

Minutes of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, May 19, 2018

Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clarks Lake Road, Chelsea, Michigan 48118

Attending:

From Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting: Christa Williams, John Williams, Becky Morehouse, Steve Morehouse, Richard Tucker, Joan Sampieri, Nancy Taylor, Thomas Taylor, Jeff Cooper, Peggy Daub, Susan Hartman, Pat Micks, Jim Crowfoot, Mark Hoover, Carolyn Holland, Tom Blackwell
From Birmingham Monthly Meeting: Ellen Barnes, Marvin Barnes, Pam Melick
From Detroit Monthly Meeting: Beverly Safford, Amber Safford, Pam Melick
From Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting: Raelyn Joyce, Jeni Payton, Helen Hebben
From Pine River Monthly Meeting: Mary Takahashi
From Red Cedar Monthly Meeting: Cathy Clifford
From Friends Lake Cooperative Community: Sue Iskenderian

[1] A brief meeting for business began at 9:27 am.

[2] Roll call:

Ann Arbor	-	12
Birmingham	-	3
Detroit	-	3
Grand Rapids	-	0
Holland	-	0
Kalamazoo	-	3
Pine River	-	1
Red Cedar	-	0

[3] Approval of Minutes

The last, short paragraph under 'Re-assessing the purpose of Quarterly Meeting' will be replaced with: "It was noted that Green Pastures is the only Quarterly Meeting within LEYM." With this amendment, the minutes from the October 14, 2017 meeting were approved.

[4] Treasurer's Report

Copies of the treasurer's report for 7/1/2017 – 4/30/2018 were distributed. This shows total expenditures of \$12,183 and an ending bank balance of \$3,776.

[5] Nominations

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Sharon Ottenbreit, Pam Melick and Raelyn Joyce, brought the following slate of officers for the year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Co-Clerks: Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo) and Kris Gaumer (Red Cedar); Treasurer: Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor); Recording Clerk: Tom Blackwell (Ann Arbor); Resident Agent: Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor); Trustees: John Williams (Ann Arbor), Geoff Brieger (Birmingham) and Raelyn Joyce (Kalamazoo); Finance Committee: Joan Sampieri (Ann Arbor), Mark Donovan (Kalamazoo) and a third member to be named. John Williams declined to serve as Trustee. The remaining officers were approved by the Meeting.

[6] Naming Committee

The Clerk will appoint a Naming Committee to form a new Nominating Committee which will be approved at the September Meeting for Business. Once approved, the Nominating Committee may present candidates for the open position of Trustee.

[7] Friends School in Detroit

Joe Mills provided a written report as follows.

The sale of the Friends School property was closed in early March of this year with a final sale price of \$2,375,000. The original purchase price was lowered in negotiations with the purchaser based on the discovery of remnants of debris from prior industrial buildings onsite and limited environmental concerns.

Most of the School's debts have been paid but a few are still being identified or are yet unresolved. All of the personal property has been disposed of and some final decisions need to be made about School records.

The filing of a Certificate of Dissolution for the School Non-Profit Corporation with the State of Michigan is appropriate. However, whether the dissolution can be filed by the Board of Trustees or only by the Quarterly Meeting as a sole member of the School Corporation is unclear. To avoid a potential conflict, the Board recommends that the Quarterly Meeting approve the filing of a Certificate of Dissolution by adopting the following minute. [The minute is shown as item 8 below.]

Once the dissolution form is filed, it can be revoked at any time before the completion of the final distribution of all remaining assets. Before the dissolution can be filed, financial reports need to be submitted to the Charitable Trust section of the Michigan Attorney General's office and the Board is working on compiling appropriate financial reports. Also upon filing, a publication is required giving unknown creditors at least 6 months to present claims. Hence, it will be at least another 8 or 9 months before the School Corporation is ready to make final distribution of its assets.

Respectfully, Joseph Mills, clerk of the Board of Trustees of Friends School in Detroit.

In response to questions, it was stated that the School's bylaws require that the funds remaining after all debts have been paid will be used for educational purposes. The Board is aware of the endowment for the Miyo Bassett Lectureship on Human Rights.

[8] Minute on Dissolution

Toward the laying down and winding up of the affairs of The Friends School in Detroit, Inc. a Michigan Non-Profit Educational Corporation, the current Board of Trustees of The Friends School in Detroit, Inc. is authorized to file a Certificate of Dissolution for the School Corporation with the Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs as it is led to do so.

This minute was approved by the Quarterly Meeting.

[9] Historical Recognition

A suggestion was made that the Quarter request the new owners to place a small plaque on the property recognizing the historical significance of the work done at Friends School in Detroit. Perhaps this could be a state historical marker. The Quarter approved pursuing this.

[10] Michigan Friends Center

John Williams reported that Michigan Friends Center has had an active year of programs organized by a committee led by Patrick Zieske of Chelsea. Topics have included environmental and climate issues, solstice and equinox celebrations and silence and meditation retreats. Most programs are free with donations requested. It is a concern that financially, the Center does not break even, although its current financial position is okay. The Center's Board of Trustees has six members, of which four are Quaker. John Williams has reached his term limit of 6 years and will step down from the Board. Additional Board members are needed.

[11] Michigan Quakers for Environmental Action

Peggy Daub reported that they have an email list with about 80 members statewide. Two issues where they propose lobbying are the Michigan Attorney General's office for decommissioning line 5 and an application before the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality from DTE for a new natural gas fired power plant in Dearborn.

[12] Announcements

Mey Hasbrook from Kalamazoo sent an announcement via Raelyn about a lobbying effort in Lansing on May 22 for sanctuary issues and immigrant rights, and an invitation to participate in the Quaker Arts Center she will organize at the Friends General Conference Gathering in Toledo.

Nancy Taylor mentioned that Olney Friends School in Ohio has completed a successful fundraising, and that they are always eager to find additional students.

Friends are reminded that evening programs at the Friends General Conference Gathering in Toledo are open to all, even if you have not registered for the Gathering. Reverend Dr. William Barber will be speaking on Thursday evening July 6.

The Fall meeting of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting will be on the third Saturday in September, here at Michigan Friends Center.

The Meeting for Business concluded at 10:15 am.

[13] Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples

Following the Meeting for Business, four Friends from New York Yearly Meeting presented a workshop originated by Boulder Friends Meeting called "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples". They also spoke about their long term involvement with the Onondaga Nation near Syracuse, NY. These Friends were Buffy Curtis, Liseli Haines, Jack Manno and Cindy Squillace.