

**MINUTES FOR MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
SIXTH MONTH 2008, DAY 8**

Clerk: Barbara Esther

Recording Clerk: Julie Moser

Attendance: Becca Dion, Steve Livingston, Kitti Reynolds, Susan Oehler, Rob Waskom, Jen Rhode, Rusty Maynard, Adrienne Weir, George Gjelfriend, Jim Cavener, Connie McDowell, Ellen Frerotte, Alan Robinson, Margaret Normile, Pat Johnson, Joy Gossett, Philip Neal, Raelin Hansen, Bobby Carter.

Silent Worship

Reading

“Ironically, the way to heal pain is by diving deeper into it. Most of the pain we are in is caused by our resistance to and denial of it. To get off the suicidal path we are on, we have to feel the pain that we are in, that the earth is in, that our communities are in.

I fear for us, because the way we practice war is destroying everything. When we keep our mouths shut and don't do anything about it, it damages everyone of us, which creates more pain that has to be buried. It's either dive into the pain or die from refusing to face it.”

From *Edward Tick on How the U.S. Fails its Returning Soldiers*
By David Kupfer for The Sun, June 2008 Issue 390

Approval of Minutes from Fifth Month

Friends reviewed and approved the Minutes from the Fifth Month Asheville Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Treasurer's Report

A one-page report showing the budget from Jan. 1 through May 31 was presented for review. It was noted that the revenue line is lagging from the budgeted amount, but that is typical. However, it was noted that the lag in income is something that should be attended to in the coming months.

A Friend had a question about invoices and how they were processed regarding Quaker Books and noted that such invoices should be placed under the appropriate committee line. One Friend asked if that problem could be solved by committee clerks contacting the treasurer directly to ensure that the check requisition form specifies the account to which it should be charged. The treasurer will also make a commitment to review the forms carefully for proper coding. The Meeting reviewed and approved the Treasurer's report.

The treasurer noted that she appreciates the attention to detail that Friends put into reviewing the report, as that is how additions and corrections are made to ensure accuracy.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Wedding Committee – Jim Cavener

Jim presented a report on the ceremony for Steve Livingston and Lynnora Bierce. It was observed that there were approximately 85 folks present for the celebration. The ceremony was relaxed and very thoughtful, delightful, and shared authentic delight and joy among family and Friends. It was also noted that it was a pleasure to see Steve's Mom in such good spirits and health. Every aspect of the celebration was beautiful, complete with garden flowers (with fragrance and bugs), and the tables were comfortably filled. One of the mystical and ethereal moments happened when Steve and Lenora were seated on a bench near a table with the certificate, amid an overcast but comfortable morning. Suddenly, a focused light shone on Lynnora and Steve – a brilliant light that was on no one else in the room. Lynnora and Steve went through the Meeting's Clearness Committee process, the pieces came together, and it was noted and agreed by all Friends in attendance that it was truly a beautiful wedding day.

Another Friend noted that the Meeting's newly approved Marriage Procedure may sound solemn, but that it was a pleasure to be part of a ceremony that was dramatic, playful, and full of love.

Peace and Earth Committee

Kitti Reynolds presented the Peace and Earth Committee report.

The Peace and Earth Committee asked to hang a banner stating "Honor the Image of God... Stop Torture Now" from the Meeting porch. Some Friends may have seen this banner, which Susan Oehler brought to Meeting a few weeks ago. The banner would signify the Meeting's participation in a nationwide campaign of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, during June, which is Torture Awareness Month. Because Susan intends to use this banner for other activities, she has paid for it herself.

Since the banner would be displayed on the Meetinghouse grounds, P and E seeks approval of the Meeting.

The Meeting reviewed the request to hang the banner.

The Meeting approved a request from the Peace and Earth Committee to display a banner that states: "Honor the Image of God... Stop Torture Now" from the Meeting porch or windows for a period of a few weeks as part of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

A group of college-age students will be meeting on UNCA campus as members of Students for a Democratic Society. The meeting will comprise about 30 students who will be looking for a place to sleep August 15 or 16th. Peace and Earth had been asked if some of the students could sleep camp-in style at the Meeting House. A member of our meeting community will be present as a supervisor during the use of the Meeting House.

The Meeting reviewed the request.

One Friend reminded the Meeting that in the past there was an incidence where students from a Quaker group had utilized the building and caused damage and that the Meeting had agreed not to let that happen again. Another Friend elaborated on this particular incident and shared that this group may not have been clear about the expectations that were – or were not – shared with the group based on the last minute request by the group of students. This Friend asked that the Meeting consider using the prior experience as a way to learn from past experience how to handle requests of this nature and possibly be open to future requests. Because the request is for August, it would be possible to prepare ground rules and outlines, as well as the limitations related to staying at the Meeting House (Meeting for Worship, for example).

Another Friend commented that in his experience, it's vital that the UNC-A security know about the situation if the Meeting approves the request.

P and E commented that it would feel comfortable if there between 10 and 15 students who stayed opposed to all 30. It was also noted that approval would be dependent on whether the Meeting House was already booked in a way that would create a scheduling conflict.

The Meeting reviewed the request and approved the following:

The Meeting approved a conditional request to offer hospitality to between 10 and 15 students on the nights of August 15 and August 16 to Students for a Democratic Society provided there is no conflict in scheduling, with Susan Oehler, Jen Rhode, and Kitty Reynolds providing an on-site presence as well as clear guidelines and protocols for use of the Meeting House.

House and Grounds Committee

The House and Grounds Committee presented its tentative report, and wanted to keep Friends apprised of what the committee is responsible for:

- (1) The House & Grounds committee has assumed responsibility for the following:
 - (a) Collecting, sorting, and distributing the mail.
 - (b) Taking the garbage container to curbside (Sun.) and returning it (Thurs.).
 - (c) Supervising cleaning of the building
 - (d) Paying for regular lawn maintenance
 - (e) Reviewing utility bills for anomalies
 - (f) Bagging and dealing with recyclables

- (g) Maintaining Meeting House supplies
- (h) Taking action on messages left on our answering machine.
- (i) Managing building rentals
- (j) Interfacing with Fire Inspector
- (k) mid-week inspection
- (l) Be the "tar baby," i.e. trouble-shooting unanticipated "opportunities."

(2) Status report on various projects

(a) The backstairs have been removed and the porch closed off. A Friend observed that a small child could fit through a hole under the upstairs barrier. Rusty Maynard has stepped forward to clerk this concern.

(b) A friend observed that the repairs to the upstairs back porch have not been painted. The H&G team that removed the backstairs states that their responsibility was completed with bringing the back porch up to code, and that did not include painting. Raelin Hansen has volunteered to do this provided she be supplied with paint and brushes.

We will wait on this until someone has done so.

(c) A Friend noted that the front porch area at the top of the central stairs was cracked and peeling. Scott Evans stated that this would fall under the guarantees of the painting job and he will tend to it.

(d) A Friend noted that floor in the main meeting room shows the effects of water damage and years of use. Scott Evans agreed to inspect the situation and make a proposal.

(e) Some of our neighbors informed us that the stone pillar on the western edge of our property seems to be collapsing. Another neighbor said that her wall had suffered similar damage caused by street cleaning apparatus. We inspected the situation and got one bid for \$2,700 to fix it. We decided that the pillar is not on our property and the best we could do is to join with our western neighbor to share costs. Our western neighbor was not interested.

Respectfully submitted, George Gjelfriend, clerk of H&G

The House and Grounds Committee also requested reimbursement for \$25 or less without producing a receipt for hand soap that has been supplied from a personal supply of hand soap. One Friend suggested that the request be brought to the Finance Committee, and that was amendable to the House and Grounds Committee.

The Meeting reviewed and accepted the House and Grounds Committee report.

Planning for Next Weekend During Yearly Meeting

Friends discussed the procedures related to the coincidence of the Meeting for Worship and the Yearly Meeting.

Who can be the opener/closer of the meetinghouse?

Friend Ellen Frerotte offered to open and close the Meeting House.

Who can provide back-up transportation for someone from FGC coming from SAYMA and needing to go to Warren-Wilson?

Philip Neal has offered to provide transportation, but Rob Waskom offered to serve as back-up just in case.

Who can be the child caregiver in Paola's absence?

It was decided that any children attending meeting next First Day would remain with their families during worship.

In regard to general issues related to child care, one friend suggested that the railing upstairs may need to be brought to code and that he would work to provide a structure that was in keeping with the code.

Another Friend reminded the Meeting that child care policies must be clearly articulated to groups who rent the Meeting House and may not be aware of fire codes.

Summer Schedule Announcements/News

The usual practice is to suspend the Seventh Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. **Friends approved the request to suspend the Seventh Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.**

Other

Alan Robinson mentioned that if there was anyone in meeting who is a framing carpenter that he had a job opening.

One Friend shared that Friends Committee on Outworld Relations is being noticed this year officially by SAYMA, and Philip Neal will provide a report.

Raelin Hansen is looking for someone who can do kitchen work, particularly kitchen counters with tiles.

The Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business concluded with a period of worship in silence at 1:27 p.m.