

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - Minutes
 Elaine Martin, clerk
 January 8, 2012

Twelve members and attenders present. Meetings for worship and for business were held in the employee lounge of Evergreen Cemetery, 4535 N. Main Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206.

1. Worship

2. Query – Do I respect that of God in every person? Do I search myself for and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and economic conditions? In what ways do I accept and appreciate differences among my friends and associates? Do I avoid exploiting and manipulating others to accomplish ends, however worthy?

Baltimore Yearly Meeting – Caring for Others

3. Minutes of December 11, 2011 – Approved.

4. SEYM 2012 Directory – Three Friends who were present [names?] asked to be added to the Directory. Wendy Geiger will contact a fourth. The Jacksonville Friends Meeting updates and corrections are due to SEYM for the Winter Interim Business Meeting (WIBM).

Meeting Location – discernment concerning Evergreen Cemetery location

Shannon Palmer reviewed the information about using this location for Meeting. Building use is free and the Cemetery cannot take donations or allow volunteer work. There is a security guard on the property until 6 PM on Sundays. The space is adequately heated and air conditioned. The secondary liability insurance rate would be \$168/year. We can use the kitchenette for preparing meals, and we might want to bring a coffeemaker and store supplies in the cabinet.

Friends spoke in turn to share their reactions to the location. Key themes follow:

- The greatest drawback, to a number of Friends, is the lack of any separate space for First Day School for the young people.
 - Note: An agenda item for a future meeting for business is the development of First Day School for adults as well as for young people.
- There were various comments about the occasional noises of the refrigerators and the HVAC system, along the lines that the noises were initially troublesome yet became familiar later. One Friend noted that “sound is to remind you of something, a trigger for thoughts.”
- The surrounding metal cyclone fence was initially troubling to some.
- Several Friends spoke about meeting in a cemetery. Such a setting might put off some visitors, yet many Meetings have cemeteries nearby, yet one Friend recalled past road travels during which cemeteries were the safest places to sleep, a second noted that cemeteries were once called “churchyards,” and a third shared that her parents were buried next to their meetinghouse.
- Friends noted that we need to bring more chairs, and that the present metal folding chairs could use cushions.
- Some Friends said they hear better in this space than in the Bolles library. Others with hearing aids said the hard surface acoustics (echoes) were a problem, though tolerable.

- Friends regretted leaving things they like about the Bolles setting, such as the nearby inlet.
- Friends were generally positive about the new space: “it feels good,” “delighted,” “I like it,” “good vibes,” “precious.”
- One Friend was pleased that moving would allow us to be more inclusive as a meeting.

The Clerk said she felt Meeting was coming to unity, though we needn’t decide today. Friends agreed to continue meeting in the new location, and to revisit the matter of moving at the next meeting of business. The Clerk commended Meeting that we had “made space in our hearts” for those currently unable to attend at Bolles.

5. Treasurer's Report – Friends revisited the question of the SEYM apportionment for 2011, due in February.

- JAX Meeting is apportioned \$1,747, based on 5 members and 12 attenders.
- Friends have previously expressed concern to SEYM about the amount of its budget (\$9,320) which SEYM designates as Donations to Organizations (19 in all).
- The Documents in Advance (DIA) for WIMB include upcoming budget plans to set aside increased funds to help SEYM Friends travel to Quaker events. To compensate, the \$9,320 amount will be reduced by 21.5%.
- The Treasurer proposed sending SEYM \$1,200 for the current year and then beginning to pay quarterly in the new fiscal year.

Minuted (2012.1) – Friends agree to give \$1,200 to SEYM for the FY 2011-12 apportionment. We will begin quarterly payments for FY 2012-13 in June. We will determine later the amount of quarterly payments, based on the new apportionment and on Meeting’s changing circumstances.

6. Jerry Knutson workshop at Savannah Meeting – The Clerk advised that this event has been set for 3:15-9:00 PM on Saturday, February 11th, with February 12th activities including meeting for worship. Jacksonville Friends needing housing for Saturday night should contact Savannah’s Clerk, Sandy Branam at savbranart@gmail.com.

7. Spiritual State of the Meeting Report – Friends met at the Geiger Farm on Thursday, January 5th, for worship sharing on the queries. Wendy Geiger will write and share a draft of the report. Friends should email julalf@juno.com or call 794-1722 if they have further input.

8. Winter Interim Business Meeting and Michener Lecture – The weekend of January 14th-15th. the Clerk will attend Finance Committee.

9. Literature update – Friends were reminded to write a paragraph on the subject “How would you speak to a newcomer” and to send it to June Applen (applenjune@gmail.com, 768-3648) . Other input is also welcome.

10. Episcopal High School Interfaith Dialogue – The Clerk shared a draft of her planned presentation at this event on February 8th. Sue Watson and Barbara Vanderhoff will also attend. Friends discussed the draft and offered input.

Meeting closed with silence.

Mike Shell, Recording Clerk

1/13/2012