

Minutes for 9/25/04 Business Meeting for Blue River Quarterly

Attending

Bloomington Normal Friends Meeting (BNFM) – Diane Clark-Dennis, Mike Dennis
Clear Creek Friends Meeting (CCFM) – Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner
Columbia Friends Meeting (CFM) – Kathy Cotton, Hank Koch, Lyle Koch, Kelly Maynard, Scott Searles, Melissa Skinner, Robert Wixom
Decatur Friends Meeting/Workshop Group (pro tem) – no one present
Rolla Workshop Group (RWG) – Chris Jocius
St. Louis Friends Meeting (SLFM) – Gladys Kamonya, Margaret Katranides, Ann Overhauser (Scherr), Dawn Rubbert, Henry Scherr, Charles Smith, Denise Smith, David Zarembka
Southern Illinois – Dawn Amos, Mark Amos
Springfield Workshop Group (SWG) – Eve Fischberg
Urban-Champaign Friends Meeting (UC) – Ellen Baranowski, Mariellen Gilpin, Sharon Haworth, Gretchen Hoenes, Peter Lasersohn, Bobbi Trist

Clerk: Mariellen Gilpin,

Recording Clerk (Pro-Tem): Michael Dennis (BNFM)

Opening.

Meeting began with a moment of silence and introductions of the people present. The minutes of spring 2004 Blue River Quarterly meeting were read.

State of Society

The following informal reports were offered:

Bloomington Normal Friends Meeting (BNFM) – Michael Dennis reported that BNFM has shifted to meeting once a month with Clear Creek as part of a regional meeting, once a month with the former Heartland worship group, and the other two weeks a month in homes. There has been a tremendous amount of activity with Bloomington Normal Citizens for Peace and Justice. In September we held a meeting at Bentown to welcome into their community and care Jasmine Dennis born on June 29, 2004 (daughter of Jason Dennis and Jessica Kaupp; grand daughter of Mike Dennis and Diane Clark-Dennis) Kiva Sun Schobernd, born December 3, 2002 (daughter of Zev Schobernd and Kelly Schobernd)

Clear Creek Friends Meeting (CC) – Grayce Mesner reported that we continue to grow. The renovation of the IYM meeting house is on or actually ahead of schedule. We have discussion groups at 10, meeting at 11, potlucks with people from other meeting in the region on the first Sunday of the month. There is a lot of health, vitality and happiness at the meeting.

Decatur Meeting (DC) – Mariellen Gilpin, BRQ clerk, reported that Decatur has laid itself down as a monthly meeting and ask that Decatur, and Springfield (which had been under its care) be recognized as worship groups under Clear Creek. We will look for a report on their acceptance by CC of this at the April BRQ.

Columbia (COL) Friends Meeting – Scott Searles and Pat Wixom reported that their tremendous amount of activity in 2003 doing peace making. During 2004 we have been getting ready for a Sabbath year and are just about done with a slate of officers

and hope to under take it shortly. We will suspend many committees and focus more on spirituality. Others in BRQ commented on the quality of their newsletter.

Rollo - Chris Jocius reported that we have 1 to 5 people coming to meeting, including 2 new faces. We made and put up a sign on Sunday and are reading a book about mediations.

Saint Louis (STL) Friends Meeting – Dawn Ruppert reported that, “our meeting continues to grow as a result of our presence in our community, particularly peace work at our meeting house. Lots of people pick up literature and two couples and a single person subsequently joined the meeting. We had a crop of babies two years ago and currently have four more on the way. We have gone from 1 to 4 people serving on the IYM peace resources committee. We have approved four marriages-three that have been held, one to go. Working on getting rid of mold in the basement and improving the acoustics in the meeting room.”

Southern (So) Illinois Friends Meeting – The Amos’ were coordinating a play and not available to report.

Springfield workshop group – Eva Fischberg reported that the six of us continue to meet, cook for a local shelter once a month, and to be present at local vigils.

Urbana Champaign – Mariellen Gilpin reported that they have moved into the new meeting house and are getting ready for a commitment ceremony for Ellen Baranowski and Bobbi Trist. We have two new families, but also recently lost two long time members by resignations.

With...

Peace Committee of ST. Louis Monthly

David Zarembka reported that last year the focus was on draft counseling. This year we will focus on working with multiple churches to resurrect their peace testimony, even if they are not of the three traditional churches (Brethren, Mennoite, Quaker). Brunei Sundays (and variations) continue to be effective methods of outreach and fund raising. Judy Paxton brings small meal/goodies and meeting then asks for donations.

Invitation from U-C to have BRQ in Urbana in Spring 2005

Friends were very interested in doing this but asked UC meeting to have clearness about how to host families with children. There was also a recommendation to provide a street map, identify local resources, and ask people to register as soon as possible since most people will be staying in UC member homes. The meeting will be 4/15 to 4/17.

Treasurer’s Report.

Grayce Mesner distributed a treasurers report showing that a starting balance of \$2022.99, deposits of \$1998.33, and expenses of \$2292.64 for an ending balance of \$1728.68. The report was accepted.

Partnering Illinois Yearly Meeting (IYM) and Lugari Yearly Meeting (LYM) in Keyna

David Zarembka reported that IYM was proceeding to raise money to finance two young friends from IYM and 2 young friends from Lugari Yearly meeting to attend the World Gathering of Young Friends that is scheduled to be held in Lancaster England in 2005. Now he is asking if BRQ if would offer a recommendation to IYM to partner with Lugari Yearly Meeting. This is one of the 14 yearly meetings in Keyna . David cautioned us that the relationship needs to be one of respect and that need to be conscious of economic imbalance, cultural differences and difference in our workshop styles (they are programmed, we are not). Some of the things partnership might include visiting each other's annual meeting, getting together at international meetings, pen pal exchanges between the children. We would collect funds to help with these joint projects/exchanges. Dawn Ruppert noted that the first step requires a leap of faith but is a good thing to do. Bob Wixom mentioned that some have existing commitments to projects in Costa Rica and would still want to support that as well. Mike Dennis recommended that we encourage the focus to be on service and exchanges among young friends. Friends approved.

Project Lakota

[as revised] Candy Boyd reported that the Project Lakota volunteers and families appreciate the support they have received from BRQ and its Meetings. The work camp was a bit shorter, but had nearly as many people and got as much work done as in the past. They worked on 11 houses over the summer, including 7 with Self Help Project, siding, roofing, and dry wall. She said that to the Lakota, a big part of it is not just what we do, but that we keep coming back. They really hope that we come back and visit. Project Lakota was also able to provide scholarships/travel expenses for 13 F/friends to help come out to participate in the service projects. Greg Woods got a Clarence Pickett award to make a brochure, make a video tape, and work on the Project Lakota 501(c)3 status. He shot several hours of video tape this summer including, the status of Lakota housing and to show recent storm damage. Care and guidance for Project Lakota and its treasury has been consolidated under St. Louis Meeting. New Checks can be made out to St. Louis Meeting with "Project Lakota" in the memo field and sent to Diana Pascoe, 7429 Brunswick Ave, St. Louis, MO 63119, 314-644-5939.

Campaign of Conscious for the Iraqi People

At the time that Quarterly meeting endorsed the "Campaign of Conscious for the Iraqi People" there were concerns that the officers might be liable for sending things to Iraq. Since the sanctions have been lifted, this concern no longer exists and nominating committee is released from this responsibility by BRQ.

Closing

The minutes were read, amended and approved except for the Project Lakota minute which was held over for minor revision (included above). Meeting recognized that Mike Dennis was serving as recorder protem. Meeting was adjourned until 9/26.

Minutes for 9/26/04 Business Meeting for Blue River Quarterly
Continued from prior day

Closing business

Meeting open with a moment of silence.

The revised Project Lakota minute was read and approved.

Meeting discussed and agreed to make a contribution of \$500 to Friends Peace Team/African Great Lakes Initiative that sponsored Malesi Kinaro's visit.