

Gainesville Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
8, Ninth Month, 2013

ATTENDING: Dick Beardsley, Gene Beardsley, Katy Burnett, David Crawford, Shawna Doran, Jean Larson, Sandy Lyon, Bill Mitchell, Betty Odum, Connie Ray, Tim Ray, Laura Winefordner, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Annie McPherson, Clerk, Gary Arthur, Recorder

Meeting opened with worship.

The sixth month 2013 minutes were read and approved with corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bill Mitchell:

General Fund Balance: \$15,781

Contingency Fund Balance: \$20,002

NOMINATING COMMITTEE by Jean Larson:

GFM2013.9.14: Meeting approves adding Elizabeth Franco to serve on our Pastoral Care Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Local UN Day Event

GFM2013.9.15: Meeting approved in August a \$25 sponsorship for Gainesville's local UN Day event, which will be held in October.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT by Tim Ray:

The complete report is included in the addenda. It included several items. The International Day of Peace for Prayer takes place on September 21. Next, with regard to our ongoing concern for Florida's springs and Aquifer, we were reminded of last month's presentation here by Dr. Robert Knight. Also, the Meeting continues to collect nonperishable food for donation to the Gainesville Community Ministry. Then we heard the story of a recent successful nonviolent intervention carried out by a bookkeeper at a Georgia elementary school, who calmed an armed intruder. Finally, there was discussion of the idea of our Meeting perhaps establishing a "Quaker House" to respond to various needs of the local and our own Friends community. That idea will be further introduced and brain stormed at a forum on Sunday, September 29 at 12:45 PM.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT by Sandy Lyon:

The report is included in the addenda. Few children are currently attending, nevertheless the committee is ready to meet children's needs, as they did today when four youngsters were present. The Committee will meet in the fall to update their list for Friendly Letters and birthday cards.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE CONCERNS shared by Laura Winefordner:

Laura reported on renewed efforts to look at the issue of improving the acoustics in our social room. She's talked with a contractor who is available to meet with interested Friends here in order to discuss the matter further. She will take the issue to Building and Grounds Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Meeting will participate in the upcoming Gainesville Pride Fest by having an information table at the event and by making a contribution.

GFM2013.9.16: Friends approve a \$25 sponsorship for the Gainesville Pride Festival to be held on Oct 26.

FINANCE COMMITTEE BUSINESS presented by Laura Winefordner:

At its next meeting, our Finance Committee will take up the recommendation for raising our Meeting's annual donation to Solidarity Sojourns organization from \$100 to \$500 annually. That organization, led by Tim Fogarty, is involved with helping to build low-cost housing units in Nicaragua and organizing sojourns there.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE CONCERNS presented by Connie Ray:

Our business meeting minute books are in process of being bound. It was decided to store them on a shelf in the foyer for easy access.

On another note, Connie asked that in order to facilitate the purchase of pamphlets for our Meeting's Friendly Reading Group, a new line item be created in the budget.

GFM2013.9.17: Meeting approves establishing a line item in the budget for \$75 for use by the Friendly Reading Group.

ADHOC COMMITTEE FOR THE HOMELESS:

GFM2013.9.18: The ad hoc committee created to address the issue of apparently homeless individuals occupying Meetinghouse grounds is to be laid down.

The problem with individuals sleeping in close vicinity to the Meetinghouse and our neighbors has dissipated. The committee worked to repair outside lighting and feels the problem is no longer one of alarming proportions. Food is available for sharing with individuals in need and can be found in the "survival packets" located in the cabinet near the refrigerator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The film THE HELP will be shown at 7PM this Friday in the social room.
2. A draft of a minute on climate change was shared by Jean Larson. It will be taken to Fall Interim Business Meeting and shared with the Yearly Meeting's Earth-Care Witness Committee.
3. The Ad Hoc Committee working to prepare a new Meeting Handbook expects a draft to be ready in October or November.
4. Meeting for Worship in Nature will take place the third first day of November.

ADDENDA:

First Day School Update:

The meeting continues to have very few children in First Day School. Our two young families with children rarely attend meeting. The children that do occasionally attend are grandchildren of the members. The well equipped First Day room continues to be a welcoming place when they visit. Our older children and their families have either moved or are attending larger congregations that can offer a more comprehensive youth program. I continue to be involved with the SEYM Youth Committee. Over Labor Day I attended the Family Peace Camp sponsored by the Church of the Brethren at Camp Ithiel. I will be going to the Fall Interim Business Meeting in October to share information about ways to have our youth programs work more closely together.

The First Day School Committee will meet in the fall to update our mailing list for Friendly Letters and birthday cards.

I frequently remind myself of the song that is a paraphrase of Isaiah 40:31

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint.

Teach me Lord, teach me Lord, to wait.

Our committee is waiting in the Light,

Sandy Lyon Clerk, First Day School Committee

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT SEPTEMBER 8, 2013

1. THE PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE ASKS MEMBERS AND ATTENDERS TO BE MINDFUL OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE FOR PRAYER, CELEBRATED BY THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ON SEPTEMBER 21 OF EACH YEAR. WE NEED TO KEEP THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE LIGHT AT THIS TIME, AS OUR LEADERS IN WASHINGTON CONTINUE TO EXPLORE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, THAT THEY SHOULD REMEMBER THAT DOING JUSTICE IS ALWAYS A PREREQUISITE FOR ESTABLISHING LASTING PEACE, AND ALSO THAT WAYS WILL BE FOUND FOR NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A PEACEFUL

TRANSITION AND AN END TO THE TERRIBLE SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE TAKING PLACE IN SYRIA.

2. THE PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE JOINS WITH THE QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS COMMITTEE IN WANTING TO KEEP THE SUBJECT OF FLORIDA'S SPRINGS AND THE FLORIDAN ACQUIFER ALIVE IN THE MINDS OF PEOPLE IN GAINESVILLE AND ALACHUA COUNTY, FOLLOWING DR. ROBERT KNIGHT'S HIGHLY INFORMATIVE AND MOVING PRESENTATION, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN OUR SOCIAL ROOM. REMEMBERING HOW VERY CROWDED THE SOCIAL ROOM WAS ON THAT OCCASION, WE ALSO WANT TO ASK EVERYONE TO BEGIN THINKING ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF SOME FORUMS BEING HELD IN THE WORSHIP ROOM, WHICH HAS A MUCH LARGER SEATING CAPACITY. WE HAVE RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM A FRIEND OF G.F.M. TO PROVIDE A PORTABLE MOVIE SCREEN WHENEVER A FORUM IS SCHEDULED FOR THE WORSHIP ROOM. WE ARE ALSO ASKING THAT EVERYONE BEGIN TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE INSTALLATION OF PULL DOWN BLINDS THAT WOULD MATCH THE COLOR OF THE WALLS IN THE WORSHIP ROOM, TO MAKE POSSIBLE DARKENING THE ROOM FOR OTHER AUDIOVISUAL PRESENTATIONS, WHICH MAY ALSO BE ON FLORIDA'S SPRINGS, AS WELL AS OTHER SUBJECTS.

3. SANDY LYONS HAS ASKED THE PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE CONCEPT OF A QUAKER HOUSE, I.E. THE CREATION OF A MODEST STRUCTURE WHICH COULD BE USED FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING OF ONE OR A FEW PERSONS NEEDING A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS AND THAT A QUAKER IN RESIDENCE WOULD PROVIDE A PRESENCE AND BE A LIAISON WITH THE MEETING AS TO THE NEEDS OF THE PERSONS RECEIVING HOUSING. AT LEAST ONE OTHER FRIENDS MEETING, THE ANN ARBOR FRIENDS MEETING, HAS A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT. WE FOUND THE CONCEPT TO BE DEFINITELY WORTH SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING IT TO MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS FOR DECISION AT A LATER TIME, AFTER OTHER COMMITTEES HAVE ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELIBERATE ON THIS CONCEPT.

4. GAINESVILLE COMMUNITY MINISTRY (372-8162) HAS ALERTED US TO THEIR EMERGENCY NEED FOR NONPERISHABLE FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS AND HUNGRY PEOPLE THEY SO FAITHFULLY HELP. THEIR FOOD PANTRY IS "ALMOST EMPTY." SO, THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO EITHER BRING NONPERISHABLE FOOD AND PLACE IT IN OUR G.C.M. BOX OR DONATE FUNDS TO ENABLE G.C.M. TO PURCHASE THE FOOD.

5. I WANT TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE MIRACLE OF AMAZING THINGS BEING ACCOMPLISHED BY ORDINARY PEOPLE SUCH AS YOU AND I. A BOOKKEEPER IN A GEORGIA SCHOOL, ANTOINETTE TUFF, CALMLY TALKED AN ANXIOUS AND AGITATED MAN INTO SURRENDERING HIS AUTOMATIC WEAPON, INSTEAD OF CARRYING OUT A DREADFUL ASSAULT ON THE SCHOOL CHILDREN, SUCH AS THE ONE THAT OCCURRED IN SANDY HOOK, CONNECTICUT. I RECEIVED THIS ARTICLE FROM OUR JACKSONVILLE QUAKER FRIEND, WENDY GEIGER. PLEASE READ THIS ARTICLE, GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR MS. TUFF, AND PRAY THAT OTHERS AMONG US MAY HAVE SUCH TRULY AMAZING GRACE.

TIMOTHY B. RAY, CLERK, PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERN COMMITTEE