

ZEN CENTER

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Minutes of the Business Meeting of November 2, 1963.

Trustees Present: Betty Warren, Phillip Wilson, Jean Ross, Richard Baker.

Members Present: Bill Kwong, Margaret Ikeda Tsugi, Pat Herreshoff, Mike and Trudy Dixon.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 10 a m.
- 2) The minutes of the business meeting of October fifth were read. There were no additions or corrections.
- 3) Trudy Dixon was officially made secretary of the Zen Center.
- 4) It was decided that the next WindBell would be stamped " To Be Returned" so that the discontinued addresses on the mailing list could be weeded out.
- 5) Reverend MacDonald, who is trying to establish a monastery at Middlebar, California, talked to Richard Baker about it, when the latter went to Sacramento to see him. Later Reverend MacDonald came down to San Francisco himself and talked with Reverend Susuki and Jean Ross. Reverend MacDonald agreed that it was not the time for Archbishop Takashina to visit Middlebar, (which in fact the Archbishop did not do,) because the title to the land was not yet clear. Reverend MacDonald felt that it was fairly sure that the title would be cleared, but it might be quite some time. He plans himself to study further with Bishop Yamada in Los Angeles. He invites us all to visit Middlebar as often as possible.
- 6) There will be a sesshin in Los Angeles from November twenty-first through November twenty-fourth (Thanksgiving weekend) to which we are all invited. The expense involved and/or previous plans makes it impossible for some members, but we hope that some of us can make it.
- 7) Richard Baker, treasurer, reported that the income for October fell below the outgo, because only seven of the nineteen active pledges were forthcoming. The sesshin cost \$20.50, plus probably some hidden costs for which individuals (specifically Mrs. Susuki), may not have been reimbursed. It was agreed that the Zen Center would pay \$5.00 to Mrs. Susuki and \$5.00 to the Sokoji Temple for the sesshin. The total unsolicited contributions towards the sesshin came to \$16.00.
- 8) Jean Ross suggested that Zen Center help pay for the new temple which will be built in the near future and will cost \$300,000.00. Richard Baker suggested that Zen Center increase its monthly con-

tributions to Sokoji Temple from \$50.00 to \$100.00. Reverend Susuki felt that each of us could pay a dollar a month each, as the Japanese congregation is doing. It was decided that we would wait to decide if and how much we should give, until Reverend Susuki confers with those planning the temple. Perhaps later when it is finished, there will be some new equipment or furnishings for it that we could contribute.

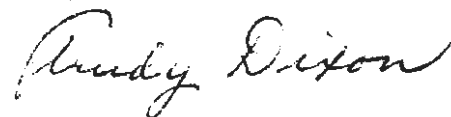
9) Phillip Wilson asked if somehow some of the responsibilities bearing upon Reverend Susuki, especially during critical times, could not be shifted upon our shoulders. Phillip reported that it is not at all unusual for Reverend Susuki to stay up until twelve or one o'clock at night in order to finish his work for the day, and that it does not seem right that he should get sick from overwork. Phillip suggested that he be ordered to refrain from coming to early morning zazen. It seemed apparent that such an injunction would present insuperable problems of enforcement. Reverend Susuki said that we could not directly assume any of his jobs, for they nearly all require his personal attention, but that he hoped that for next year, an assistant priest would be coming to help him. Trudy Dixon suggested that perhaps at particularly busy times he should not give us Wednesday evening lectures; instead we could meet among ourselves at those times and discuss the stories in the Blue Cliff Records. Nothing definite was decided upon, but it is sure that the problem is kept in the minds of all those present.

10). A letter received from Mr. Lonnie Slider of Charleston, Illinois, was briefly discussed. In it Mr. Slider had said that he had read the two books on Zen we had sent him and wished to know whether to start meditation on his own or to wait until he could join us next summer. It was felt that it would be helpful for him to start in order to get used to the position. The secretary said that she would write a letter and have it okayed by Reverend Susuki.

11) The chant for morning breakfast is not yet ready to be printed, Reverend Susuki reported. He also wishes to have printed the "shishogi", one of Dogen's chants recited at large ceremonies.

12) The meeting was adjourned at 10.40 a m.

Respectfully submitted,



Trudy Dixon, Secretary for Zen Center.