

Property Use Committee Meeting of Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Report

The Property Use Committee, with 11 members representing many of ILYM's standing committees, had met by conference call 4 times and at the Clear Creek House twice since annual sessions.

Our charge stated in the 2012 ILYM annual session minutes is to, "develop oversight processes for the use of the site for programs, retreats, and other activities." Throughout the year we have heard reports and envisioning from many committees of ILYM pertaining to how they would like to use the ILYM site and visions of future uses of the site. The committee has discussed implications of increased use of the facility (Clear Creek House and the ILYM grounds) based on these reports and visions. The implications we as a committee identified include, insurance, health and sanitation codes, finance and taxes, accessibility, environmental, and finally additional needs of various committees. We examined how increased use of the ILYM site (CC House and Grounds) can build the ILYM community and promote the sharing of our individual and communal religious experiences. There have been various different experiences of this occurring throughout the year. For example in the Fall of 2012, Peace Resources held an applesauce making workshop that brought many different people from the ILYM community, including Friends that had not previously visited the ILYM site. We as a committee all agreed that these experiences are ones that need to be nurtured by the ILYM community as a whole and have the potential to promote the sharing of individual religious and spiritual experiences. We are encouraged by events such as this as they draw more members of the ILYM community to the beautiful site in McNabb.

Throughout the year the committee has reviewed and updated the Property Use Guidelines which we recommend the yearly meeting to approve as a working document that can be uploaded to the website for use (documents attached). We also have several concerns that still need to be addressed:

- Local contacts vs. ILYM liaison
 - We are concerned about the burden that we, the ILYM community as a whole, are placing on Clear Creek Monthly meeting by counting on them to provide a "local contact person," who hosts when the site is needed for any ILYM gatherings. We are recommending that we move towards an ILYM liaison that does not have to necessarily have to be member of Clear Creek meeting or live in the surrounding areas of McNabb. Along with that, we are recommending the creation of workshops to train the liaisons, a job description of a liaison, and a manual for both the liaisons and Friends using the site.
- Increasing Use within the ILYM Community
 - We support and recommend promoting the use of the facilities to Monthly Meeting Clerks and ILYM Committee Clerks, and we support and recommend, the use of the Property Use Guidelines document and that it be made available on the website. In the future when we decide to allow non-ILYM community members to use the property, we see a need for onsite caretaker or a property manager to handle this use.
- Meaning of ILYM Community

- We are still seasoning what entities are included as part of the ILYM community. Currently, we are taking that to mean ILYM committees, Monthly Meetings included in ILYM, quarterly meetings and general meetings of ILYM, High School Friends of ILYM, and the AYF group of ILYM.
- Beyond ILYM Community
 - There has been a desire expressed within the ILYM community to increase the use of the facilities beyond the ILYM community to include groups from the wider Quaker world, such as FGC, FWCC, or groups whose membership includes a member of ILYM who could act as a sponsor. We are not yet at a point where we can accommodate this.

Based on these concerns and recommendations, we as a committee are asking to be continued for an additional year, after which we will ask to be laid down and our responsibilities we have identified will be distributed to the appropriate committee or committees.

Additionally we would like to thank two people who have stepped down for their service on this committee, Diane Dennis and Carol Bartles. Their input and research was essential and we appreciated having both of them on the committee. We will miss them.

Included in this Committee are: Carol Bartles (Stewards), Janice Domanik (ILYM Clerk), Sharon Haworth (Administrative Coordinator), Bruce Kanarek (Finance), Ashlee Miller-Berry (Co-Clerk, AYF and Finance), Sarah Pavlovic (Co-Clerk, Environmental Concerns), Bridget Rorem (M & A), Chip Rorem (Site Envisioning), Beth Schobernd (Clear Creek MM), Judy Wolicki (Field Secretary), Diane Dennis (M & P), Rebecca Morris (Clear Creek MM), Breeze Richardson (Peace Resources).