

Gainesville Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
February, 10, 2008

After a worshipful silence, the Queries for second month were read by Cheryl Demers-Holton.

14 attended

The Minutes of January were read and approved as adjusted.

Treasurer's Report Bill Mitchell reported.

In January we took in more than we spent, but on a yearly basis we are still spending more than our contributions.

The sale of gift bags earned \$504, thanks to Laura Winefordner.

Irrigation is still listed on the water bill although it should be only for regular water use, stormwater and sewage. We will notify Gainesville Regional Utilities of the discrepancy. The complete report is appended.

The air potato round up Bill Mitchell reported that we collected 564 gallons of potatoes. (check newsletter for details)

Quaker stamp project. Sibyl Brennan reported that the executive committee of SEYM considered Gainesville's Meeting's minute concerning the stamp project. They asked her to announce the project to the Interim Business Meeting and write it up for the newsletter. Individuals and groups can mail their stamps directly to Brad Hathaway, PO Box 795, Matlapaisett, MA 02739.

SEYM business meeting, Jan.19. Sibyl Brennan, Connie Ray, and Karen Arrington attended.

Connie Ray reported there is an increase in the budget. The YM nominating committee needs members. There is also a call for a writer for the Epistle from the YM gathering. This goes out world-wide to all Quaker groups.

Connie is on the SEYM archives committee. She explained that SEYM and Gainesville MM archives stored at the University of Florida are restricted from viewing by outsiders for 25 years because of private content. To get into SEYM's archives one must check with several meetings.

Sibyl Brennan reported the suggestion that each meeting should help in the transportation and housing of its members to committee meetings and gatherings.

The Michener Lecture, on Environmentalism by Steve Smith, will be published in pamphlet form for study purposes.

“Consultants for Publishing” has been formed to help evaluate materials other than the Walton and Mitchner lectures, for publication.

The committee on discernment has been meeting concerning the FUM relationship. They are willing to travel and worship with any meeting extending an invitation to them. This group includes Phoebe Anderson (Tallahassee), Mary Jo Klinge (Fort Lauderdale) and Lisa Stuart (Palm Beach).

Sibyl Brennan’s complete report is appended.

Earth care working group Karen Arrington reported that this was the first meeting of this new committee. Grants by the national organization are described in the newsletter. Concern about nuclear power plants was discussed. There was a proposal to calculate the carbon footprint of our travels to various meetings and plant a diversity of trees to

balance it. Bud Brennan has been looking into where we could plant more trees on our land.

Nominating committee Sibyl Brennan reported that each of us will be approached by the committee to take a turn on various committees. The committee will have the first draft in March and the final in April.

Peace and Social Concerns. Jim Morrison reported that they have been continuing work on national health care, put out action alerts on SCHIP, the current economic crisis, and the FCNL militarization of the budget. They need more members on the Peace Committee. The complete report is appended.

Movie committee. Shown have been the Mission and Amazing Grace. Suggestions are welcome.

School Committee. The committee has reached the conclusion that now is not the time to work further on the establishment of a Quaker school. The Meeting approved the following minute:

Minute 08-02-07 The Gainesville Friends School Committee will be a standing committee, instead of an ad hoc committee.

First-day school committee Laura Winefordner reported that the programs are going well, but they need another person.

Ministry and Nurture committee.

Connie Ray, reported on their pastoral care activities.

The Quaker Study Program theme suggested for the coming year is "How do Quakers cope with transitions."

Quakerism 101 is discussing the experience of meeting for worship.

The theme of the FUM Chain of prayer, is "Yes, United." We feel that we can unite with FUM and all other Quaker organizations working for peace in the Middle East. The date for the event is May 4. We will serve stone soup: each person should sign up for vegetables to bring.

Being considered are spaces for the scattering or burial of members' ashes.

The meeting approved the following minutes:

Minute 08-02-08 The meeting approves paying \$56.67 as one-third of Brian Blackmore's expense to attend Southeastern Yearly

Meeting's annual gathering. The meeting will request that Southeastern Yearly Meeting also pay one-third of Brian's expense as he is a first-time attendee.

Since Karen Arrington is an enthusiastic representative of our meeting to the YM Earth Care Working Group, we decided to pay her way to the gathering. The treasurer will take gifts for this purpose.

Minute 08-02-08 Gainesville Friends Meeting approves that the Meeting pay for Karen Arrington to attend SEYM.

Any extra money donated will go into the scholarship fund

Earth Care Witness. This committee has been doing a wonderful job with first day school. Their activities include discussions of the web of life using the book, Soaring with the Wind.

They are planning to develop backyard bird sanctuary, as a hands-on project.

Hospitality, Mona Morris reported that \$514 was made at the Auction. It will be divided between Pro Nica and the scholarship fund.

A concert by Annie McPherson, David Cook, and a 5-piece band was planned for Valentine's

Day (Feb 16) The theme is "Bring someone you love".

March 16 will be the Meeting birthday party. The regular meeting for worship will join the meeting for worship in nature. Each should bring a chair and insect-repellent. Signs and communication with Karen Porter are necessary.

March 30 is the long-looked-forward-to breakfast at Jim and Laura Winefordners' house, from 8am -10. The hospitality committee will help with dish-washing.

Fundraising committee - A fundraising letter has been sent out. It is appended.

Minute. 08-02-09. Gainesville Monthly approves the sending of the fundraising committee's letter asking for financial support for the general fund to all our members and attenders.

Meeting House Committee. Walter Morris reported. They will tentatively plan a meeting work day for April 5. Clerks should make lists of things need to be done.

The meeting ended with silence
Respectfully submitted by Betty Odum.

