

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - Minutes
 Elaine Martin, clerk
 September 11, 2011

Meeting began with the reading of the following passage from the *2010 Spiritual State of the Meeting Report*:

We have been stumbling over the term "business"—which often means OFFICIAL stuff—and over how we worship on the well-being and concerns and business of meeting. Business meetings have not been centered on the search as much as on getting through the agenda before everyone must scatter to the wind.

We affirm our desire to have divinely guided meetings for worship with a concern for business, in which we make the meeting itself our business, holding it in love and tenderness, and opening ourselves to minister to anything which the meeting as a united body might need for its own nurture, or for its role of witness to the larger community.

1. Worship

2. Worship-sharing on the following query from *SEYM Faith and Practice (Queries and Advices, Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business p.2)*

Query: Are Meetings for Business held in the spirit of Meetings for Worship?

In decision making, do we promote a spirit of love, understanding and patience as we seek unity on an appropriate course of action?

- Do we keep our remarks simple and speak only as the Spirit leads?
- Are we able to unite in good grace with the Sense of the Meeting when our personal desires tend in another direction?
- Do we maintain respect for others, however strongly our opinions may differ?
- Are Meetings for Business seen as positive opportunities for testing and practicing our spiritual life?

3. Minutes of May 15, 2011 approved.

4. Treasurers Report – Stuart Smith: Proposed Sep 2011-Aug 2012 Budget

Item	Amount
SEYM apportionment	\$1,500-1,700
Bolles School contribution (Due Oct 2011)	\$450
Interfaith Council contribution	\$100
FCPJ contribution	\$100
Newsletter	\$100
Pamphlets and subscriptions	\$100
Insurance annual fee	\$370
Total without SEYM apportionment	\$1,220.00
Current bank balance	\$1,464.03

A Friend asked for the Meeting's total income and expenditures for fiscal year 2010-11.

Checkbook deposits	\$1,998
Fixed expenditures, excluding SEYM	-\$1,220
Contribution to SEYM	-\$1,200
Balance	-\$422

The Friend pointed out that if Meeting were to contribute the entire SEYM apportionment of \$1,740, our total expenditures for FY 2011-12 would be \$2,960. Just to give a sense of scale, the Friend said that would come to less than \$300/year apiece for the ten Friends in attendance, and expressed a wish that Meeting contribute the full SEYM apportionment.

A second Friend pointed out that while most SEYM meetings have more members than attenders, the reverse is true for Jacksonville Meeting.

A third Friend observed that new attenders might not be aware of how Friends deal with finance, namely, that we do not take up a collection, but that those who choose to leave a donation or give one to the Treasurer.

After discussion, Meeting approved the proposed FY 2011-12 budget.

5. Literature

Friend June Applen has, with permission of Quaker Press of FGC, edited an excerpt from *Friends and God* by Mary K. Blackmar, in order to create a *Basic Religious Beliefs of the Society of Friends* statement which could be shared with new attenders. She will bring a revised draft to next meeting for business.

The Clerk shared a sample one-page, two-sided introductory handout from Memphis Meeting. June agreed to review the piece to see if something similar could be developed for the Jacksonville Meeting

6. Website – Shannon Palmer offered to be the new website editor for Jacksonville Friends Meeting (<http://www.jacksonvillefriends.org/>). She will draft a new design for next meeting for business.

7. Google Voice (<http://www.google.com/voice>) – Shannon Palmer referred Friends to an article on page 5 of the June, July, August issue of *The SEYM Journal* which describes Savannah Meeting's use of a Google Voice account incoming phone calls and voicemail messages. Friends will investigate this option and revisit the idea at next meeting for business.

8. Workshops by Jerry Knutson – This matter had been deferred from last meeting for business. The Clerk advised Friends that Savannah Meeting was this day discussing the possibility of jointly hosting a Seventh Day workshop, which would include the offer of hospitality for Jacksonville Friends and the possibility of attending meeting for worship in Savannah. The Clerk will communicate further with Savannah. Jacksonville Friends will advise the Clerk individually about which possible workshop topic(s) interest them

9. Meeting Location –Shannon Palmer: Springfield Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR) Council Building Report

Space in the SPAR <http://sparcouncil.org/> building at 1325 Main Street is available for Meeting use for the same \$450/year contribution Friends now give to Bolles School. We would also be asked to contribute monthly volunteer maintenance work in the building, as well as to continue our insurance coverage. There is a large meeting room with kitchen and off-street parking. The space might be available at other times.

No one else uses the building on First Day. Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo) [http://www.coj.net/Departments/Sheriffs-Office/Community-Affairs-and-Special-Events/Citizen-Involvement/Sheriff-s-Advisory-Councils-\(ShAdCos\).aspx](http://www.coj.net/Departments/Sheriffs-Office/Community-Affairs-and-Special-Events/Citizen-Involvement/Sheriff-s-Advisory-Councils-(ShAdCos).aspx) uses space during the weekdays for officers to write reports.

Friends agreed to view the space individually and revisit the proposal to move Meeting at next business meeting. Shannon will advise Friends of the days and hours when someone is present in the SPAR building.

Meeting closed with silence.

Michael Austin Shell
Substitute recording clerk
9/15/2011