

ZEN CENTER BUSINESS MEETING

NOT
FROM FILE

(special meeting) May 21

Present: Reverend Suzuki, Rev. Katagiri, Dick Baker, Bob
Toni Johansen, Pat Herreshoff, Loren Palmer, Lynn Warkov, Mike
Dixon, Kathy Cook, Sheridan ~~Ericksen~~, Marion Derby, Gail Moore,
Claud Delenburg, Bill Kwong,

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dick Baker.
The minutes of the April second meeting were read.

Old business: Reverend Suzuki gave us a brief account of his
trip to the east coast. He concluded by telling us that Mrs. Shalk
will lead the weekly zazen group in Vermont until they have a
some leader---perhaps Philip will sit with them after he returns
from Japan. Philip may not stay much longer, as he feels his lack
of fluency in the Japanese language is a real hindrance in contin-
uing his study there. Until the combined Northampton-Cambridge
group has a priest, Rev. Suzuki and Reverend Katigiri will take turns
visiting them four or five times a year.

Pat Herreshoff brought up the topic of Tasahara Hot Springs
under New business. What would be the purpose of purchasing the
land? Rev. Suzuki explained his plan of building a monastery, a
spiritual center for the various Soto Zen groups in America. Both he
and Dick felt that we might not get such an opportunity to
to buy equally advantageous land, and shouldn't miss this chance. Before
we could build a monastery, we would build a small building for
sitting for fifty or so people. Durand Keifer, is asked, would build
there on the condition that Rev. Suzuki will spend at least three
months of each year in residence on the land.

Dick pointed out that we must not forget our responsibility to
the Center here in the city

Rev. Suzuki would like young priests to come from Japan to study
with us on this land.

Dick had maps of the area to show us. It takes three and a half
hours from here, two hours from Salinas. It takes over a day to
walk from the land over the mountains to Big Sur. The land is in
parcels of 160 acres, three parcels, available for sale in smaller
portions. It is surrounded by Los Padres National Forest, and the
landscape was more beautiful than Rev. Suzuki had hoped, with each
turn in the road bringing a new view of high mountains and canyons.

Dick has heard similar land going for \$500 an acre, but the price
has not been set.

Dick congratulated Trudy on her very fine edition of the Wind
Bell.

Claud explained that the recorder which we have has only one
track, which is wasteful if we want to save the tapes, but is ade-
quate for transcribing. It was decided that we make no decision
concerning another recorder until we see what the response
will be from the item in the Wind Bell announcing the availa-

for lending to out-of-town groups and individuals.

In the absence of Silas, Mike Dixon gave the treasurers report.

We are to split the cost of a listing in the yellow pages with the Sokoji congregation, but have to decide what it should say.

Soon we were back to the subject of buying the land. Mike felt we should be willing to take less ~~xxx~~ than 160 acres; even ~~xxxxxxx~~ a couple of acres would be sufficient to build a structure for sitting. He also asked if there would be any possibility of Soto Zen Headquarters helping us financially. Rev. Katagiri said they wouldn't donate money, but after we had built on the land, they ~~xx~~ probably would furnish some things for the Zendo there.

It was asked how important isolation really was ~~for~~ for a Zendo and Rev. Suzuki explained how one environment, no matter how carefully planned, is influenced by its surroundings. Someone might build a structure that would change the feeling we had created in the ~~xx~~ atmosphere.

Also, there is the advantage in this land of being able to use the surrounding federal land for hiking. There was some ~~xi~~ discussion about ~~a~~ our responsibility to this Zen Center in San Francisco, Toni wondering if we shouldn't be ready to change and not be attached to the idea of some particular group or location. But Dick was ~~quite/sorrying~~ explained that we cannot build such a monastery, or Zendo in the mountains if we did not have the Center in the city to help finance it. Marion Derby brought up the point that there are many individuals in the Monterey area who will be quite interested and able to help, as well, and that a whole new group will begin to be involved with us.

Rev. Suzuki said that the building in the mountains is for the future, not yet for everyday use. Spiritually it is necessary. He found that in the east they want to have Zen Center like us. And there there will be no deeper meaning, no larger scale. Just localized centers with no possibility of getting together. Some place is necessary to sit with people without idea of San Francisco or Monterey or Northampton Zen Center.

WE could, Pat said, with this idea in mind, broaden the scope of looking for funds. Rev. Suzuki agreed. We should not be narrow minded. No one in the northeast will be very interested in supporting Zen Center, but they will help with the land in the mountains. They will feel it is theirs, too.

It was decided, after some discussion of whether to buy a Buddhist dictionary, that book buying decisions would be left to the library committee, headed by Trudy Dixon. But we voted to suggest to her to purchase the dictionary.

Yasutani, Roshi, will be coming to this area, but it has not been decided exactly when or where. Maizumi-san will translate. Rev. Suzuki asked that if anyone has some idea for a sitting place for twenty-five people, please suggest it as a place for Yasutan's sesshin.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Johansen, secretary