

## **Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

### **Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, 2<sup>nd</sup> Month, 2009**

After a worshipful silence, Walter Morris read the Queries for 2nd month.

The Minutes of the First Month 2009 business meeting were read and approved as amended. Eighteen people were present.

### **Old Business**

**Report on visits to NYYM (New York Yearly Meeting) and NEYM (New England Yearly Meeting)** – Sybil Brennan reported and attended these meetings. Sybil Brennan reported on some of the highlights of these meetings. She learned that, for example, clerking is an art form; unique personalities and styles exist. A prayerful orator presided in the form of Ernestine Buscemi at NYYM. While an orderly, clearly dry-humored Christopher McCandless presided at the clerks' table, two speaking/reading clerks, and two recorders were able to identify people by name in a body of several hundred people. Sybil noted that "experiencing worshiping while visiting is a personally enriching/broadening experience." Gainesville Friends Meeting received letters of great appreciation for Sybil's presence at these meetings; the letters will be archived.

**Report on SEYM:** Connie Ray reported. Friends General Conference will have two lectures at SEYM. March 1 is Pendle Hill Scholarship deadline. Executive Committee – old Michener and Walton lectures will be put online and be available for downloading free. Faith and Practice – draft 4 for yearly meeting section will be sent to monthly meetings for threshing. **SEYM Treasurer's Report** – they are having problems with liquid assets. People can make contributions to ProNica with a note that is for the teens' trips. Karl Hersch is planning to make a video of the teen trip. The teens plan to have someone on the trip blog daily. Trevor and one other teen from the trip will make a presentation at Friends General Conference in July. Gathering Committee – theme is Hope and Struggle. Karen Porter will teach young friends, Kathy Hersch, the teens, Anne Sundberg, the wee friends. Catherine Puckett is the Youth Program Coordinator. Nadine Hoover can come to our meeting in October – been working on Alternatives to Violence in Sumatra/Indonesia. To arrange to have Nadine come here, contact Cici in Tampa. Alternatives to Violence moving into Congo – sessions in Burundi and Rwanda going well.

**Party for new members** Brian Blackmore and Sandy Lyon at home of Gary Arthur on March 28; gather at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**Concert by Hunt Smith and Allison Aldrich**, 7 p.m. Feb. 8, in the meetinghouse (Gary Arthur coordinating).

**FUM Discernment Committee** will be here on Feb. 28. Gary will host a few people. Hospitality committee will have an open coffee bar, sandwiches for lunch.

**The meeting can solicit donations for a particular purpose**, such as the Youth Delegation to Nicaragua. Gene Beardsley and Betty Odum will work on this for SEYM and ProNica.

**Minute: 09-02-03: The treasurer is accepting donations to increase the meeting funds available for scholarships to the SEYM annual gathering and for ProNica Youth Delegation trip to Nicaragua.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report approved. It looks like we are making progress on our debts.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Cotton Club** – Polly Doughty and Betty Odum are involved in this. Latest idea for collecting money is to visit churches for small donations to revitalize the Cotton Club, which will be for the whole community. Jean Larson asked if we could invite Cotton Club representatives to give a presentation to us on the Cotton Club. Ministry and Nurture will consider this.

### **Landscaping Committee:**

The oak tree in the driveway is causing some safety concerns. The meeting approved trimming the trunk so it is safer. The Meeting agreed to cut down the small oak tree by the meetinghouse steps because it is in the way. Blueberries were planted behind the meetinghouse. Meeting agrees that we should plant red buds in the slope behind the pond and native grass around the retention basin. GFM needs erosion control on spillway; the road is cracking. To slow down erosion, we can plant some grasses. The coonties will be moved from the children's area because their cones are poisonous. We need to find a new home for the Peace Pole. The magnolia is causing drainage problems; these problems will get worse as the tree gets bigger. The committee recommends finding a new home for the tree. Mowing by the split-rail fence and the front drainage basin natural area will not occur without checking with the landscape committee. The meeting asked the landscape committee to check into a number (about 9) of dead trees.

Approval for this list was granted from meeting.

**Nominating Committee:** Betty Odum reported. All clerks except budget were nominated, cleared, and approved. A final list will be added to meeting minutes when received.

The nominating list of clerks is approved as presented (all the clerks except budget).

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Jim Morrison reporting.** There will be a volunteer workday at Penney Farms on Feb. 21. Regular work of the committee continues: universal single-payer health care, the banning of cluster bombs, peace in the Middle East, and working for a just stimulus and reinvestment package. The committee is going to start a series of basic issues forums, including such topics as

poverty and economic justice, new challenges to peace, green energy and food, and health care. The committee is happy to report that the S-Chips bill finally passed.

**Film Committee: Jim Morrison reported.** In January, we showed “A Home of Our Own” and had 16 attentive viewers. This month, we will show “The Visitor,” a film about a man who discovers two illegal Somali immigrants squatting in his New York apartment.

**First-Day School Committee: We are** trying to find a time to take teens and pre-teens to Flagler Beach. Dr. Seuss curriculum combined with wetlands exploration. Tracey Jeshow has researched cost and earth friendliness of floor materials. The children’s vegetable garden will be under the care of EarthCare Witness.

**Library Committee: Betty Odum reported.** We’ve had three book club meetings so far. They have been great experiences, with a lot of good energy and interest. The committee would like to encourage other members and attenders of the meeting to feel comfortable hosting a book club.

**Ministry and Nurture Committee: Connie Ray reported.** The meeting is holding many people in the light. The committee asked the membership recorder to contact Swarthmore Monthly Meeting to inform them of the death of William Howard and to inquire about his membership there. The committee has made plans to form a Clearness Committee for Karl Miller’s request for membership.

**Minute 09-02-04: The meeting agrees to add the following sentence to the “Gainesville Monthly Meetinghouse, Religious Society of Friends, Policies and Procedures 02/08/09:” 5.c. “Neither renting nor leasing is allowed by our insurance.” The present “5.c” would become “5.d.”**

**EarthCare Witness Committee:** The committee is editing a “Right Shopping/Recycling” information sheet.” Laura Winefordner thanks the EarthCare Witness Committee for doing a fine job with children on every 3<sup>rd</sup> First-Day.

**Hospitality Committee:** Mona Morris reported. She has almost all of the months covered for callers. Jean Larson bought a large calendar for the kitchen – we will use it for sign ups for clean up, set up, greeters, etc. Quaker Market Dinner will be on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Meetinghouse Committee: Walter Morris reported.** Revising the meetinghouse policies and procedures.

**The meeting ended with silence.**

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Puckett