

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha¹ Meeting – May 26, 2019 – Convened at 10:48 AM

Called to order by President Amy O’Brien Eble

Present: President Amy O’Brien Eble, Vice President Jenn Day, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Treasurer Myoho Kendall, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Robyn Groth, Mark Ahlstrom, Terry Crutcher, Cody Scholtens, Ryan Wheeler, Spencer Willits

COUNCIL was held.

MINUTES of March and April Meetings – Postponed until next meeting

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding - See Appendix A

TREASURER’S REPORT – Myoho Kendall

- Purchased new CD at 2.67% to replace one that matured
- One matured yesterday, one in early June. Myoho will draft up email for Amy
- Hossenshiki² budget has gone down
- Motion to have Myoho put up a GoFundMe request for \$4,100 by Jenn – Second by Kelly – Carries
 - Needs verification of non-profit status, uploading stuff, etc
 - There will also be opportunities for folks to donate in other ways

Accounts as of 05-26-19

Checking (Hills)	\$3,510.21	
Savings (Hills)	\$3,737.94	
Savings (LACU)	\$2.13	
Savings (UICCU)	\$5.00	
NTF Savings (LACU)	\$3,606.88	
CD (UICCU) 2.67%	\$23,891.12	09/24/20
CD (LACU) 1.985%	\$30,487.47	05/25/19
CD (UICCU) 1.99%	\$22,695.43	06/03/19
NTF CD (LACU) 2.82%	\$11,541.78	05/03/21
CD (UICCU) 3.26%	\$10,958.84	06/17/23
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$38,586.96	(Split 55.7% as NTF and 44.3% as CRZC)
Total	\$149,023.76	
The total amount within the NTF	\$33,034.72	(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

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 – May 18 – Zuiko and Myoho cut rakusu³ pieces for sewing retreat. It was too rainy to work outside.

Next Work Day: June 15th

Active projects

- Backup sump pump – need to get battery. Discussion: Ryan will look into.
- 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? Discussion: Cody S will replace.

Finished Projects – Nothing this month.

New Projects

- Purchase six-foot shelf boards for basement. Need three.
- Check status of roof – shingles are beginning to chip
- Clean and paint porch floor
- Plant zebra grass along house in back
- 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

- 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 zendo⁴ and the entry.
- Garage door may need replacement in the next few years
- Explore possibility of making the Center ADA accessible. Discussion: if we can't change the Center, we should do "travelling zendo".

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

⁴ Meditation hall

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- 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

May 2019

440 Recipients (+4 from previous month)

20.6% Opened the email

89 opened from email

39 read newsletter from Facebook posting

Facebook Activity May

Page views: 187

Page likes: 703 +2 from last month

Page Reach: 1,897

Engagements with our posts: 437

Most popular post this month –

Reached 384 people, 30 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

The Succession Committee will: develop key communications for the transition plan; develop a clergy profile and job description; publicize the job and receive applications; narrow the field of applicants; plan a local visit from the prospective teacher(s); check references; and prepare and make the call. Our ideas for the Succession Committee at this time are to include a Bloomington/Normal member, a budget member, a Board member, and a long-term sangha member.

Committee members thus far are:

Myoho Kendall (budget)

Amy O’Brien Eble (Board member)

Ryan Wheeler



Need to ask:

Bloomington/Normal member (Robinson? Scholtens?)

Long term member (Macejak?)

Another Board member?

The Advisory Committee will advise and assist the Succession Committee on such things as communications, consensus-building, developing a job description, vetting and interviewing, and other issues.

Committee members thus far are:

Zuiko Redding

Hoko Karnegis

Jenn Day

Mark Ahlstrom

Kelly Kruse

Bryan Davis

Tonen O'Connor Discussion: T Crutcher interested. D Novak, R Williams possible. Email Zuiko to get addresses.

Looking for people with:

HR experience

PR experience

Clergy members

Next step:

Directly contacting parties who may be able to fill needs in each committee

Discussion: Asked Bloomington-Normal folks about planning and long-term vision. Terry described Zuiko's relationship to that sangha and how they practice. They think they might either need their own teacher or a person who can come (from Cedar Rapids) more often. Other suggestions to solve their problem were instruction in Cedar Rapids, coming to sesshin, and sharing our Standing Operating Procedures for things such as chanting and ceremonies. There is a person at Sanshinji who might be interested in taking a call in the Midwest.

OLD BUSINESS

- Fundraising
 - Jenn still working on "Buddha in my Pocket; ran into some snags
 - Cookbook idea – would have to research copyright laws
 - Terry – if using it as fundraiser isn't feasible, could just have recipe section on website
- Hossenshiki
 - Lodging – Myoyu or Shoryu may want to stay at someone's house
 - Shoryu might bring his dog

ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

Monday Night Dharma⁵ – June 3, 10, 17, 24 6:30 PM

Baika Practice – June 13, 27

Introduction to Zazen⁶ - June 19 7:30 PM

Sangha Meeting – Sunday, July 28 following dharma talk

NEXT MEETING: July 28

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Practice Report – May 26, 2019

General Impressions

People are returning now that winter is over. Sunday and daily zazen are well-attended, and new people are coming.



Center Activities

- Introductory evening – Three people came. Kelly taught.
- Sunday and daily sitting – Attendance on Sundays has increased nicely. People have reappeared for noon and evening zazen. We often have three people at noon zazen and we had three for evening zazen last Thursday.
- Baika⁷ practice – Three people these days. We have a steady group.
- Monday night dharma – We have five or six people. Discussion of *Every Moment is the Universe* is lively.

Special Events -

- Ango⁸ began May 15 – 18 people signed up. Zuiko sent certificates of participation to people, and many participants want to have ways to be more connected. Zuiko is exploring ways to do this.
- Sewing retreat – We're holding a sewing retreat this weekend. Three people are sewing rakusu and one is sewing okesa⁹. We made good progress yesterday and will finish up this afternoon. Myoho assisted Zuiko in instructing and helping people.
- May all-day sitting – We had a total of four people.

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 The nature of reality; Buddhist teaching

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

⁷ Buddhist singing and percussion instrument practice

⁸ A period of intensified Buddhist practice

⁹ Buddhist robe worn by monks and nuns

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Zuiko's Activities

- May 12 – Sitting with Anamosa men.
- May 23 – Sitting with Ft. Madison 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.
- Myoho’s hossenshiki – July 13 (Saturday). 10 AM; be here at 9:30.

Discussion: The night before, there will be tea and a dharma talk by a teacher from Houston Zen Center at around 7 PM. Zuiko will send out the precise times. Arrangements are nearly done!