

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Yearly Meeting Executive Committee Meeting

31 Third Month 2021

MINUTES

The Meeting began with centering worship at 2:38 p.m.

Clerk Phoebe Andersen opened the meeting with two quotes:

The thing is this: that if you had (once a year) a Yearly Meeting . . . for Friends to see one another, and know how the affairs of truth prosper, and how Friends do grow in the truth of God, to the comfort and joy of one another in it . . . all things (by the truth and power of God) may be kept in peace and love, all dwelling in the wisdom of God.

George Fox, 1681

SEYM Faith & Practice, 4th Ed., p 231

The intent and holy design of our annual assemblies, in their first constitution, were for a great and weighty oversight and Christian care of the affairs of the churches pertaining to our holy profession and Christian communion; that good order, true love, unity, and concord may be faithfully followed and maintained among all of us.

London Yearly Meeting, 1718

SEYM Faith & Practice, 4th Ed., p 231

Phoebe welcomed everyone and greeted guests: Riley Robinson of Friends Committee on National Legislation and Marsha Sands of Savannah Monthly Meeting.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned because of technical problems and resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Milestones and Announcements: Tom Fennell passed away on Friday, March 26. Phoebe asked that those with special memories of Tom send the information to Phoebe or Nancy Triscritti so they could write a memorial minute.

Neil Andersen has completed his chemotherapy and is improving.

Liz Dykes is recovering from surgery performed 31, 3rd Month. She was lifted up in prayer for a quick recovery.

Agenda Review: The agenda was reviewed for additions or changes. Jack Braden asked to be added to speak about HUGs (Havana Unprogrammed [Worship] Group) trying to get connected so that Havana Friends could get online to worship with Friends around the world. The agenda was accepted with an addition.

Secretary's Report: SEYM's Administrative secretary will be on vacation from May 16 to May 29. The report was accepted.

SEYM Faith & Practice Committee: Committee clerk, Phoebe Andersen, asked that the yearly meeting extend the Faith & Practice committee sabbatical until the end of Phoebe's service as EC/IBM clerk in 2023. The report was accepted and the clerk's request was APPROVED.

Nominating Committee Report: Ed Lesnick reported that there were no changes to the Nominating Committee report in the Documents in Advance (DIAs) and there are no changes except to amend the extension of Faith & Practice Committee sabbatical. The report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Joel Cook read from the report in the DIAs. The first 3 quarters of FY (June 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021) shows a net loss of \$ \$8,085, which includes \$2,720 in restricted donations for the Field Secretary for Earthcare program.

The General Fund shows a net loss of \$3,139 resulting from General Fund total income of \$38,239 (44% of budget) against expenses of \$41,377 (48% of budget).

Apportionments: SEYM has received \$29,990, 39% of the year's budgeted request of \$76,590.

Personal donations show significant improvement with a total of \$1,545, approximately 77% of the budgeted amount of \$2,000.

Cash Flow Results for Programs: The annual programs for this fiscal year are in progress; the cash flow is incomplete.

- Publications program shows net real loss of \$990, excluding unrealized capital gains of \$3,137 on investments for the program.
- Field Secretary for Earthcare program during this period received \$2,720 in donations and had expenses of \$13,438, yielding a net loss of \$10,718. However, in the beginning of the 4th Quarter, the FSE fund received significant donations of more than \$13,000.

Jack Bradin asked whether SEYM has applied to the federal Paycheck Protection Program for a forgivable loan. Joel reported that he has not applied to the PPP because he wanted to get the yearly meeting's permission to apply for a loan from the federal government. There followed a deep discussion on whether it was necessary for SEYM to apply for the funds. Clerk asked whether Friends were ready to move forward with approval of applying for a federal PPP loan.

21YEC01 Friends approved having the treasurer apply for a federal PPP forgivable loan in support of SEYM employee salaries. **Minute approved.**

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Finance Committee Report: Joel reported for Clerk Peter Schmidt, who could not attend. Two brief pieces of information: Overall, the 2021-2022 budget is 1% lower than last years and the apportionment requests will be down 2%.

The Finance Committee needs clarification regarding the allocation of apportionments. They are likely to increase for meetings in general because last year the SEYM requested apportionments

from meetings and worship groups which are not usually included. Some discussion needs to be had about redefining the apportionment process. The clerk assured Friends that this discussion will occur during Summer EC meeting, which is planned to be held on the 3rd Saturday in June. The report was accepted.

Trustees' Report: Neil Andersen announced that Trustees had no report except that SEYM has received dividends and that their support of programs has been reported in the treasurer's report. The report was accepted.

Gathering Committee Report: The committee has no report for Executive Committee but will report at Yearly Business Meeting. Plenary 6.

Worship & Ministry Report: Nancy Triscritti announced that the 2022 Michener Lecturer will be Nancy Fennell. The committee will bring forward a couple of minutes of appreciation and a memorial minute for Tom Fennell at Gathering. Worship & Ministry is presenting a workshop on Wednesday, the 7th, during the Gathering. The report was accepted.

Youth Committee Report: Cece Yocum requested that those present ask every family from their Meeting or Worship Group to sign up for this year's Gathering because there are a lot of activities and sessions for youth, teens, and young adults. She also reiterated the need for more people to become involved in the Youth Committee whether or not they have a family. She proposed that Youth Committee sponsor two one-day, outdoor events, following Covid protocols in effect at that time, during this summer. One will be held in south Florida and the other in north Florida. Finally, she reported that the committee would like to have Kody Hersh resume his Youth and Young Adult Coordinator duties in June in order to coordinate these proposed events. Kody will work ahead of his resuming his position and has asked that SEYM count that time as comp-time when he does resume his duties on June 15th.

21YEC02 Friends agree that Kody Hersh will resume his duties as Youth and Young Adult Coordinator on 15 Sixth Month, 2021, and that prior to that date Friends agree that Kody will work to coordinate two youth and family events to take place this summer and that the hours spent on that effort will be credited as 1:1 comp-time when he resumes his position. APPROVED

The two proposed summer events are family events. Kody anticipates that a Young Adult event might be planned later in the year.

21YEC03 Friends approve SEYM Youth Committee's proposed two summer events for youth and families to be held in an open-air park in compliance with Covid protocols in place at the time of the events. APPROVED.

Cece continued the report with the news that a member of Palm Beach Meeting was arrested on a child abuse charge (that occurred 16+ years ago) and remains in custody. The alleged abuse occurred before SEYM had its child protection protocols in place. Palm Beach set up a committee to deal with this arrest and the effect on its Meeting. Youth Committee discussed that SEYM should have its own *ad hoc* committee to deal with any ramifications that may arise within the SEYM family. Kody Hersh volunteered to convene the committee if SEYM approves forming it.

Bill Carlie asked what the mission of the committee would be; what is the structure and how it would work. Kody responded that he is deeply moved by this situation. He has in mind a crisis response committee. He has consulted with someone who works with religious organizations in this field.

There followed a detailed discussion about the situation and what SEYM's response should be. Vicki Carlie suggested an *ad hoc* committee convened to determine how SEYM should respond to this issue and to deal with child abuse issues should they arise in the future. The clerk concurred. Clerk then called for three volunteers to work with representatives from Youth Committee and the Committee for Ministry on Racism. Bill Carlie, Susan Taylor, Nancy Triscritti, and Cece Yocum answered the call to work with Kody on the *ad hoc* committee. There will be a called EC meeting during this gathering when the ad hoc committee has determined way forward.

21YEC04 Friends agree that Kody Hersh will convene an *ad hoc* committee to ascertain SEYM's moral responsibility to respond to concerns arising from the presence of one particular child abuse perpetrator at SEYM events in past years and to propose a course of action to an EC meeting called for this purpose. The *ad hoc* committee initially will consist of Kody, Bill Carlie, Susan Taylor, Nancy Triscritti, and Cece Yocum. APPROVED.

21YEC05 Friends agree that Kody Hersh will serve on the *ad hoc* committee in his capacity as Youth and Young Adult Coordinator and will be compensated on a 1:1 basis with comp-time. APPROVED.

The report was accepted.

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report: Susan Taylor could not be present for the Executive Committee meeting. There is a report from CMOR in the Documents in Advance.

Earthcare Committee Report: Bill Carlie gave a brief report on the result of the permit application by Seven Springs Water Company that will increase the water use of a well adjacent to Ginnie Springs. SEYM sent a letter to Warren Zwanka, Director, Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) objecting to the granting of that permit. SRWMD did grant the permit but at a lower rate of usage than the Company originally requested. He ended his report by reminding those present that Earthcare Committee is presenting a workshop at Gathering, Friday, April 9th, at 2:30 p.m., and encouraged everyone to attend. The report was accepted.

Field Secretary for Earthcare: Beverly Ward has a report in the Documents in Advance and announced that anything that needs to be added to her report will be put in writing and presented at the Gathering meeting. The report was accepted.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee: Phil Stone announced that there was nothing to add to report in the Documents in Advance except that they have a workshop with Friends Committee on National Legislation at Gathering, Thursday, April 1st, at 7:00 p.m. The report was accepted.

Friends Peace Teams Report: Cece Yocum referred the Executive Committee to the report in the Documents in Advance. The report was accepted.

Havana Unprogrammed [Worship] Group Report: Jack Bradin asked everyone to read the report in the DIAs. He said that several international Quaker groups were working with Havana Unprogrammed [Worship] Group to increase its connection with Quakers outside Cuba and added that there will be a discussion regarding HUGs and how Cubans can join in Friends Meetings, at 3:00 p.m., the first First Day after Gathering, the 18th of April. The report was accepted.

The Yearly Meeting clerk, Bill Carlie, encouraged everyone to attend the Meetings and Worship Groups forum at 7:00 p.m. There will be discussions concerning the details of how meetings will resume in-person attendance.

The 2021 Executive Committee ended with silent worship at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Wade, Assistant Recording Clerk
Phoebe Andersen, EC/IBM Clerk

These Friends were present for all or part of the Meeting:

Fort Lauderdale Monthly Meeting

Brian Humphrey

Gainesville Monthly Meeting

Jean Larson

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Riley Robinson

Orlando Monthly Meeting

Jade Eaton

Kody Hersh

Chris Laning

Ed Lesnick

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting

Jack Bradin

John Palozzi

Saint Petersburg Monthly Meeting

Bill Carlie

Vicki Carlie

Susan Hefte

Dianne Langan

Susan Wade

Savannah Monthly Meeting

Marsha Sands

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting

Neil Andersen

Phoebe Andersen

Warren Hoskins

Andrea Hoskins

Susan Taylor

Tampa Monthly Meeting

Karen Putney

Nancy Triscritti

Beverly Ward

Cece Yocum