

2012 Spring Continuing Committee Meeting
3/3/2012
at Lake Forest Friends Meeting Meetinghouse

Attending: Carol Bartles, Wil Brant, Janice Domanik (Presiding Clerk), Judy Erickson, David Finke, Nancy Finke, Fernando Freire, Cathy Garra, Meredith George, Chris Goode, Sharon Haworth, Bill Howenstine, Judy Jager, Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird, Ginny Laughlin, Roger Laughlin, Val Lester, Mark McGinnis, Elizabeth Mertic, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic, Chip Rorem, Dawn Rubbert, David Shiner (Recording Clerk), Monica Tetzlaff, Bobbi Trist, Janet Means Underhill, Nancy Wallace, Judy Wolicki.

Minute 1 The Continuing Committee session began with opening worship.

Minute 2 The Clerk made reference to a letter in which FWCC thanked ILYM for its contribution to the Travel Fund for the World Gathering next month. The letter is available for Friends to peruse if they wish to do so.

Minute 3 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The ECC retreat will take place on May 11-12. The committee continues to work on landscaping plans for the ILYM site.

Minute 4 Reading Clerk Monica Tetzlaff read the report that Peter Lasersohn prepared on behalf of the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee has been working on a new section on meeting for worship in preparation for making an initial presentation to the yearly meeting next summer. They have also revised the section on marriage, which will be submitted to the yearly meeting with a request for approval for an indefinite period, as the 5-year provisional approval of the existing text expires in summer of 2012. Suggestions for additions or revisions to this section should be sent to Peter Lasersohn or any of the other committee members. The committee continues to miss the presence and contributions of their longtime colleague Larry Stout, and prays for his health and well-being.

Minute 5 Chris Goode and Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning Committee, explaining the current draft of a comprehensive plan for the ILYM site which was prepared on the basis of the input they have received to date. They presented the plan for further seasoning so that they can update their report for the yearly meeting at annual sessions in June. The current plan includes a number of details that are designed to knit the entire ILYM campus into an integrated whole. Following a series of questions of clarification, the Clerk asked Friends to speak to their sense of priorities for development of the site. In response to this request, the following items were each mentioned by at least one Friend: renovation of the high school bunkhouse, accessibility to the main floor of Clear Creek House, renovation of the bath house on the campground, electricity (but no light bulbs) in the cabins, a community garden, a caretaker, level walking paths, accessible bathrooms, handicap-accessible overnight accommodations, addition of a dining hall, and demolition of buildings and removal of debris that are not part of the site plan. One Friend encouraged those present to think of “first” priorities as different from “most important” priorities, those which might take longer to reach fruition. Another asked us to consider which of the items on our wish list could be regarded as low priorities rather than high ones, especially in light of the additional costs of maintaining the expanded campus. A third reminded us of ILYM’s debt to and concern for Clear Creek Friends, and a fourth responded

with gratitude to the Yearly Meeting on behalf of Clear Creek Friends. Many Friends who responded to the query thanked the committee for its work.

Minute 6 Carol Bartles read the report prepared by Roy Treadway on behalf of the Stewards. The Stewards recommend demolition of most of the long metal shed and the milk processing room in the dairy barn as well as removal of debris from the area south of Clear Creek House. The cost of hiring Dancing Rabbit, the Missouri group that deconstructed the old dormitory and prepared the lumber for use in the cabins, to undertake and complete this work, plus the costs for disposing of extraneous materials, should not exceed a total of \$5000, with recycled aluminum expected to net approximately \$1600 of income. The Stewards request that Continuing Committee approve these measures so that they may be completed this spring, in part because the price is relatively low and the involvement of Dancing Rabbit later in the year cannot be guaranteed. In response to this request, the Clerk read a passage from the ILYM Handbook concerning the responsibilities permitted to Continuing Committee. On the basis of that passage, her opinion is that, if Continuing Committee is to go ahead with approving the Stewards' request at this meeting, it should be explicitly minuted as a one-time decision that does not fall within with the Handbook guidelines. She further counseled that all ILYM committees be directed to be as specific and foresighted as possible in future reports to the ILYM annual sessions with respect to matters upon which they might want to empower Continuing Committee to act. The Clerk subsequently determined that those present are not in unity with this part of the Stewards' request, although only on the basis of Quaker process and not with respect to the substance of their proposal, and that the proposal should be further seasoned in conjunction with the work of the Site Envisioning and Maintenance and Planning Committees in preparation for presentation during the annual sessions. This was approved with one Friend standing aside. One Friend raised a concern about safety issues related to the proposals that do fall under the purview of the Stewards. The Stewards' ability to act in cases of emergency was affirmed by those present.

Minute 7 (Stewards report, continued) The last section of the Stewards report consisted of a recommendation that Continuing Committee request additional planning measures in preparation for annual sessions. Specifically, they would like bids to be collected for installing electricity in some of the cabins and for appropriate committees to develop a plan for converting the Clear Creek House garage into an accessible dwelling suitable for overnight guests and making Clear Creek House handicap-accessible. Approved.

Minute 8 (Stewards report, continued) Continuing Committee charges the Maintenance and Planning committee, in consultation with the Site Envisioning and Finance Committees, to bring forth concrete proposals based on Minutes 6 and 7 that will allow the yearly meeting to season and act on them at the annual sessions in June of 2012. Approved.

Minute 9 Fernando Freire delivered the report prepared by Mariellen Gilpin on behalf of Ministry and Advancement. M & A asked that Continuing Committee approve the new job description for the Field Secretary so that the Handbook Committee can revise the appropriate section of the Handbook before the annual sessions. Approved, with explicit understanding that a few minor corrections will be made to the job description.

Minute 10 (M & A report, continued) Copies of Janet Means Underhill's "Book of Hope and Comfort," which was recently published by M & A, were distributed free of charge to today's attendees. Fernando will be presenting M & A's first regional workshop of the current year, on

conflict in meetings and difficult people in meetings, at the Rorems' home in Kankakee on the afternoon of March 24. M & A has too few members to minister effectively to the yearly meeting using the current model. While the committee's innovation this year of appointing adjunct members of M & A to help with meeting visitation has made a promising beginning, it is not clear whether this is a long-term solution. M & A will be discerning at its spring meeting whether the committee might minister more effectively to the yearly meeting in a different way than it has in the past. Suggestions on how this might be done are welcomed and may be shared with any M & A member.

Minute 11 Field Secretary Judy Wolicki reported on the meetings she has visited and the events she has attended during her first four months in the position. Her work to date has primarily involved listening to members of ILYM Meetings in order to discover how she can best serve those meetings. She finds much about which to be positive concerning the state of ILYM Meetings. Judy expects to develop programs and resources that will bring Friends from different meetings together. She also plans to continue the work begun by Paul Buckley, her predecessor as Field Secretary, to "nurture the nurturers."

Minute 12 Val Lester presented the Treasurers Report prepared by her and Dawn Amos (attached). Total cash has decreased by about \$26,000 since the end of the 2011 fiscal year, with the General Operating and Deferred Maintenance funds showing the largest decreases. That overall pattern is typical for this time of year, based on paying for the ongoing work of the Yearly Meeting.

Minute 13 Judy Jager reported for Finance Committee. Much of the committee's recent work has involved examining ways to approach the financial aspects of proposals about the future of the ILYM campus from Site Envisioning and other active committees. The Finance Committee offered a number of observations and recommendations concerning how the yearly meeting might move forward in our current complex situation, particularly noting that the proposed scenarios for the future of the site will almost certainly involve fundraising initiatives beyond those currently in effect. The committee also noted that the vastly increased demands of the site entail that we will need to be effective in putting together appropriate budgets and providing reserves for both routine and emergency maintenance.

Minute 14 Judy Erickson reported for Publications Committee. Paper and online versions of the 2011 Minute Book and the 2012 Winter *Among Friends* have been published and distributed. The two most recent Plummer Lectures are available online but not yet on paper. Judy asked that meetings call absent members and attenders and offer to send them copies of *Among Friends*.

Minute 15 The Clerk read the report from Naming Committee, which was prepared by Peter Lasersohn. David Rutchman of 57th Street Meeting is recommended as clerk of Nominating Committee. Approved.

Minute 16 Dawn Rubbert presented the report prepared by Breeze Richardson on behalf of Peace Resources Committee. The committee gathered at the ILYM campus in mid-February to share visions for the future of the site. They are discussing what level of programming they'd like to propose for 2012-2013, and are looking into the idea of partnering with other Quaker organizations to assist with presenting workshop facilitators and speakers. They are also

continuing to develop their Quaker Peacemakers Archive Project, which will be more formally debuted at 2012 Annual Sessions.

Minute 17 Dawn Rubbert presented the Administrative Coordinators Oversight Committee Report. The committee recommended that Continuing Committee consider approving a policy that the Administrative Coordinator, on behalf of ILYM, may respond affirmatively to requests to send links to photo galleries of Friends events for any photo gallery or its link that is posted on a monthly meeting website accessible to all. Approved.

Minute 18 The Clerk commended the report on Quaker Earthcare Witness prepared by ILYM QEW representatives Roy Treadway and John Hackman. She strongly recommended that Friends read that report on the ILYM website, stating that it is an excellent example of what is expected from ILYM representatives in their reporting function.

Minute 19 The Reading Clerk read the report on Program for the upcoming annual sessions, prepared by Bridget Rorem. The theme is “Compassion (in the Face of Difficult Things).” The event will include three speakers from outside the yearly meeting. They will be Quaker pastor Peggy Senger Parsons, former Dean of Pendle Hill Niyonu Spann, and AFSC General Secretary Shan Cretin. The Plummer Lecture will be delivered by Mark Mattaini of 57th Street Meeting.

Minute 20 Noel Pavlovic reported that some Food coordinators have been named and others are being solicited.

Minute 21 The Clerk presented the Site Prep report prepared by Beth Schobernd and Erin Taylor. Things are coming along well. Help with site prep is strongly encouraged. It’s fun, it’s free, and you get to eat great food.

Minute 22 Ted Kuhn presented the Fun report. Things are coming along well, but volunteers are still needed to help with various projects. Interested Friends should contact Ted about helping with the younger set.

Minute 23 Bill Howenstine asked that Continuing Committee minute its appreciation to LFFM, both for its hospitality today and for the care of its land in removing the buckthorn on the meetinghouse grounds. Approved.

Minute 24 The Clerk asked if Continuing Committee would charge her with writing a letter of introduction on behalf of ILYM for Claire Gunnell Goode, who will be participating in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Europe this summer. Approved.

Minute 25 The Continuing Committee session concluded with closing worship.

Janice Domanik
Clerk

David Shiner
Recording Clerk