

Continuing Committee

of Illinois Yearly Meeting

Tenth Month 18, 2008

1. The meeting opened in worship, with thirty-six Friends in attendance.
2. The clerk reviewed a tentative agenda.
3. Dawn Amos presented the Treasurer's Report. Net assets total \$114,123.24, including \$26,081.41 in the Property Improvement Fund.
4. Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. The committee has put new doors on the bunkhouse, made repairs after removing the "raccoon dormitory," trimmed trees, and planted new trees. A new water heater is needed. An ongoing issue is which parts of the yearly meeting budget are for Maintenance and Planning expenses. Suzanne Siverling had been engaged to provide a maintenance schedule, but before this was completed it was decided that it would be more beneficial acquire a more comprehensive Capital Asset Management Plan, so Suzanne's services have been suspended. The committee is in the process of obtaining bids to provide the Capital Asset Management Plan. It is hoped that the part of this plan dealing with physical maintenance will be finished before winter weather sets in.
5. Minutes 1-4 were read and approved.
6. Chip Rorem introduced the report of the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. Documents related to the committee's work are on-line at the ILYM website for Friends to review.
7. Continuing the Site Envisioning and Development Committee's report, Chris Goode then presented plans for the new buildings. Some adjustments have been made to site placement of the buildings. The dining hall has been moved slightly to the east, and the first dormitory, containing the Clear Creek winter meeting space, has been "flipped" east-west. Several possible positions of the second dormitory are under consideration. Major features of the dining hall and both dormitories were reviewed, including aspects of the design which keep energy consumption down and maintenance costs low. Cost estimates range from \$549,974 to \$604,974 for Dormitory 1, \$491,974 to \$546,974 for Dormitory 2, and \$531,097 to \$575,097 for the Dining Hall, or a total of \$1,570,000 to \$1,724,000, with much of the variation dependent on the choice between propane and geothermal heating. These figures do not include expenses such as furniture, kitchen equipment, architect's fees and wind or solar electrical and heating equipment.
8. Roy Treadway presented his concerns over two reports prepared for the committee, regarding HVAC and geothermal systems, and solar/wind energy in the new buildings. Roy feels the reports are based on very conservative assumptions, and that the case for geothermal, wind, and/or solar energy is much more compelling than the reports indicate.
9. Bob Bartles then presented the committee's draft business plan, which proposes fundraising of \$2.1 million dollars for construction, including fees not included in the cost estimates just reported by Chris Goode, and \$210,000 as a reserve to support operations and maintenance. \$242,643 has already been raised in donations and pledges. There is some possibility of Clear Creek Meeting obtaining a loan of up to \$350,000 which could be put toward construction and repaid with pledged donations over subsequent years.

10. Chip Rorem concluded the SE&D Committee's report by requesting approval to proceed with work toward obtaining bids for construction. This will require the following steps:

One

- Finalize the various conservation, geothermal, solar and wind systems,
- Finalize the layout of the kitchen in the dining hall,
- Begin and complete the construction documents for the buildings,
- Issue the completed documents for bid,
- Receive and review bids;

Two

- Proceed with the second round of fund raising;

Three

- Develop the retreat center business plan and integrate the capital asset management plan into the business plan;

Four

- Finalize acquisition of the parcel of land to the southeast of the south parcel,
- Begin investigation of land to the west of the south parcel.

Chris Goode projects architectural costs of \$35,000–\$40,000, engineering costs of \$20,000–\$25,000, and bidding costs of \$3000–\$5000 for the steps summarized under *One*, above.

Following a discussion in which several Friends stressed the importance of communicating the value we see in this project to the yearly meeting community at large, Friends approve proceeding with these steps.

Friends expressed their appreciation for the committee's work, and especially for the contributions of architects Chris Goode and Chip Rorem.

11. Minutes 5–10 were read and approved.
12. The clerk agreed to write a letter to monthly meetings regarding the new building projects. Monthly meeting representatives are also urged to convey to their meetings the information that members of the SE&D Committee are available and willing to travel to local meetings to present information about the projects.
13. Sandy Huntley reported for the Finance Committee. Friends are reminded that the Finance Committee formulates a budget based on the requests of yearly meeting committees; it does not pass judgment on how committees spend budgeted funds. If committees require unbudgeted expenses, proposals should be made to the Review Committee, which consists of the clerk and treasurer of the yearly meeting and a designated representative of the Finance Committee.
14. Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. A fallen walnut tree on the meetinghouse grounds has been cut up, and the wood stored. Several new trees have been planted. This weekend, the committee has been cleaning up trash and weeds from the grounds. The committee plans to develop a map identifying the various trees on ILYM property, especially memorial trees, with information about the memorialized individuals. The committee is developing recommendations for selection of cleaning products. It also consults with the SE&D Committee on sustainability issues connected with the new buildings and landscaping.
15. Minutes 11–14 were read and approved.

16. Janice Domanik reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee has been working on text regarding meeting structure and organization; it plans to bring the portion concerned with monthly meetings for an initial presentation at yearly meeting this summer. The committee is also revising the section “Friends Manner of Decision-Making”; this will also be submitted at yearly meeting this summer with a request for indefinite approval. Copies of approved sections will be distributed to monthly meetings, posted on the ILYM website, and made available to individuals in bound folders. Members of the committee are available to conduct workshops to discuss texts at local meetings.
17. Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee proposes a change to the description of the Naming Committee, to reflect a change made at yearly meeting last summer. Friends approve.
18. Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee. They propose Kelly Maynard for the Peace Resources Committee, and Mark Amos for the FWCC Section of the Americas (for a 3 year term). Friends approve these nominations with gratitude. The committee seeks the assistance of Friends in filling remaining openings. Bob Bartles has discontinued his service on the Finance Committee. Neil Mesner consents to serving as clerk of Maintenance and Planning Committee; the appointment of a co-convenor would be welcome.
19. The clerk read a written report from the Peace Resources Committee. The committee reminds local meetings that the PRC welcomes opportunities to conduct a Peace Testimony workshop. The PRC also offers to develop the program for the Winter Retreat, as a workshop on non-violent communication. A trained NVC trainer has been identified to conduct the workshop; the estimated cost of the workshop would be \$32 per person, assuming attendance of 40 people. This figure does not include other retreat expenses such as food and lodging.
20. David Finke and Dawn Amos reported for the Publications Committee. The 2008 Minute Book has been published. The next issue of *Among Friends* will be the last for editor Cindy Reynolds; the Nominating Committee is seeking a new editor. Friends interested in helping with editing the ILYM website should contact Dawn Amos. Speaking from the silence, Friends expressed their appreciation for Cindy Reynolds’ consistent, creative, reliable, and faithful service to the yearly meeting in editing *Among Friends*. This work has helped bind Friends together in faith and spirit, though we are many miles apart, and has served as a great tool for outreach. Friends also thanked the Publications Committee and Sharon Haworth for their work in producing the Minutebook, and noted with pleasure that this year’s Minutebook includes the minutes of the Continuing Committee.
21. Minutes 15–20 were read and approved.
22. Tim Narkiewicz reported on behalf of Elke Narkiewicz for the Religious Education Committee. The committee has begun using the *Yahoo!* group “IYMREconnections” as a way of sharing ideas and materials pertaining to religious education. The committee plans to ask Michael Gibson, FGC Religious Education Committee Coordinator to lead a training workshop on Godly Play/Faith & Play. The committee has also been asked to provide training in working with youth groups and anticipates being able to set up such a training session, once they know how many Friends are interested and what they would like to have as a focus. Friends should contact Elke Narkiewicz as soon as possible at enarkiewicz@yahoo.com if they are interested in either workshop. During the ILYM summer sessions the committee plans to hold a “share session” with Friends about successful programs, activities, workshops, lessons, etc. It will be an opportunity for Friends to share what is working in our meetings and communities with religious education.

23. Paul Buckley presented the Field Secretary's report. He has visited Duneland and Urbana-Champaign Meetings. He recently read yearly meeting and Continuing Committee minutes and *Among Friends* for the last 10 years, to bring himself up-to-date on what has happened across ILYM. Paul welcomes invitations to visit and work with local meetings.
24. Elizabeth Mertic raised a concern that events for ILYM teens be better publicized, especially to newcomers to our meetings. Friends offered several suggestions, including more systematic announcing of such events at local meetings, and regular dissemination of information by the Youth Oversight Committee over the ILYM email list.
25. Brad Laird reported for the Chicago South Planning Group. The theme for our 2009 sessions will be simplicity. A Plummer lecturer is still being sought. A panel discussion on simplicity is planned for Wednesday evening. The Thursday speaker is Hollister Knowlton of Quaker Earthcare Witness; the Friday speaker is Joanna Hoyt, a young adult Friend who lives in an intentional community affiliated with the Catholic Worker House movement. Dave Moorman and Sue Davison are coordinating workshops; Patty McMillen worship sharing; and Bob Cordova before-dinner singing. Most food coordinating positions have been filled, but a dishwashing coordinator is still needed; please contact Sue Styer or Patricia McMillan to volunteer.
26. Sharon Haworth reported briefly for the Blue River Quarterly Meeting Planning Group. Most positions have been filled, but so far, no overall site coordinator has been found.
27. Pam Kuhn reported for the Chicago North Planning Group. The F.U.N. Theme will be "Building." About 20 volunteers are needed for children's programming.
28. Minutes 21–27 were read and approved.
29. Friends provisionally accepted an offer to hold the spring meeting of the Continuing Committee, scheduled for March 7, at Urbana-Champaign Meeting.
30. The clerk reported a concern brought by Maurine Pyle, regarding racism among Friends. Friends who share this concern are urged to contact Maurine. It was noted that Quaker Books of FGC is publishing a book on this topic, *Fit for Freedom, not for Friendship*.
31. David Finke reported that Friends Peace Teams is in need of support; Friends are urged to contribute.
32. The clerk reminds Friends that committees should send copies of their minutes to the clerk and to the administrative coordinator to keep on file.
33. Minutes 28–32 were read and approved.
34. The meeting closed in silent worship.