

ZEN CENTER

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Minutes of the Business Meeting of March 6th, 1965

Present: Reverend Suzuki

Trustees: Pat Herreshoff, Betty Warren, Phillip Wilson,
Bill Kwong, Mike Dixon, Jean Ross, Irene Horowitz

Members: Dave Hazelwood, Madeline Ruie, Chick Reeder,
Mel Weisman, Claude Dalenberg, Dwight Brown,
Silas Hoads

Visitors: J. J. Wilson, Gardner Rust

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a. m. by the President, Jean Ross.

The minutes of the February 6th meeting were read. A correction was made of a phrase concerning the "building fund". The statement: "Dick Baker made a motion that we establish a 'building fund' towards our own future building for Zen Center and the motion carried" was changed to read: "Dick Baker made a motion that we establish a 'building fund' and the motion carried".

Jean Ross called for discussion of a party to be given for Phillip Wilson and Mrs. Suzuki, both of whom will be leaving for Japan in April. Reverend Suzuki said that we could use the zendo for this purpose. There was some discussion of whether the Japanese congregation would also participate. No final decision was made on this matter. Possible gifts for Phil and Mrs. Suzuki were mentioned inconclusively. Chick, Jean and Madeline volunteered to form a Food Committee for the party.

Mike Dixon read the Treasurer's report for February, 1965.

The Treasurer's report precipitated an analysis of current financial problems, especially the problem of those members who are in arrears in paying their pledges. The possibility of taking some concrete action was explored briefly.

Library expenses were reviewed. Reverend Suzuki said that construction work will come to around \$77.00. Betty Warren suggested that a contribution box be left in the library to encourage people to help with expenses. Pat Herreshoff made a motion that questions related to library financial problems be referred to the Library Committee for review. The motion carried.

Mike brought up the question of getting some new cleaning equipment, especially some mops. Silas volunteers to donate some mops.

Irene Horowitz suggested that actual sesshin expenses be posted on the bulletin board in hopes that a realistic presentation of the money spent might inspire contributions specifically for sesshin. A perusal of this idea led to Pat's suggestion that the whole monthly financial statement be posted, which would include sesshin costs. This motion was carried. A motion was made and carried to post the minutes of business meetings on the bulletin board also.

Reverend Suzuki asked for the contribution of a conservatively colored carpet for the library. Pat said she would bring a rug which we could try out.

Claude Dalenberg asked Reverend Suzuki whether Zen Center members are expected to become members of Sokoji Temple. Reverend Suzuki replied that he was not committed to any special answer. He explained that while some people were interested in having this matter clarified, he himself felt indifferent to it.

Reverend Suzuki stated that he at first had the idea that Zen Center as an organization should be separate from the Japanese congregation and that Zen Center ultimately have its own temple. He now feels that the groups understand each other sufficiently so that we can all cooperate together within the same temple.

Reverend Suzuki told us that the Japanese congregation is hoping to have a new, three floor temple. The first floor would have offices for rent, which would insure an income. The second and third floors would house rooms for tea ceremony, flower arranging and other classes, and a zendo. However, the present temple may be used for a long time since the chance to buy property has not developed as expected. Also, this present temple is not to be demolished as was originally thought. Reverend Suzuki believes that we can maintain this temple well if everyone helps out.

Reverend Suzuki stressed that the basic need is to develop good students who can go out and help found other zen centers and help people in other places to practice zazen and learn about Buddhism. He emphasized that we should not become attached to this, or any other, building.

Jean Ross again brought up the matter of the "building fund". It was informally decided that we should put up a sign on the bulletin board requesting contributions to this fund, which would be collected at business meetings.

Jean Ross pointed out that the dates for August week-long sesshin should be selected as soon as possible as people need to arrange for their vacation times at work. The possibility of the last week in July or the first week in August was discussed. Either week is agreeable with Reverend Suzuki.

The next Saturday sesshin will be on March 27th.

Irene brought up the fact that she had secured two booklets from the United Community Chest which list various social service agencies in the city. People in trouble may come in to Sokoji because it is a church and they may need various forms of help. Also the possibility of someone becoming ill or injured in the building should be considered. The booklets list Police, Fire, and City Emergency Ambulance phone numbers on page one, and other pertinent listings follow which are outlined in yellow. Zen Center members should know that these booklets are in the top drawer of the chest to the right of the desk, and over the kitchen telephone.

Reverend Suzuki thought that this would be a good time to start putting advertisements of our activities into the Saturday papers. There was considerable telephone response to the story appearing in the magazine San Francisco and Reverend Suzuki felt that this interest should be followed through with some ads. The members tentatively considered the form of notice to be used, but nothing was decided upon. Reverend Suzuki said that Bishop Yamada had contributed \$100.00 for advertising purposes, which should take care of a few ads.

Towards the end of the meeting J. J. Wilson came in to say that she would like to give a party for Phillip and Mrs. Suzuki and Zen Center members. When she learned that we already planned a party in the zendo, she said she would like to plan an additional social function and would like to work on the party Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a. m.

Respectively submitted

Irene Louise Horowitz
Secretary, Zen Center