.38	06/04/20
NTF CD (LACU) 2.82%	\$11,541.78	05/03/21
CD (UICCU) 3.26%	\$10,958.84	06/17/23
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$39,710.90	(Split 55.7% as NTF and 44.3% as CRZC)
Total	\$151,455.62	
The total amount within the NTF	\$33,141.05	(NTF Savings + CD + Mutual Funds)

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

² Dharma Combat ceremony; an opportunity for a priest to show their maturation as a teacher

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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 – June 15 – Zuiko and Myoho weeded, pruned, and did other work in the yard.

Next Work Day: August 24.

Active projects – None

Projects needing attention – possible work day items

- Clean cushions on porch furniture.
- Install new top on exterior stair rail.
- Peeling paint on the wall of the downstairs bathroom cabinet.
- Wash front of house. Discussion: Amy has a power washer, but is unable to operate it.
- Cabinet doors in downstairs toilet need to be planed.
- Garden cleaning.
- Need new snow shovel – does anyone have an extra? Zuiko will buy one for the temple.

Finished Projects – Nothing this month.

- Backup sump pump – Ryan brought the cord and everything is fine.
- Basement chair refinished.

New Projects

- Re-cover dining chairs with material from Jenn.
- Refinish basement table.
- Getting new kitchen rugs – Zuiko will look at Target, Home Depot, Menard's.
- Porch furniture – Myoho will take a cushion home and wash it.

Pending short-term or small projects

- Purchase six-foot shelf boards for basement. Need three. – Zuiko will investigate at Habitat.
- Check status of roof – shingles are beginning to chip.
- Plane doors in office and library so they will shut.
- Replace back gate by garage.

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

- Porch – clean and paint porch floor.
- 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.

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- Refinish floors – Would be nice to begin with the zendo³ and the entry.
- Garage door may need replacement in the next few years.
- Explore possibility of making the Center ADA accessible.
- Replace fence on alley and possibly on side of house.
- Inspect and take care of gaps in limestone on foundation.

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

July 2019

441 Recipients (+2 from previous month)

19.9% Opened the email

86 opened from email

18 read newsletter from Facebook posting

Facebook Activity July 2019

Page views: 194

Page likes: 705 +2 from last month

Page Reach: 2,758

Engagements with our posts: 519

Most popular post this month –

Reached 473 people, 66 reactions, comments, & shares



Discussion: Lauren is busy. Could Amy send her a reminder to provide the report? We also probably owe her money.

SUCCESSION PLAN – Amy O'Brien Eble

Committee members thus far are:

Myoho Kendall (budget)

Amy O'Brien Eble (Board member)

Ryan Wheeler

Cody Scholtens (Bloomington-Normal member)

Tim Macejak

Advisory Committee members:

Zuiko Redding

Hoko Karnegis

Jenn Day

³ Meditation hall

Mark Ahlstrom
Kelly Kruse
Bryan Davis
Tonon O'Connor
Terry Crutcher
Ritva Williams
Denny Novak – contacted

Discussion: People might drop out or join during the process. Do we need another board member – perhaps Eric or Gus?

Next steps:

- Anyone else we need to ask to participate?
- Time for the Succession Committee to set up first meeting.
 - Amy will contact members for first meeting.
 - Defining everyone's roles on committee. Elect officers?
 - Establish agenda/goals/tasks ahead.
- Start planning first visit to another Zen or Buddhist Center.
 - Who is going (i.e., just Succession/Advisory or members)?
 - Where should we go first?

Discussion: Just Zen Centers or other traditions too? Prairie Zen Center is about 4 hours away in Champaign/Urbanda. Sanshin is 7 hours away. Ryumonji is near the MN/IA border. Some of the places we most want to visit will take time to plan and get to. Want to get dialogue going and solicit ideas. We can ask sangha to chip in for things like gas money, ask Centers if folks can stay with members or on-site.

- Setting up Skype for Center. Email to get Skype info for all Succession Committee members.

Discussion: Right now, Zuiko just has personal account. Amy will get everyone's Skype names. Myoho will put the Center account on the downstairs laptop.

FUNDRAISING

1. Buddha in my pocket (ask Jenn at next meeting)
2. Recipe book – Amy
 - Researched copyright law and found that a list of ingredients can't be copyrighted (only the prose directions); she also has some binding expertise
 - Submit your recipes

ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

Monday Night Dharma⁴ – August 5, 12, 19, 26 6:30 PM

⁴ The nature of reality; Buddhist teaching

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Baika⁵ Practice – August 8, 22

All-Day Sitting – August 18

Introduction to Zazen⁶ - August 21 7:30 PM

Sangha Meeting – Sunday, July 28 following dharma talk

NEXT MEETING: August 25

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A

Practice Report – July 28, 2019

General Impressions

Things will likely be a bit quiet now that hossenshiki has passed. Ango is still going on, though, and we should all pay attention to our practice.



Center Activities

- Introductory evening – One person came. Kelly did the evening.
- Sunday and daily sitting – Attendance on Sundays and weekdays is steady. People have reappeared for noon and evening zazen. Thursday evening zazen seems to be popular.
- Baika practice – Three people these days. We have a steady group. Discussion: We might consider changing the time since it is a little early for some people.
- Monday night dharma – We have five or six people. Discussion of *Every Moment is the Universe* is lively.

Special Events -

- Hossenshiki was a great success. All our visitors had a fine time at the ceremony and getting to know each other. It was especially good to have Rev. Gaelyn Godwin as jokeshi (supervising teacher) from Sotoshu⁷. And we were honored to have the attendance, support, and help of Rev. Taiga Ito, also from Sotoshu.
- Ango⁸ is continuing with 25 people signed up. Zuiko sent out Myoho's first talk and will send the second one when it gets edited. Thanks to Clare Petersen for the transcription.
- July sesshin⁹ – We had a total of three people. It was a really solid, quiet time.

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 Cheolsoeng Doug Gentile visit Newton. Zuiko will visit Newton in July(?) 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.
- Amy is our Inter-Religious Council representative. Thanks to Emma Krewer for doing this in the winter.

⁵ Buddhist singing and percussion instrument practice

⁶ The style of meditation we do at our Center, "just sitting"

⁷ The international Buddhist organization of which our Center is a member

⁸ A period of intensified Buddhist practice

⁹ Silent meditation retreat

Zuiko's Activities

- Zuiko didn't visit either Anamosa or Ft. Madison this month. Hossenshiki prevented the Anamosa visit and Ft. Madison was on restricted movement.
- 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

- Remember sewing practice on the fourth Sunday.
- Daishin McCabe will lead the August all-day sitting on August 18.
- Zuiko will be ordaining someone at Clarinda on August 8.
- Zuiko will be bestowing the precepts on an Anamosa inmate on August 11.

Appendix B

**Cedar Rapids Zen Center
2019 Budget, 1st Quarter, Actual 5/31/19 Report**

Income	2019 Budget	1st Quarter (Jan.-Mar.)	Actual as of (5/31/19)	Percentage of Budget
Bookstore/Library - UR	\$300.00	\$33.00	\$171.00	57.0%
Contributions - UR	\$1,700.00	\$2,803.23	\$4,639.19	299.4%
Fundraising - UR	\$7,000.00	\$2,447.44	\$2,508.37	35.8%
Teaching Engagements - UR	\$800.00	\$150.00	\$160.00	20.0%
Practice - UR	\$5,000.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	2.0%
Hossenshiki - TR	\$4,410.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Prison Fund - TR	\$100.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	13.0%
Miscellaneous Income (rebates) - UR	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$34,710.00	\$5,546.67	\$17,310.92	49.9%
Expenses				
Housing				
a. Mortgage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
b. Maintenance	\$1,700.00	\$64.00	\$136.71	8.0%
c. Renovation	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Insurance (house/org./work comp.)	\$2,000.00	\$1,612.00	\$1,612.00	80.6%
Utilities	\$4,000.00	\$1,184.07	\$1,740.27	46.79%
Personnel (health ins./wages)	\$5,600.00	\$3,082.31	\$3,802.84	77.8%
Office Supplies & Service	\$1,500.00	\$505.79	\$585.79	39.1%
Fundraising	\$650.00	\$218.69	\$240.89	37.1%
Bookstore/Library (inventory)	\$450.00	\$22.32	\$121.48	27.0%
Practice	\$5,000.00	\$1,130.00	\$1,330.00	26.6%
Hossenshiki	\$4,410.00	\$0.00	\$1,898.00	43.0%
Dharma School	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Prison Practice (reimburses bookstore)	1,100.00	\$601.60	\$998.13	90.7%
Community Support	\$500.00	\$225.00	\$225.00	45.0%
New Teacher Recruitment	\$1000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
New Teacher Savings (transfers to savings)	\$4,800.00	\$1,200.00	\$2,000.00	42.0%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$34,710.00	\$9,845.78	\$17,491.11	52.4%
Net Budget Excess (Deficit)	-\$0.00	-\$4,299.011	\$180.19	

TR = Temporarily Restricted, UR = Unrestricted