

Minutes for Zen Center Business Meeting---September 17, 1966

Present: Katagiri-sensei, Norman, Ron Browning, Stan, Sials, Bob Gove, Kathy Cook, Marion Derby, Betty Warren, Saul Warkov, Jeannie and Howard Campbell

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

Silas read the treasurer's report. Sesshin cost \$100 for food, and we received more in contributions \$200 was given towards Reverend Suzuki's fare to Japan. We lost \$600 last month. (See treasurer's report)

Land: There is water. a photo was passed around which showed the owner, Bob Beck, standing beside running water. There are springs in the two canyons. One canyon can provide twice the amount that Tassahara receives from another source. Dick explained, using a diagram on the board, the possibility of damming the water to form a lake in the lower land.

Dick met with the lawyer, Tichel, hired by the Becks, and surprisingly, the lawyer was amused, and went along with us, saying that if there is this meeting of the minds between the buyer and seller, we'd just try to find a legal way.

WE may buy only a small \$500 option, because apparently they don't mind, and there's hardly a chance of them being able to sell it to anyone else very soon. If we can't raise much by February, there's little chance of reaching the price, so we will have to let the option go. \$30,000 might be used to buy a portion of the land, and then buy more later.

Dick has been writing the most imaginative type of requests! From T.V. guide, for instance, came the idea to write to Red Skelton, as it reports he is interested in Zen.

We voted on whether we should go ahead and attempt to buy the land according to the proposal of Dick and the lawyers, and it passed ~~unanimously~~ unanimously.

Morley Bare (?)* who teaches at Tassahara Photo Workshop and the students there will donate photos of the land.

We will print a brochure to send to possible donors, with good photos and copy written to present our plan in the best possible fashion.

Artists who are members or friends of Zen Center could be asked to donate a painting or a pot to a benefit exhibition. As well as possibly making money, it would bring our plan to the attention of more people. We'd have an additional reason for contacting people. Coty's book store in Berkeley will probably provide space for us to have the showing. Norm volunteered to be chairman of a committee to set-up the showing. Norm, Fran, and Mike will work on it.

Chet Helms will donate the Avalon Ballroom for an evening. The idea was tabled, due to the impression it would have on the Japanese congregation, as well as some conservative interested possible donors.

*need to check with Dick about the name

Another possibility Dick suggested is that someone may extend the money to us, the full amount of the purchase price, and then we pay them back as we raise, the money.

George Collins and Ruth Leonard are head of a conservation association that lends money to groups who are going to preserve the land, providing the borrowers have some way of attempting to pay back the loan eventually. Stan suggested the possibility of a grant from a foundation, but Dick explained again the tremendous task of sifting through the innumerable foundations, with hardly any chance of finding one who would give to a religious organization---particularly a Buddhist one.

Dick will try to create a basic ^{form letter}, giving the facts, which can be modified by members when they write to contacts each may have personally. Jeannie Gambell will help Dick type the many letters he is personally writing to possible donors.

Bishop Sumi's letter of appreciation was read by Dick to the meeting.

Also, a letter from Allan Watts was read. He objected to the illiterateness of our calling our master "Reverend" and gave some detailed explanation of the incorrectness and possible alternatives. Dick brought to a vote the titles of Suzuki, Roshi and Katagiri-sensei. These names, it was voted, we will attempt to use from now on.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Johansen