

## **Minutes for 4/16/05 Business Meeting for Blue River Quarterly**

Urbana-Champaign Friends Meetinghouse, Urbana, IL

Attending

- Bloomington Normal Friends Meeting (BNFM) – Mike Dennis
- Clear Creek Friends Meeting (CCFM) – Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner
- Columbia Friends Meeting (CFM) – Robert Wixom
- Decatur Friends Worship Group – no one present
- Rolla Worship Group (RWG) – Chris Jocius
- St. Louis Friends Meeting (SLFM) – Candy Boyd, Margaret Katranides, Dawn Rubbert, Nancy Duncan
- Southern Illinois – no one present
- Springfield Worship Group (SWG) – no one present
- Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting (UC) – Ellen Baranowski, Mariellen Gilpin, Peter Lasersohn, Bobbi Trist, Barbara Kessel

Clerk: Mariellen Gilpin,

Recording: Michael Dennis (BNFM) and Margaret Katranides (STL)

### **Opening**

Meeting began with silent worship.

Michael Dennis read the minutes for the 4/16/05 business meeting. The minutes were approved.

Continuing business:

- A letter was composed and sent to monthly meetings outlining reasons for attending Blue River Quarterly and why it is a good idea for writing a state of society report.
- Dawn Rubbert made the minor revisions to the letter recommending a department of peace and forwarded them to several congressional representatives. She is continuing to follow-up on this and will try to reach all in the IYM geographic area. BRQ took this issue to IYM and encouraged them follow suit.
- Dawn Amos reported that southern small meetings have schedule the fall 2006 BRQ m 9/15-18 at Camp Brimshire, Mo.

### **State of Society**

The following formal reports were offered:

- Bloomington Normal Friends Meeting (BNFM) – no report
- Clear Creek Friends Meeting (CC) – Grayce Mesner reported that they lost Clance Wilson this year which was very hard. They have continued to follow through with Becky Morris, continue to seek parole. Regional meeting...First Sunday.... Nothing has been done yet with Springfield worship group. The renovation continues on the yearly meeting house. Decatur worship group has transferred all of their membership and is meeting with Springfield worship group once a month. We hosted the Midwest FWCC and environment concerns committee.
- Columbia (COL) Friends Meeting – David Finke reported they are in the process of concluding their Sabbath year, have suspended many committees and are trying to focus more on spirituality. Maureen Pile and Margaret Katranides will lead a spiritual retreat to try to recap the year on the last two weekends of 10th month. We have had three weddings conducted under our oversight and this has led to more people being involved with meetings and a new member. Anyone who is interested in getting a copy of their

newsletter should contact David Finke. They are taking up the question of same sex marriage. The alternative to violence project (AVP) has a strong local leadership in their meeting. Please hold Garry Waldron in your heart; he has congestive heart failure himself and has an ailing mother at home. Next week we will participate in the Peace works gathering.

- Peoria Galesburg – no report
- Rolla - Chris Jocius reported that they have a new attender and that their small meeting's average attendance is growing. They are currently reading books by Henry Cabot and Margaret Bacon. A mother and daughter from Rolla attended St. Louis meeting's Attenders Dinner, and other Rolla Friends will be at worship with St. Louis tomorrow.
- Saint Louis (STL) Friends Meeting – They reported that they have up to 26 children in First Day School; the children feel welcome and are gaining an understanding of Quakerism. The population boom in First Day School has meant not enough energy for other needs; mold in main room means they have to meet in social room; this means crowding and other problems with latecomers. Some struggle when and whether to speak. The habit of managing committee work in meeting for worship with a concern for business is problematic. Four St. Louis Friends are serving on the IYM Peace Resources Committee. Four marriages have been approved and three have been held; the fourth couple have moved away. Ongoing work includes getting rid of mold in the basement and improving the acoustics in the meeting room.
- Urbana Champaign – It is a time of renewed health and vigor. Friends enjoyed the triumph of moving into the new meeting house August 15, 2004. New people began attending immediately. A new level of energy and commitment has been needed to sustain the meeting. Some recent attenders have stepped in to help fill the gaps created by the sudden increase in need for workers in the vineyard. The old-timers have felt energized by the new meetinghouse and the new faces. There has been more speaking by more voices. Friends held a commitment ceremony for Bobbi Trist and Ellen Baranowski. It is such a pleasure to hear the sounds of the children. Tuesday night study group held a six-week Quakerism 101 course. Fifteen inquirers turned out for the first meeting.
  
- Southern (So) Illinois Friends Meeting – No one present
- Springfield worship group – No one present
- Decatur worship group – No one present

The reports were followed by a discussion expressing concern about the lack of formal reports from most of the monthly meetings and worship groups. It was pointed out that there is great value and importance to the local meeting in spending time to prepare a State of Society report. Another Friend pointed out that since most people did not come to BRQ, the expectations were not clear or self evident. A Friend suggested that the Quarterly Meeting Clerk might put out reminders in Jan/Feb/March for people to get it done.

### **Treasurer's Report.**

Grayce Mesner distributed a treasurer's report showing that a starting balance of \$1728.68,

deposits of \$2,503.78, and expenses of \$3385.00 for an ending balance of \$847.46. The account has been charged a fee for dropping below a \$1000 balance. The report was accepted. Several meetings have not made their annual contributions yet (\$5/adult resident member is the recommendation). Friends agreed to send out a letter on what BRQ is about, why belong, why contribute. Mariellen formed a group of 4 people (her, Grayce Haworth, Margaret Katranides, Dawn Rubbert) to create a letter to monthly meeting clerks. It was recommended that the letter focus on why Friends should come to BRQ. Other Friends suggested we need a brochure to attract new attenders; the brochure should include reasons for coming (e.g., pictures of kids playing, nature walks, etc). Other suggestions were rotating the meeting location to try to pick up different people, and each of us extending personal invitations to Friends and attenders in our local meetings.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Nancy Jordon and Lori Payton were not present, but relayed by phone that Michael Dennis had been nominated for Recording Clerk and Peter Lasersohn had been nominated for Clerk. Meeting approved their nominations. No one was nominated for treasurer.

## Other Business

- ❑ Clance Wilson. Bobbie Trist reported that she received a call that Clance Wilson had just died. Mariellen read a letter of condolence to Diane Wilson, and the meeting approved sending it.
- ❑ West Salem. A group meeting in West Salem, IL continues to be interested in becoming a Quaker worship group. It was suggested that we put them in touch with the remnant of the Terre Haute, IN Worship Group, if that is close enough for them to meet together. West Salem worshippers have expressed a preference for being connected with Clear Creek, despite its distance, because Clear Creek, like West Salem, is a rural community.
- ❑ Department of Peace. UC asks BRQ to join them in supporting the establishment of a U.S. Department of Peace. They offered a letter which they have sent to their representative in Congress. Meeting approved, and suggested modifications to the letter, including adding the bill number, a line about BRQ's multi-state geographic area, and possibly the line, "If we spent as much money on peace as we do on war, we would not be in Iraq." Friends agreed that it would only require minor modifications and Candy Boyd and Dawn Rubbert were approved to make them and to distribute the letter to US Representatives for the BRQ area. A version of the letter will be sent to BRQ Friends via email encouraging individual Friends and Monthly meetings to send it to their local newspapers. Meeting also recommended that the matter be forwarded to Illinois Yearly Meeting with a recommendation that they approve it as well. A copy will be forwarded to Among Friends to prepare Friends for this item of business and to encourage other ILYM Friends and MMs to act.
- ❑ Location of Fall 2006 meeting. BRQ is considering meeting between Rolla and Columbia meeting; the disadvantage (for some Friends) is distance, the advantage is that by rotating the meeting to other locations we might pick up more people. Trout Lodge is one suggestion, but is expensive. Camp Tambo, in Union MO, may be an option. There is a camp near Hannibal, but a letter from Scott Searles suggested that it may not be suitable or available. Meeting charged the southern small meetings (Carbondale, Columbia, Rolla) to identify site for fall of 2006 that would be inviting to their members and report out in the fall 2005 BRQ meeting (9/23-25). We agreed to leave the exact weekend in September 2006 for the small southern meetings to negotiate with the camp they choose.
- ❑ Project Lakota. Candy Boyd presented a poster with pictures of volunteers and families, a map of the reservation, and summaries of work done by Project Lakota. She reminded friends to read the recent article in Among Friends about Project Lakota and told us about recent efforts to raise \$10,000 to help finish five houses started under HUD funding, which was dropped before the houses were complete. She went on to describe the great need of the people the project serves and multiple efforts Project Lakota has recently done or plans to do in the coming year. Her concern and enthusiasm for the cause is self evident. She requested and received a donation (\$200) from BRQ and a hat was passed at dinner to raise further funds.
- ❑ World Gathering of Young Friends. While the main expenses have been covered for Ruth Raffensperger and Greg Woods, as well as two Young Friends from

Lugari Yearly Meeting in Kenya, there are still funds needed to cover administrative expenses and to help out other youth who cannot afford to come on their own. Meeting donated \$50 towards this end.

- ❑ Float Trip. Bob Wixom reminded people that Sunday was the last day to sign up for the upcoming float trip with the Black River Rats. He also spoke about a 10 mile junior high school Quaker history bike trip planned for IYM. He encouraged parents to encourage their kids to bring their bikes and/or to volunteer to help.
- ❑ Fall BRQ is under the care of St. Louis MM. It will be at Dubois Center in southern Illinois September 23-25, 2005.

### **Closing**

Meeting closed with silent worship.