

Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on March 8 , 2009

Jean Larson, clerk

Tracy Jeshow with help from Catherine Puckett, recording clerk

After some silence, Karen Porter read the Query for the third month.

The Minutes of the February business meeting were not available for approval.

Treasurer's Report. Bill Mitchell provided a written report. See attached budget. There is a projected deficit of \$3,000 for the year. A question was raised of how much interest the meeting earns on its account.

Old Business:

A. Youth delegation to Nicaragua – Meeting had previously agreed to pay 1/3 of the costs; the participants will need to raise 1/3 and we are asking for 1/3 from SEYM. Cecilia and Nicole may want to engage the meeting through a dinner or forum. Karen Porter will contact Cecilia and Nicole about it.

B. Breakfast fundraiser for the Cotton Club – Meeting had previously agreed to help raise funds for the restoration of the Cotton Club. The Cotton Club was a center of night life in the African-American community. It is being restored for use as a community center. Some concerns had been raised, so thoughts about the project were shared and we joined together to move forward with the project.

Committee Reports:

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: The committee continues its work on Universal Single Payer health care, and sent 75 cards to the Obama administration in support, and called the White House as well. The committee showed the segment of Bill Moyer's Journal with Parker Palmer, which 25 people attended and 17 stayed to discuss it afterward. Nine people volunteered on February 28 at Penney Farms through work on the Personal Energy Transporter (PET) project. Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful, inspiring, and personally rewarding experience. Inspired by a practice at Penney Farms, Mona suggested we start a "Quaker Dollars Social Investment Fund" to underwrite those who cannot otherwise afford to attend our dinners and concerts.

Film Committee: Jim Morrison reported. Last month we showed "The Visitor" and had 15 viewers join us. March 20, we will be showing "Snow Cake," another film where events lead to major changes in lives and relationships.

School Committee: Laura Winefordner made a report on the activities of the school committee and brought up the possibility that Jeannie Buskirk's school in St. Augustine become Gainesville Friends School under a different name. A brief discussion followed. The School Committee is keeping the corporation going so it will be available in the future, but not actively working to open a school.

First-Day School Committee: Laura Winefordner brought a request for \$1500 to put Marmoleum on the floor of the First Day School Room. Sybil suggested that, for right order, next time Building and Grounds be consulted prior to reporting to Meeting for Business.

Minute 09-05-05: The meeting approves 1st day school recommendation that Marmoleum be put in 1st day room and that up to \$1600 may be spend on the purchase and installation.

Ministry and Nurture Committee: Connie Ray reported on the activities of the members of the pastoral care subcommittee, and, at their request, will consider them full members of Ministry and Nurture. The Nominating Committee has been informed of this change. Ministry and Nurture is sponsoring the Cotton Club fundraiser. Ministry and Nurture has produced a trifold on Spiritual Afterthoughts for use in the meeting. Connie reported on her visit to the Ocala worship group. SEYM has informed us of an Intervisitation Plan, but we decline involvement to focus on the Ocala group. We were asked to hold Don and Mary Sue Smith in the Light and to address children by name to help them feel welcome.

EarthCare Witness Committee: Karen Arrington reported that Dick is doing a wonderful job with the children. Mona is working on having the children plant a four foot by four foot vegetable garden.

Hospitality Committee: Mona Morris reported on all the upcoming events that the committee has underway: the March St. Patrick's Day Dinner, the April 25th Chili Extravaganza, April 29th Cotton Club Breakfast, an a Quaker Market event for May is in the planning stages. The kitchen floor will be scrubbed and sealed. A work day planned for April 18th and all committees need to know about it.

Meetinghouse Committee: Walter Morris reported that he will be make a list of jobs for the workday. The committee is working on updating the policies and procedures. There was a discussion of composting, but no consensus on how and why we want to do this, and reports of problems with our current practice.

Library Committee: Betty Odum reported that the reading group is perking along. The next book to be featured is *Three* by Flannery O'Conner on April 5th at 2:30 p.m. (note the change to an earlier time). Brian Blackmore is organizing books and building a database; we are trading books with other meetings.

Information Items:

Sybil reported on loaves of bread, cards, letters of condolence, and birthday greetings sent on behalf of the meeting as corresponding secretary. Betty Odum brought to the attention of meeting a letter of condemnation of actions against protestors at the Republican National Convention. The matter was passed to Peace and Social Concerns for further discernment. The time for the March 21st Quaker Study Program is at 12 p.m. for the potluck and 1 p.m. for the discussion.

The meeting ended with silence.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Jeshow and Catherine Puckett