

**Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

Minutes

8 Tenth Month 2017

Opening worship

Meeting Clerk began the gathering with a quote:

We are a people that follow after those things that make for peace, love, and unity; it is our desire that others' feet may walk in the same, and do deny and bear our testimony against all strife and wars and contentions. Our weapons are not carnal, but spiritual...and so we speak the Truth in plainness and singleness of heart; and all our desire is your good and peace and love and unity.

- Margaret Fell, 1660

Clerks

Jan Dahm Meeting Clerk.

Cynde Mercer Recording Clerk.

Attendees

Deborah Breedon
Vincent Cobb
Jan Dahm
Lisa Erazmus

Chris Hugues
Dustin Lemke
Karen Kessel
Cynde Mercer

Peter Schmidt
Nancy Triscritti
Nil Wilkins

Business

Minutes of Fifth Month were approved with addition. Minutes of Sixth Month were approved as submitted.

Treasurer Chris Hugues reported that we are currently about \$3300 below budget on donations.

Meeting accepted the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer proposes that we allocate \$5900 for the porch remodel. Meeting approves.

Committee Reports

Communications – Karen Kessel reported that the committee would like to start an email newsletter; bulletin boards and dry erase boards have been added in the old building; we need to generate our own content for social media. Cynde Mercer reported that the rebuilt web site is ready to go live, just waiting for communication with the server owner. Still need content (blog entries, photos, committee info, etc.).

First Day School – No report.

Hospitality and Housekeeping – No report.

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Library – No report.

Ministry and Counsel – Nancy Triscritti reported that the next Friendly Dinners are October 14 and 28. the Getting to Know you program continues on the fifth First Day in October. The meeting approves adopting a family at Christmas. The committee is considering a retreat in the spring. It has been suggested that the Meeting consider changing meeting time to 10:30 AM.

Naming – No report.

Nominating – No report.

Peace and Social Concerns – Jan Dahm reported for Beverly Ward. The committee asks that the meeting consider the draft SEYM statement on Climate Change and Environmental Protection and action (Appendix A); the committee is considering bringing someone to talk about the farmworkers fair food campaign; the committee coordinated nonviolent bystander training in September; the meeting might also consider becoming a sustaining member of Peacebuilding en las Americas which would require a commitment to raise \$500 per year for the work there. Cecilia Yocum could do a presentation next month.

Property – Chris Hugues reported the only hurricane damage was to new trees that needed to be straightened and staked. The committee is waiting on estimates for the accessible porch renovation before applying for grants to help fund the project. The committee is considering adding WiFi to the Meeting House. The committee wants the meeting to consider hiring a weekly cleaning service at a cost of \$50 per week. The committee has considered the issue of the entrance gate and suggest removing the gate and fence out front. The decision will be held over until next month.

New Business

Cecilia Yocum suggested that the Meeting consider having a table at Circus McGurkis on November 11. Meeting approves.

Milestones

None.

Calendar

See TampaFriends.org.

Closing worship

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Appendix A

Draft SEYM Statement on Climate Change and Environmental Protection

Faith Statement on Care for the Earth

It is our experience and testimony that the Light, Life, Love, and Wisdom of God calls us to preserve and protect the Holy creation of which we are part. It is contrary to the Spirit of God to waste or exploit nature on human greed or vanity. We are called to be good stewards of the earth, to live simply and sustainably, with care and reverence for all creation, preserving earth's biodiversity and abundance for future generations.

Therefore, we call on all our members of Congress, members of our state legislatures, our state Governors, and local governments to uphold and enact laws, regulations, and policies that protect our natural environment from pollution, habitat loss, and climate change.

We ask you to uphold the integrity of our environmental agencies and protect public lands. The environment belongs to all of us; it is the role of government to preserve it for future generations and defend it against exploitation by private economic interests.

Urgent Action is needed if we are to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change. All reputable scientists agree that Climate Change is real, and is caused by increased carbon emissions mostly from burning of fossil fuels. This threatens all life on Earth. Our glaciers are melting, our seas are rising, and our ecosystems are suffering disruption from a warming climate, seasonal weather changes, and more pests and diseases. Climate change is already threatening our economy, impacting our food supply, and causing flooding of coastal communities.

We ask our government to support society's transition to clean energy sources, and redirect subsidies from fossil fuel industries to support displaced workers and communities impacted by the transition to clean energy.

Clean energy is the energy of the future. Countries and communities around the world are proving that alternative energy and sustainable practices are not only viable, but can be a boon to economies. Clean and sustainable sources of energy are now readily available and comparable or cheaper in cost than fossil fuels. Solar and wind power create more jobs than fossil fuel industries.

"It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?"

---William Penn, 1693

In faith and unity,