

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha¹ Meeting – July 25, 2021 – Convened at 10:19 AM

Called to order by Jeff Mallory

Present: President Jeff Mallory, Treasurer Ryan Wheeler, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Donna Heigert, Nate Kofron, Isaac Kurth, Yayoi Teramoto, Stubby Webb,

COUNCIL was held

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding - See Appendix A

TREASURER'S REPORT

Accounts as of 7-20-21

Checking (Hills) \$12,497.87

Savings (Hills) \$2,478.03

Savings (LACU) \$35,825.22

- LACU Savings Allocation: 65.8% CRZC, 34.2% New Teacher Fund

New Teachers Fund (LACU) \$14,030.43

Savings (UICCU) \$5.75

CD (UICCU) 0.95% \$24,938.64 10/25/21

CD (LACU) 0.648% \$31,935.59 05/03/22

CD (UICCU) 3.26% \$11,790.17 06/17/23

Mutual Funds (Cetera) \$51,809.72 (Split 55.7% as NTF and 44.3% as CRZC)

- \$51,783.41 Mutual Fund
- \$26.31 Cash, Money Funds, Bank Deposits

Total = \$185,311.42 (June total: \$180,694.76)

The total amount within the NTF \$55,140.67 (NTF + NTF CD + 55.7% of Mutual Funds)

NOTE: Method to calculate *Total amount in the NTF* (New Teacher's Fund):

1. 55.7% of Mutual Fund (\$50,312.93 x 0.557 = \$28,024.30)
2. Plus LACU New Teacher Fund Savings (\$13,226.51)
3. Plus LACU fully matured NTF CD, now in LACU Savings (\$12,240.34 + \$0.86)

Do we need to vote on moving Mutual Funds? Should be part of Strategic Vision discussion.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – Zuiko Redding

Work day – July 10 – cleaned the first floor, power washed the porch, cleaned the porch furniture, and repaired the front path. Thanks to Eric and Henry, Nate, Jeff, Pete, and Yayoi. The place looked great for the reopening.

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

2 | Jikyouji – Sangha Meeting Minutes

Next Work Day: August 21 – Possible projects – yard work, cleaning library and basement, painting the porch floor.

Active projects

- Gutter repair and house painting – Tryon Contracting will be painting the house to repair derecho damage. In September or early October.
- A tree for Tim Bryant. Tim was a long-time member of the Anamosa group who died of COVID in late November. I'd like for us to remember him with a tree or a bush, perhaps a new one on the right-of-way. The Anamosa men are consulting on choosing a tree. It will either be a maple or ginkgo.

Projects needing attention – possible work day items

- Install new top on exterior stair rail – Ryan wants to do this.
- Paint porch floor.
- Shelve books and clean library
- Yard work
- Sanding projects in office see "Pending short-term projects"

Finished projects – Soffits and fascia checked and repaired.

New Projects - Zuiko would like to replace storm windows in upstairs sun porch. Will get estimate from Tryon. She would like to pay part of the cost. Should we do the downstairs ones too? Discussion: Should come out of Center budget. Think we should do. Get back to board with amount.

Periodic projects

- Pour vinegar into furnace water exhaust tube – every 2 – 3 months – September, 2021
- Change furnace filter – December, 2021
- Check battery water – sump pump – July, 2021

Pending short-term or small projects

- Eight-foot shelf boards for basement. Need several.
- Sand doors in office and library so they will shut – we have sandpaper and a pad sander.
- Sand credenza drawer in office so it will shut.
- Replace fence by side of house.

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.
- Refinish floors – Would be nice to begin with the zendo² and the entry
- Garage door may need replacement in the next few years (not right away)
- Explore possibility of making the Center handicapped accessible.
- Inspect and take care of gaps in limestone on foundation

² Meditation hall

Communications Report – July 2021

Currents stats June

- 480 sent - 478 successful deliveries
- 141 unique opens – 29.5%
- 2 clicks – 0.0%
- 333 total opens

Facebook stats -2021 June

- 6 – Original self – 208 reached, 46 engagements, 2 shares, 22 likes, 1 comment
- 13 – My life in dharma³ (Gyokei Yokoyama) – 206 reached, 33 engagements, 2 shares, 12 likes
- 20 – Polishing the jewel – 117 reached, 8 engagements, 1 share, 4 likes
- 27 – Plum blossoms – 155 reached, 17 engagements, 2 shares, 6 likes, 1 comment

July

- 4 – The circle of practice – 132 reached, 17 engagements, 1 share, 6 likes, 1 comment
- 11 – Not standing out – 156 reached, 9 engagements, 2 shares, 12 likes
- 18 – Expressing reality – 123 reached, 19 engagements, 1 shares, 10 likes, 1 comment

SUCCESSION PLAN REPORT

- Jeff explained what happened with Shuji declining and where we are now
- Board to look at job description

NEW BUSINESS

- Reopened zendo participation – Need written policy, members recommend not asking questions about vaccine status or asking to see card (too invasive) and just asking people to mask up, vaccinated people can wear mask too if desired, thanks to Zuiko for her hard work on this, next step will be outfitting discussion room for hybrid Monday Night Dharma, Jeff has some ideas
- Fundraising letter – usually written by sangha member, need volunteer
- Need volunteer to help with website updates
- Stubby in process of reopening Kung Fu Club – any advice?

ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

Monday Night Dharma – Mondays on Zoom 7:00 PM

³ The nature of reality; Buddhist teaching

Next work day – August 21st

Introduction to Zazen⁴ - 3rd Wednesday of each month 7:30 PM, need to register, via Zoom

Baika⁵ Practice – Fridays right now, please tell Zuiko if you want to join but can't do it at that time

August 15 – guest teacher from Sanshin, Doju Layton, end of Ango⁶ ceremony

NEXT MEETING: 29 Aug after dharma talk

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A

Practice Report –

June 25, 2021

General Impressions –

It was good to sit with others on July 11. When we sit together, we give each other energy. People on Zoom and people in the zendo can magnify zazen for each other.

We're still in process with integrating Zoom and on-site people. Please bear with us as we continue our journey together. If you have observations, ideas, or suggestions, let me know. Thanks to Terry and Jeff for providing both good advice and some of the technology for all this.

Now that the zendo is open, we need to bring back the local sangha. If you live within driving distance, try showing up one a month to sit with the folks. And to participate in chanting, ringing the bells, and doing other things. These are practice, too.

And I deeply need your help. It's difficult to take care of the altar, ring the zazen bell, work with the technology, and be the teacher all together. Doing these things helps our practice too. We learn to pay attention and respect all things by changing the candle, dusting and arranging the altar, offering incense, and ringing the bell.

With an integrated sangha we no longer have short work periods on Sundays, so we need people to come and help with keeping the zendo, discussion area, and entry clean and well-maintained. People could sign up to come at convenient times or we could do some of that after Sunday activities finish.

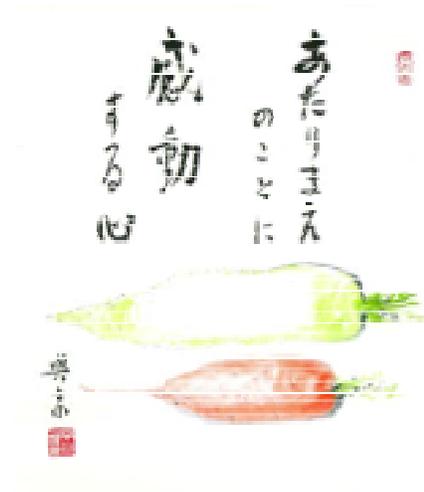
Center Activities

- Introductory evening – Kelly is hosting this from their home in Rock Island. One person attended from the zendo.
- Sunday sitting – Attendance on Sundays brings five to ten participants on Zoom and one or two in person.
- Daily sitting – There's now Zoom sitting at 12:15 on Fridays. Tune in!!
- Baika practice – Annora and Zuiko practice semi-monthly on Friday afternoon. We invite others to join us.
- Monday night dharma – Six to eight people meet by Zoom. We're discussing *Trust in Mind* by Mu Soeng.

⁴ The style of meditation we do at our Center, "just sitting"

⁵ Buddhist singing and bell practice

⁶ A period of intensified practice, often for a special event



Special Events

- Opening on July 11 – We had three besides Zuiko in the zendo and five on Zoom.
- Rev. Dokan Kojima visited on July 16. He recorded a five-minute dharma talk from Zuiko to post on the Sotoshu website.

Sangha Members' Activities

- Kelly teaches the introductory evening
- Inmates continue to sit in the prisons, though our regular visitors can't be there.
- Andy King manages our Facebook page and the *Currents* newsletter.
- 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.
- Brian Brandsmeier and Kelly Kruse are our Inter-Religious Council representatives.

Zuiko's Activities

- Writing and posting summary of each Sunday's dharma talk to sangha members and on Facebook and the website.
- Monthly letters to inmates accompanied by copies of dharma talk summaries.
- Working on book on "Eight Awakening Points of Great People" to be published by Sanshinji's Dogen Institute
- Member of Sanshinji's board of directors.

Other Items

- Doju Layton from Sanshinji will give the dharma talk on August 15.
- All-day sitting and the end of ango on August 15.

Calligraphy by Koshu Itabashi Roshi — *Let ordinary things inspire our hearts.* (Those two big things are daikon. July and August are a good time for harvesting them.)