

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Winter Executive Committee Meeting
13 First Month 2023

MINUTES

The meeting began with worship at 7:08 pm.

Clerk Bill Carlie read from Faith & Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting, 1995

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts, which are the leadings of God.

– Britain Yearly Meeting,
Quaker Faith and Practice, 1995

Bill welcomed Friends to the Winter Executive Committee meeting. Brian Humphrey announced Seminole Tribe Fifth Annual Sustainability Conference: Free conference - online - Seminole Tribe Fifth Annual Sustainability Conference: info and registration here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/5th-annual-seminole-tribe-of-florida-renewable-energy-feb-7-9-2023-tickets-406804101017>.

The agenda was reviewed. There were no changes or additions.

The clerk reported that Sharon Fitzpatrick, a former member Sarasota Friends Meeting, may attend Interim Business Meeting on Sixth Day, with several concerns. She has been disruptive at Sarasota Meeting and the meeting has had to issue a trespass warning with local law enforcement for her. Bill has had lengthy correspondence with her, explaining that the yearly meeting is not the arbiter of monthly meeting membership or other issues. When she attended St. Petersburg Meeting on Christmas Day, she frightened some Friends with her behavior. Bill has offered Sarasota any support they need from the yearly meeting, the meeting feels things are in hand. Sharon has written to the yearly meeting office that she plans to attend tomorrow “and bring her fury.” The yearly meeting can affirm that her membership was laid down by Sarasota Monthly Meeting. Friends expressed concerns for Sharon, Sarasota meeting, and the yearly meeting.

Nominating Committee

Ed Lesnick updated the Nominating Committee Report. SEYM still needs a Friend to serve as assistant clerk for the Gathering this year. The other three areas of concern:

- the need for additional members for the Youth Committee,
- additional representatives to FCNL, and, finally,
- SEYM needs to establish a contact for Quaker House.

Friends offered additional updates to their committees.

Friends accepted the report.

Treasurer’s Report

Joel Cook presented the Treasurer’s Report. We are doing well. There is a substantial balance in

international travel funds, since Friends have not been traveling.

Friends accepted the report.

Secretary's Report

Susan Wade presented the YM Secretary's report. Susan is continuing to learn how to update the SEYMquakers.org website, relying less on Vicki Carlie, and continues the daily work of the yearly meeting.

Friends accepted the report.

Gathering Committee

Vicki Carlie presented the Gathering Committee report. She raised the question of whether vaccines would be required, and if the Gathering Committee can have the latitude to drop the requirement if it seems that it isn't necessary.

23WEC01 Executive Committee recognizes that COVID protocols are constantly changing. Gathering Committee is given the responsibility and authority of discerning the vaccine requirements for the 2023 Gathering based on conditions at the time.

APPROVED

Field Secretary for Earthcare

Beverly Ward referred Friends to her report in the DIAs. She added that, based on the nomination by Brad Stocker, Miami Monthly Meeting, she has been accepted to serve on the national advisory board of [Earth Ethics Institute](#) (EEI). EEI works to foster earth literacy, ever-greater understanding of the evolution of the Universe and the interconnectedness of all being. Rooted in evidence-based knowledge, this cosmological context informs a worldview, guides all fields of study, and inspires social change. Earth Literacy recognizes Earth as educator and honors the wisdom found in Earth systems as well as the mystery and numinous beauty within the Universe. Earth Literacy allows us to discover our role within the story of Earth and the Universe, transforming our beliefs and actions to create mutually enhancing, sustainable, resilient relationships with Earth's community of life. The board has only convened one virtual meeting since she joined accepted. They are in the process of planning an annual meeting for late Spring 2023. Friends accepted the report.

Trustees Report

Neil Andersen reported that there is no unusual activity to report. Friends accepted the report.

Half Yearly Meeting

Brian Olsen reported that the 2022 Half Yearly Meeting was successful.

Friends accepted the report.

Worship and Ministry Committee

Rochelle had nothing to add to the Worship and Ministry report found in the DIAs.

Friends accepted the report.

There was nothing to add to the Committee on Ministry for Racism Report found in the DIAs.

Earthcare Committee Report

Brian Humphrey presented the Earthcare Committee Report. They are looking at Earthcare work with economically challenged communities.

Friends accepted the report.

Friends are needed to serve on an ad hoc committee to determine how to use money in the International Worship Group Fund.

23WEC02 Executive Committee approves the Executive Committee/Interim Business Meeting Clerk and the Assistant Clerk approve distribution of the funds from the International Worship Group Fund, consistent with the minuted purposes of the fund.

APPROVED

The numbered minutes were read back.

Friends who were not members of the Personnel Committee departed. Personnel Committee is a sub-committee of Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Dykes, Recording Clerk

Participants:

Deland Worship Group

Dan Vaughen (Orlando MM)
Beverly Ward (Tampa MM)

Fort Lauderdale Monthly Meeting

Brian Humphrey

Gainesville Monthly Meeting

Liz Dykes
Jean Larson

Havana Worship Group

Teresita Dovalpage
Carlos Guzman
Irina Peno
Mercedes Soca

Miami Monthly Meeting

Brian Olson

Orlando Monthly Meeting

Ed Lesnick

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting

John Palozzi

Saint Augustine Worship Group

Dianna Langan (Saint Petersburg MM)

Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting

Bill Carlie
Vicki Carlie
Susan Wade

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting

Neil Andersen
Phoebe Andersen
Andrea Hoskins
Warren Hoskins

Tampa Monthly Meeting

Cece Yocum

Treasure Coast Worship Group

Jack Bradin (Palm Beach MM)
Joel Cook (Palm Beach MM)