

Minutes of the Continuing Committee

of Illinois Yearly Meeting

Lake Forest Meetinghouse, Third Month 1, 2008

1. The meeting opened in silent worship. Thirty-two Friends were in attendance.
2. Announcements and introductions were made, and a tentative agenda reviewed and amended.
3. Dawn Amos gave the Treasurer's Report. Net assets total \$116,520.47, not including the value of land and real property. The Property Improvement Fund and Special Gifts Fund both show significant increases. The overall financial condition of the yearly meeting is reported to be strong.
4. Cathy Garra gave the Finance Committee Report. The yearly meeting trust has been dissolved; all property is now owned by the corporation, and the deeds have been filed. The committee has filed an Attorney General report declaring IYM to be a charitable organization. Friends are reminded that reimbursement requests should be approved by, and whenever possible sent to the Treasurers by, committee clerks or annual session coordinators. Reimbursement of expenses for IYM-related travel is available for Friends who would otherwise be hindered from traveling. Friends are expected to pay their own expenses unless doing so would be a burden on them.
5. Dawn Amos gave the Review Committee Report. The committee approved expenses for Javaughn Fernanders to attend a workshop, and for workers' compensation insurance for all paid staff.
6. Minutes 1–5 were read and approved.
7. Sharon Haworth reported no further information since Fall Continuing Committee from the Blue River Quarterly Meeting IYM Planning Group.
8. Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Chicago North Planning Group. Food coordinators have been identified. Brian Young of the Earlham School of Religion has agreed to be the Wednesday night speaker. There is a possibility of having Florence Ntakarutimana from Burundi speak on Thursday evening. A question was raised about the practicality of the current deadline for *Among Friends* submissions, given the earlier date for yearly meeting this year.
9. Sue Davison reported for the Chicago South Planning Group. Coordinators for Site Prep, Purchasing and Cleanup have been identified, as have cooks for Site Prep. A coordinator for Housekeeping is still needed. Friends are urged to help with Site Prep and Cleanup.
10. Minutes 6–9 were read and approved.
11. John Knox reported for the Peace Tax Fund Committee. He has made a preliminary review of materials from the establishment of the fund, and recommends that the committee as a whole conduct a more detailed review, consult with the original committee charged by IYM to examine the issues involved in setting up the fund, and with current depositors, and make a recommendation to the yearly meeting whether to link the fund more closely to IYM, dissolve the fund, or take some other action. Friends encourage the committee to continue along the lines suggested.
12. Minutes 10–11 were read and approved.
13. Dawn Rubbert reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee is continuing to modify the Peace Testimony workshop they have developed; two such workshops at local meetings

have been given or are planned; the committee is available to present additional workshops if meetings are interested. A workshop is also planned for yearly meeting. The committee is also starting work on developing a follow-up workshop to their existing program.

14. Pam Kuhn presented the Handbook Committee Report. The committee proposes nine additions or revisions to the handbook to reflect decisions made at the yearly meeting's 2007 business sessions; Friends approve these changes.
15. Robin Johnson reported for the Accessibility Working Party. The working party has assembled a list of 30 volunteers to provide information about accessibility issues at yearly meeting; additional volunteers are welcome. Interviewers have been identified; it is hoped that a report may be prepared in time for the April meeting of the Site Envisioning and Development Committee.
16. Nancy Wallace reported on display materials connected with the IYM Meetinghouse and with Lake Forest Meetinghouse to be exhibited at the April 3–6 FWCC sessions in Morgantown, Indiana; other meetings are encouraged to send materials to her and David Shiner for display. Friends are also encouraged to invite Latin American Friends who will be attending the sessions to visit their meetings.
17. David Shiner reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The committee is currently very small; Friends are encouraged to suggest new members either to M&A or to the Nominating Committee. Maurine Pyle's term as Field Secretary is ending; nominations are also sought for a new Field Secretary.
18. Janice Domanik reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee has been composing text on meeting organization and structure, and revising the section on membership. Copies of the recently approved marriage section and the current draft of the membership section are being distributed; comments on the membership text are solicited by April 18th. The committee hopes to bring a version of this section to yearly meeting this summer for approval for an indefinite period, as the 5-year provisional period for the existing text expires.
19. Minutes 12–18 were read and approved.
20. Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee. They propose Steve Kuhn as Reading Clerk; Friends approve. The committee is still seeking a steward. Breeze Richardson was erroneously listed in the minutebook as representative to Friends Peace Teams; this position is still open. Suggestions are sought for Assistant Clerk.
21. The clerk proposed Sue Davison, Brad Laird, and Tom Paxson (ex officio) for the Naming Committee; Friends approve.
22. The clerk reported that Mike Dennis had conveyed a request from Young Friends to hold a sweat lodge ceremony at yearly meeting this year. Doing so would involve construction of a ceremonial mound, lodge, path, and fire pit. The clerk read a letter he sent to Mike in reply, indicating that this was a matter requiring a decision by the yearly meeting in its regular business sessions rather than the Continuing Committee.
23. Minutes 19–22 were read and approved.
24. Patricia McMillen reported on a concern from Oak Park Monthly Meeting, calling for the abolition of the death penalty. Oak Park plans to propose this summer that IYM also adopt a minute calling

for the end of capital punishment. It was pointed out that the clerk of IYM is empowered under existing minutes to write letters expressing the yearly meeting's opposition to the death penalty.

25. Dawn Rubbert reported St. Louis Meeting's concern that planners of children's programming at yearly meeting communicate with the Friends responsible for First Day School at local meetings, to get input about what the programming might be, and to inform them about the program so that they can prepare the young people for it.
26. Elke Narkiewicz raised a concern that guidelines be developed on the responsibilities of IYM committee clerks in reporting to the yearly meeting; this matter is referred to the Handbook Committee.
27. Maurine Pyle reported on a concern from John and Mariellen Gilpin on helping Friends cope with the final stages of dying. John and Mariellen have excerpted critical passages from a book by a hospice nurse on this topic; Friends may obtain electronic copies from them.
28. Minutes 23–27 were read and approved.
29. Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. They are working with Maintenance and Planning to plant trees on the yearly meeting grounds and do other landscaping work. They are also working with the Site Envisioning and Development Committee to explore ways to make the new buildings as green and sustainable as possible. The committee is working on a nature walk brochure on the IYM campground, and is planning a bird/nature walk for the 2008 yearly meeting. The committee continues to seek ways to raise awareness about climate change, energy issues, and other environmental concerns.
30. Tim Narkiewicz reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. The "raccoon dormitory" has been removed from the yearly meeting house; the ceiling near the back entrance is being rebuilt to discourage further nesting. Trees and limbs which were in danger of falling have been removed. The committee continues work on a Facilities Management Guide; a draft should be ready for review soon. Projects have been identified for Memorial Day Work Weekend.
31. Janice Domanik reported on a request from Friends General Conference for our mailing list. Current IYM policy reserves the mailing list for IYM purposes; however, sharing the list with FGC is required under our affiliation agreement with them. FGC assures us they will not share the list with other organizations. Our current policy was adopted to protect our members from commercial solicitation; IYM had regularly shared its mailing list with FGC prior to its implementation. Friends approve resuming this practice, and ask the Publications Committee to draft new language expressing our privacy policy, to appear on the directory and other publications containing personal contact information.
32. Minutes 28–31 were read and approved.
33. David Finke reported for the Publications Committee. Information on Quaker peacemaking efforts in Kenya have been posted on the IYM website. The new Faith and Practice section on marriage has also been posted, as have a number of older Plummer lectures and other talks. The committee is concerned that the annual minute book is becoming overly long. They recommend that committees and meetings limit the length of their reports to 1–2 pages if possible, and that text which will be published elsewhere, such as handbook language, not be published in the minute book. The question was raised whether Continuing Committee minutes should be included in the minute book.

34. Elke Narkiewicz reported for the Religious Education Committee. The committee has adopted a system in which each member serves as a liaison to specific local meetings. A survey is being conducted to discern the religious education needs of local meetings. A Yahoo! Group relating to Quaker Religious Education has been set up to facilitate the sharing of information. A Religious Education webpage is also planned for the IYM site.
35. Minutes 32–34 were read and approved.
36. Friends approved recommending to the yearly meeting that the minutes of the Continuing Committee be published in the annual minute book.
37. Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. The committee has toured several retreat centers, and is developing a packet of information about the new building project to use in fundraising efforts. Estimates of the cost of the new buildings range from \$680,000 to \$1,500,000; the wide range is due to the preliminary nature of the plans. The committee has begun developing a business plan for the maintenance and operations of the facility; a facilities management plan is being researched; a list of key donors has been developed and is being reviewed. A workshop with the Troyer Group is planned April 19 at Clear Creek to discuss sustainability and accessibility issues related to the new buildings; all are invited to this all-day event. Clear Creek Meeting is anxious to have a meeting space with heat and a bathroom; this may involve reconfiguring the plans to include three smaller rather than two larger buildings.
38. Minutes 35–37 were read and approved.
39. David Finke directed our attention to an entertaining report on the activities of IYM Adult Young Friends on the FGC website.
40. Sue Davison reported on planning for the Winter Retreat on eldering. A sizable number of Friends have registered, including quite a few from smaller meetings, Young Adult Friends, and a large number of children.
41. Dawn Amos reported for the ad hoc exploratory committee regarding the advisability of having a personnel committee. The committee is conducting a survey on personnel issues and hopes to have a proposal ready by yearly meeting this summer.
42. David Finke reported for the Quaker Volunteer Service, Witness and Training Committee. Greg Woods has been appointed the new workcamp coordinator for Washington Quaker Workcamps. David also called attention to Quaker Volunteer Service, a program supported by 57th Street Meeting, which provides assistance, including room and board and a small stipend, to volunteers doing peace and justice work or community organizing in Chicago. Support for this organization is also sought from other meetings. A flyer was distributed with information about applying to volunteer. David also reminded us of QVSWTC's queries on p. 53 of the 2007 minute book.
43. Minutes 38–42 were read and approved.
44. Gratitude was expressed for the hospitality of Lake Forest Meeting.
45. The meeting closed in silent worship.