

Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on Sept. 13, 2009

Karen Porter, clerk

Catherine Puckett, recording clerk

After a worshipful silence, Jean Larson read the Queries for the ninth month.

Thirteen people were present.

The Minutes of the August business meeting were read and approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report. Bill Mitchell reported. We have switched to Cox Cable for the phone.

Old Business:

A. Report on beach day: Meghan Darko reported. First-Day Families' beach weekend. More than 17 people came to this positive, heart-warming experience. Many games were played, good food was eaten, Sheree Sims magically produced a Teddy Bear Pancake breakfast, and Christy Porter's birthday was celebrated. The meeting thanks Sheree Sims for her organization of this successful family event, and thanks Laura and Jim Windefordner for the use of their beach house.

B. United Nations Day: Laura Winefordner reported that United Nations' Day is on Oct. 22. She will attend and represent our meeting.

New Business:

A. **Acoustics Meeting with Mr. Seibien:** An electronic copy of an informational report is attached. Jean Larson will take this to the meetinghouse committee. Gary Arthur would also like meetinghouse committee to consider ceiling fans for the other rooms.

B. **Holocaust Memorial Donation:** David Chalmers and Jean Chalmers proposed to the clerk that the meeting contribute \$100 to the Holocaust Memorial Fund in Gainesville. David read an excerpt from Ralph Lowenstein's article in a north-central Florida Jewish newsletter. The campaign will end in late September. They hope to have memorial in place by April 2010. The meeting approves sending \$100 for this purpose.

Finance Committee: No report.

Landscaping Committee: Brad reported. Most folks in the meeting would have liked the Peace Pole on the other side of the fence in the right of way where we have to have a permit. The next largest group of people wanted the pole near the magnolia, and a smaller number of people wanted the peace pole in the woods as a

kind of a meditative place to visit. Jean Chalmers said that the right-of-way location would not be allowed. If the pole were placed near the magnolia, the tree would have to be cut down. It may have to be cut down anyway because it adds too much debris in the gutter. The meeting recommends cutting down the tree and installing the peace pole in that location. However, the meeting recommends using the cut tree for crafts and other items.

Brad noted that a hackberry tree near the children's room is causing difficulties, but that this tree is on the city's property. The tree makes the fence dirty, and its underbrush blocks some of the street view to the meeting's sign. Because the tree is a native one and provides food for native species, Brad would have to take this matter to the city to get approval for removal of the tree. The meeting approves Brad taking this to the city.

Gary Arthur voice a concern to the landscape committee and the meetinghouse committee: he wants to know if people share his aesthetic concern about the appearance of the Quaker Meeting sign next to the parking lot. He considers the sign an eyesore, and does not think it fulfills a necessary purpose that couldn't be fulfilled by a smaller, more aesthetically pleasing sign. He is willing to look into possibility of replacing the sign, and seeing if people would donate money to replace it. Dick Beardsley said he was willing to work with Gary on coming up with something more appropriate. Betty Odum concurred. Brad's suggestion is to refer this matter back to the landscape committee, let them do some surveying, etc. to see if the sign will be seen from road after trees are gone. Brad will liaison with meetinghouse committee. Brad noted that we need to have continuing revelation on this issue.

Nominating Committee: No report.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Jim Morrison reported. The group continues its work on single-payer health care, banning of cluster bombs, peace in the Middle East, and a just stimulus package. Because Health Care reform is at a critical juncture, the committee urges members and attenders to call their congressional representatives. The committee sponsored two forums this month:

Film Committee: *Guarding Eddy* will be shown in August; September's film will be *The Last Word*, about a young man who ghost writes poems for people who are about to die.

Ministry and Nurture: The committee is very happy to report that people in our meeting are healing. The old meeting pamphlet is being updated; Karen Porter is working on that. The committee is also working on a handout with a working title of *Deciding to Speak in Open Worship*. The committee has also finished working on an evacuation plan for fire and other hazards. The committee asks the meeting for approval to advertise in *The Alligator*, the University of Florida student newspaper. The cost is \$80 for 8 weeks. The meeting approves. Gary Arthur asked if there is interest in meeting for having a meeting retreat.

School Committee: No report.

First-Day School Committee: No report.

Library Committee: The committee is about halfway done in computer-cataloging all the books in the library. It has removed some of the excessive numbers of outdated Bibles. The Friendly book group is meeting Oct. 4th; Dick Beardsley will lead, bringing poetry that the group will read and discuss. On November 11, Jean Larson will lead the book group on the book *Quaking*.

EarthCare Witness Committee: Dick Beardsley reported. At the last earthcare first-day school, the class was treated with a peek into life of snakes. Catherine Puckett brought an adult corn snake, and Odalis Manulay brought newly hatched corn snakes, with their eggshells still in the aquarium. The children all held the baby snakes. The class took a walk in the woods and found a tiny but full-grown ring-neck snake. The adult snake was in the process of shedding her skin. The committee thanks Odalis and Catherine. The next earthcare first-day school class will focus on Mother Earth's recyclers, with a walk in the woods and hermit crabs.

Hospitality Committee: No report.

Meetinghouse Committee: Jean Larson thanked Karen Porter for getting Cox to take over the phone. The committee did not meet this month.

The meeting ended with silence.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Puckett