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September 17, 1969 Board Meeting Zen Center

9:25 a.m. Present: Suzuki Hoshi, Yoshimura Sensei, Datagiri Sensei, Bill Roadley, Claude Dalenberg, Peter Schneider, Bill Kwong, Dan Welch, Yvonne Hand. Bill Kwong was absent for the first half hour and returned from Japan. The meeting was held in the main hall and several members practiced their time. In fact not all practicing members were practicing full time and so

Agenda: New Building
Bishop Yamada's visit
Purchase of Atlas' truck
Hoshi received a letter from Chino Sensei. Chino Sensei expressed apologies for not writing sooner. His temple and the surrounding area had a big typhoon. He visited Kyoto and Antaiji. But didn't see Dick Baker - who was in the north of Japan. He saw Ben and Joyce Browning. Saw Arch Bishop at Nagoya and visited Komazawa University. Saw a new priest who is to be coming in February to Zen Center. A friend of Hoshi's (Yokoi) has recommended that another priest, full time who has already completed his studies, come here since the priest who was originally to have come has not yet finished his studies. It has not been decided yet. Chino's master said if he gets married he can come back to the U.S. Hoshi said "I don't know what he will do." It must be discussed by letter.

Hoshi: If we can't find him we can't have the priest.
Question of how we will pay for another new priest?

Atlas: "Can we afford it?"
Peter: membership and Tassajara profit should be used for maintenance and fund raising money shouldn't be borrowed from maintenance monies. If we do our book keeping before Atlas' trip East and figure out what fund raising owes to maintenance then we can figure the actual fund raising needs.

I like Dick's idea of having an extra sur charge paid by the students for the Winter Training Period to pay for having Tatsugami Roshi come here.

If we take good care of our money we have a surplus. and we can afford it. that we buy it since it's been used at least

Claude: I prefer figuring what resources we have and then figure out what we can do.

Peter: 60% of our students do not meet their pledges. so we are not fully developing our resources or drawing on our resources.

Atlas: more believable if pledges asked are directly related to the actual current expenses. If we lower the rate I feel we can be more convincing in getting those not paying to pay.

Dan: I'd like to see a larger portion of the practicing members support the place.

Claude: Because we have been unwilling to make practicing member a meaningful category it is difficult to make pledge paying more mandatory.

Atlas: If we have 40 - 50 students living in the new building with the pledge as part of the required monthly fee we will have about 4000 surplus.

Peter: I think at least for the first year or so we will have higher expenses for the building.

Atlas: do we appeal to the donors to help support our ongoing activity?

Peter: I think that at this point it seems important for our membership to support our activity.

Silas: We can be seen as a launching pad for activity wider than Zen Center. e.g. bringing a priest from Japan who in a year or two might go to someplace like Santa Barbara. So perhaps we could go to donors and ask for help.

Claude: original idea of practicing members seen to be practicing full time and general members practicing part time. In fact now the practicing members aren't practicing full time and so pledges follow the same pattern.

Silas: I don't disagree with the feeling that we need and can afford a new priest. But I question depending on the membership to support that kind of activity entirely.

Dan: we can afford a priest when the time comes-- that seems clear.

Silas: my feeling is that you [Peter] feel that we should have as many priests and/or salaried officers as we need and the situation will follow.

Peter: that feeling is based on some financial facts.

Claude: the current fund raising is based on what we can anticipate being able to get. I think that we are taking full advantage of what we can get.

Silas: I can envision reducing our pledges and raising them later if/when we need to do that.

Claude: I suggest that we review the pledges at least yearly.

Bishop Yamada's visit:

Roshi: If possible I want him to come the evening of Oct. 25th.

Silas: we could have him stay as the "first" guest at the new building. I will talk with the owners to see if that's possible.

Roshi: we must have some purification ceremony of the new building by Bishop Yamada. We should all go to the building for some kind of simple ceremony. We should prepare some song, offering, and candles, perhaps at lunch time. We can post a sign up sheet with and announcements, and send announcements to the branch zando's.

Silas' truck

Claude: proposed that we buy it since it's been used at least 50 % for zen center business.

Bill K. moved that we buy Silas' truck when we sell either or both of the volvo's. seconded by Claude. all in favor.

Silas: will there be zazen here at Sokoji after Zen Center moves?

Roshi: This is a Zen Temple so that there must be zazen here. If someone personally wants to come here that is up to him. Maybe just continue morning zazen as I did long ago. That is up to Katagiri Sensei. Some old people who find it difficult to come before breakfast can perhaps come here after breakfast. If you come to sit here that is your personal thing. You will not come as a Zen Center member. I cannot say to Zen Center members that they cannot sit here at Sokoji.

Peter: there will be a housing meeting tonight. I would guess that there may be 10 or 12 students who will want to continue living across the street who will want to sit at Sokoji if possible.

Roshi: that will be up to Katagiri Sensei or the new priest to decide, after discussion with the Japanese members. We have no position to state policy about Sokoji after we leave.

Dan: will there be the possibility of Katagiri being with us

as a lecturer, teacher, etc.?
 Katagiri: I don't think so. Let's start with Peter, one
 Silas: the situation is delicate, open.
 Roshi: the more I think about Katagiri Sensei the more difficult
 it will be for him.

subject of Peter, Paul and Ruth Siscoe, and Yvonne going to
 Peradam conference this weekend.
 Peter: I see myself as going as a Zen Center function. Intentional communities. How do you feel about that? I'd like to use the volvo to go to the conference.
 Dan: what is Zen Center policy toward things that are not directly so concern like this conference-- and our supporting participation. I think that we should leave it to Peter's discretion. In favor of letting Peter use the volvo and to pay the gas. Peter, Paul and Ruth should pay their own expenses for food and lodging.
 Claude: gas, oil, use of the vehicle-
 left to the discretion of individual officers- but check out with other officers.

adjourn for lunch. re-adjourn at 1:45 p.m. is in regard to Marian Derby.
 Peter: re Marian coming to the Board meetings. Apparently Marian does not plan to attend the meetings unless they are held at Tassajara. If we feel she should not be on the board we should "resign" her.
 Claude: If we have some kind of inactive status for quorum purposes it would give someone like Marian a place to go.
 Roshi: the last time Marian said to me "I want to stay at Tassajara practicing so I cannot go to the meeting this time." I didn't think that she meant for ever or for many times. If you have some personal reasons for this time that's o.k. I will discuss with her more about it.
 proposed that we discuss inactive status for members of the board at the next meeting.

sesshins at affiliate zendos. a visit we will give all.
 Berkeley wants to have one day sesshins once a month. They have had one already.
 Roshi: Mel asked me the other day if Berkeley could have sesshin. I said no. You can't have sesshin without a teacher and right now we are pretty busy. And if you have sesshin then the other zendos will want sesshin too. To have everyday thing is difficult. That is why one priest goes to sit with them. To help them to sit. If something like a one day sesshin then the students can come here.

Dan: What is your feeling about our needs for another priest.
 Roshi: We need one. especially if Chino Sensei is not coming back - at least for a while.
 Berkeley wants to do what Zen Center is doing. using oryoki- for layman practice that is not my idea. for some people that will be too much. Activity we have here is more fundamental more priest like- here in S.F. and at Tassajara. I want them to practice something more freely. more american way. more usual way. In the new building - more priestly activity or more layman activity? maybe mixed. but maybe more toward

Claude: We want to develop the every day expression of our practice. also training. and the everyday expression of our practice is more important to me.

Roshi: for the new zendo let's start with easy way. one morning period 5:30-6:45 a.m. purpose of city zendo is to work in the city. If students work too hard they cannot sit so well.

one evening perios 5:30 p.m.

Dan and Louise's money- stipends are to be drawn from petty cash monthly at Tassajara.

Claude: I thought that more periods of zazen would make it easier for people to fit in their work schedules and their zazen periods.

Peter: I think that Roshi is expressing something out of intuition.

Roshi: If I don't get up for the lat period I don't feel so good. then let us try 2 periods in the evening. one before dinner and one before bed.

Claude: for laymen with families. If we have two periods in the morning then people with families can go home after work to their families.

YoshimuraSensei: easier way is better. It is important to have schedule which everyone can follow together. If busy people can't follow schedule they will have inferiority complex and that is the worst of all.

Katagiri Sensei: zazen before bed. zazen before dinner and one period in the morning (to consider Roshi's condition)

Roshi: have one period in the morning and one period before dinner and one period before bed. People can then have a choice of which period they can sit in the evening.

alternative idea--one night e.g. thurs. 2 evening periods after dinner.

cats at the new building

Roshi and Katagiri Sense: no cats.

E.L.- should he leave or stay at ZMC-- all agreed to leave it entirely to Roshi.

When Bishop Yamada comes for a visit we will give him a gift of \$100.

adjoined

membership to support our activity.