

Jacksonville Friends Meeting  
 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - Minutes  
 Elaine Martin, clerk  
 November 6, 2011

*Note: Friends held Meeting for Worship in a downstairs front room of the Springfield Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR) Council building (<http://sparcouncil.org>) at 1321 N. Main Street. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business was held upstairs in the SPAR office.*

1. Worship

2. Query – The Meeting Community

Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Do you share each other's joys and burdens? When conflicts arise, do you seek in mutual forgiveness and tenderness to resolve them speedily? Are you careful of the reputation of others? Do you seek beyond all differences of opinion and circumstances for unity in the divine life?

*(New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, pp. 211-212)*

3. Minutes of October 9, 2011 approved as corrected (Nil Wilkins' email address corrected to [ngwvet@aol.com](mailto:ngwvet@aol.com), and the street address for the SPAR building, to 1321 N. Main Street).

4. Position of Recording Clerk

- Minuted – Meeting approves the appointment of Mike Shell as Meeting Recording Clerk.

5. Meeting for Worship and Christmas Tea – Barbara Vanderhoff offered to organize an event, to be hosted the Palmer's home (date and time TBA), which would include a shortened Meeting for Worship, followed by a children's program with singing of Christmas music, readings, refreshments, etc. Friends agreed to have Barbara proceed with this plan.

6. Meeting Location – Friends continued discernment concerning the SPAR building.

Shannon Palmer reminded Friends that SPAR is offering the use of the building for the same annual donation we now give Bolles School (\$450), plus one day a month of caretaking chores.

SPAR is seeking to rent the two front downstairs rooms, though we can use them until rented. We are welcome to use the upstairs office and kitchenette. Private offices are locked. The front door is kept locked, since this is a private building.

There are parking spaces reserved for SPAR behind the restaurant and shops next door, and SPAR will remind them to keep those spaces open on First Days if we use the building. There are condos for the Shandon proton therapy clinic next to the shops.

Our secondary liability insurance at Bolles is on a six-month cycle (\$370/year), beginning January 2012. If we bought supplemental insurance under SPAR's policy, the rate would be \$168/year.

Friends spoke one by one to express impressions and concerns about using the SPAR building:

- location is a plus
- this neighborhood is a more fitting location for Meeting; the decrease in insurance is a plus
- the liabilities at Bolles outweigh the advantages, so a move would be positive; the need to climb stairs to second floor could be a challenge for some Friends
- a move would be a welcome transition; the opportunity to develop relationships with a new community and another organization would be both a blessing and a challenge
- an opportunity to support a mixed neighborhood which includes assisted living facilities; the stairs are a major negative
- an opportunity for more people to join Meeting
- too much street noise in the downstairs rooms; upstairs is quiet; the stairs are a concern
- the building itself is a plus; the stairs are a concern
- an opportunity for growth, expansion, outreach, touching more lives
- more space for Meeting families with children, First Day School; the stairs a concern, and possibly the noise of the front rooms
- a good possibility, yet there will be other options if this is not the one we choose
- there is positive energy in Meeting this morning; however, we couldn't grow the Meeting in this space; stairs a major negative, not a space for meals and potlucks; we need big enough space for children; not here, keep looking
- Meeting is approaching unity about a move to Springfield, but not sure about this space; stairs are a major accessibility concern, also a safety concern, since there is no other fire exit; SPAR office equipment, etc., expose us to theft liability if we bring in people we don't know.

Friends mentioned other possible locations:

- Operation New Hope <http://www.operationnewhope.com/> space in The Historic Klutho Building, 1830 North Main St.
- Karpeles Manuscript Museum: a private building, and they must pay to have staff present
- Springfield Women's Club: are reluctant to rent space for weekends, especially First Days
- Riverside Women's Club
- American Red Cross building
- Doug and Sue Williams are networking for more options.

The Clerk stated the sense of the Meeting, and Friends agreed

- Friends are definitely interested in moving from Bolles but not sure that this is the building. Meeting will continue to investigate and search for a suitable building,

Friends should share with Shannon contacts with people who might know of other locations. Shannon will advise SPAR that, while not ruling out this location, we will continue to look and risk losing the space to new tenant(s). Our main concern is handicap accessibility.

Meeting closed with silence.

Michael Austin Shell  
Recording Clerk 11/29/2011