

Gainesville Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Tenth Month 12, 2010
Annie McPherson, Assistant Clerk

Attendance: 13

From the silence Betty Odum read the query for tenth month.

We adjusted the agenda.

The minutes for ninth month were read and approved.

No treasurer's report was available.

Nominating Committee: Sybil Brennan reported for the committee. We approved the following minutes:

10-10-18: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves Sybil Brennan as clerk of the Nominating Committee and Tim Fogarty as a third representative to SEYM.

10-10-19: Minute of Appreciation: over the last four months several people have taken on responsibilities at the Gainesville Monthly Meeting; others have helped in ways that cannot be enumerated. Thank you all. Gene Beardsley became our interim clerk. We thank her for her willingness to serve in disseminating mail and information as necessary, as well as being available to answer questions, make telephone calls to Friends, guide newcomers and visitors on First Day, and being available to regularly open and close the meetinghouse. Annie McPherson became our Acting Clerk presiding over the Meetings for Business. We thank her especially for her listening skills and the ongoing helpfulness which has been her gift, in addition to continuing to produce our newsletter. Betty Odum and Laura Winefordner's work as recording clerks has been invaluable. All the greeters have taken on the care of the Worship in breaking meeting also. Thank you to all for your patience and friendliness that has been part of this transitional period.

Ministry and Nurture Committee: Connie Ray presented the report. The committee is reaching out to Friends in need of being held in the Light. Committee members have been in contact with people we have not seen in a while.

A workshop in Tallahassee "for those in our midst blessed with the gift of ministry" will be held on the second weekend of November, sponsored by both SEYM and Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association. The committee is asking people in the meeting to enter into discernment as to whether they would like to attend, and to let the committee know soon so the committee can discern whom to name.

The meeting has received a letter from Devender Sellars asking the meeting to lay down his membership. We are saddened by this and we approve his request with a heavy heart. Over the years Devender has enriched our meeting and SEYM with his gifts. The corresponding clerk will write to him, wishing him well.

10-10-20: Gainesville friends meeting regretfully lays down the membership of Devender Sellars at his request.

We learned of the recent information from Morrie Trimmer that he is now confined to a wheelchair because of a fragile knee, and he expects to have a 4 hour medical procedure during the coming week.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Jim Morrison reported that the committee continues its ongoing support of various widespread local, national and international social issues.

Shawna Doran plans to go to Haiti to learn more about the situation and to train midwives from October 22 to November 8. She is accepting contributions for medical supplies.

AFSC clerk Arlene Kelly and Mike Gillum will make a presentation to our meeting on Wednesday, October 13. Arlene will talk about her recent trip to Africa and show a DVD. We are encouraged to attend and to invite friends.

On Sunday, November 7 we have invited Al Gieger to show his film "Seafaring Cowboys," and discuss his experiences bringing livestock to war-torn Europe after WWII.

We have tentatively scheduled a forum on immigration to be led by Tim Ray on Sunday, December 5.

The committee is hoping to invite a Palestinian woman, a UF graduate student in urban planning, to meet with us to share her experiences when she returned to her home on the west bank during the summer for several months.

Instead of our regular film night on September 17, we co-sponsored a speaker, David Cobb, founder of Move to Amend, who addressed the issue of corporate personhood and the impact of corporate power on our democracy. 37 people attended.

Film committee: our October film on the 15th will be "The Italian," a charming and moving film about a Russian boy who refuses to be adopted by an Italian couple because he believes his parents are still alive and wants to find them. Our November film is tentatively "Amreeka."

Hospitality committee: Sybil Brennan presented a calendar of events through April 2011 which will be included with these minutes. The committee suggests that the regularity of Quaker dinners for the second Saturday of each month will keep friends attending.

We set the date for our annual Christmas party for Sunday, December 19, with the hope that David Cook can play the piano for us.

Meetinghouse, Grounds and Landscape Committee: Bart Hulett has donated some myrtlefolia and dooryard camellia plants. The committee remains active addressing various property needs. We need to change the AC filters.

We discussed procedures for scheduling the use of the meetinghouse. We need to make sure that the events did not collide with each other. After discussion we reaffirmed our policy for scheduling: the clerk of the meetinghouse, grounds and landscape committee handles requests for use of the meetinghouse. If that clerk is not available, another member of the meetinghouse, grounds and landscape committee or the clerk of the meeting will handle such requests. The clerk of the meeting should be informed.

Bud Brennon has found that several perennial low growing groundcovers could work to prevent the cascading soil on the hill; none of them are native plants. We haven't heard how the contest for UF students to devise a plan that we approved last month is progressing.

Bud Brennon is making some markers for identifying trees on our property. He has also made a few nametags which we might want to use instead of our current ones. We encouraged him to make more of them.

Firstday School Committee: The children have been having music with Ampofo Darko, a walk in the woods listening to the sounds of nature with Gary Arthur, a story and seed art with Megan Fogarty, and soon Bible stories, and probably a play, with Laura Winefordner. Christi, Kieran and Brendon went grape picking last weekend with Jim and Karen Porter. Sherri Sims, Arlene Epperson, Karen Porter and Megan Fogarty helped them make the grapes into jelly and juice to take home, and to sell at the crafts bazaar.

Library Committee: Robert Roberg has given three books he has written to the library. The corresponding clerk will write to him, thanking him.

Clerk's Report: Annie McPherson read a letter of introduction for Sofia Durand and Javier Solis from the Barcelona, Spain Monthly Meeting. We are pleased that they are sojourning with us.

Calendar: Annie McPherson and Bill Mitchell intend to work together soon to set up the interactive calendar on the website. They will make it simple as possible and Annie will help us learn the system. We await further information.

Publicity: We talked about our need for letting the community know that we exist. We need to find a way to put out information. Perhaps the meeting needs a facebook account. Jean Chalmers pays her assistant, who has information on contacts and services, for publicity and we might well do the same. We asked Jean to find out how we could do this.

Quaker Stamp Project: We are waiting for a response from the Fundraising Committee as to whether they will take over this project.

Thank you cards: The writing of thank you cards to contributors is on hold until next monthly meeting, when we will revisit the minute approved an earlier monthly meeting for business.

SEYM Interim Business Meeting: Gary Arthur will present a report next month.

Half Yearly Meeting: Gary Arthur told us that registration will be online. He encouraged people to attend this meeting. Betty Odom agreed to announce it at the next two meetings for worship.

Tim Ray spoke about a Mennonite program concerning sister cities in case we want to know more about this.

Laura Winefordner, Assistant Recording Clerk