

MINUTES

GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING

21st Day, 5th Month, 2022

1. Clerk Elliott Brannon opened the meeting at 10:00 am. The following Query, related to Environment and Sustainability was read:

When do I take time to deepen my appreciation of being a member of the wondrous community of life on Earth? Do we work to improve the sharing of resources with everyone, recognizing that our patterns as consumers in the industrialized world are a major factor in the declining health of the earth's life support systems? - Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting

2. Roll Call

Ann Arbor-6, Birmingham-3, Detroit-2, Grand Rapids-1
Holland-, Kalamazoo-1, Red Cedar- 4

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the 18th Day, Ninth Month, 2021, were read and APPROVED

4. Treasurer's Report

Jeff Cooper presented the Treasurer's Report for the Year 7/01/21-5/06/22. Income from membership was \$ 8,973.00, with no other income. There were no expenses other than the routine recipients (see attached Report) totaling \$ 9,670.00. This left a Deficit of \$ 687.00 and an actual Balance of \$4,024.06 for the year.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the clerks

5. Draft Budget

The Draft Budget for fiscal 2022-2023 was presented by Bob Orr:(see attached). The budget was constructed on the principle that a balance of at least \$ 3,000. be maintained. Income from Assessments will be impacted by a reduction in membership for Red Cedar MM from 82 to 53. After some discussion, the following Contributions to Organizations were recommended:

Michigan Friends Center	\$ 1,200
AFSC Michigan Office	\$ 8,050
Alternatives to Violence	\$ 200 (+100 ?)
Institute for Global Education	\$ 200

A \$ 34/member rate is proposed. Maintaining the current level of support for AFSC Michigan was supported.

6. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee Report was presented by Raelynn Joyce (K).(see attached).

Kevin Miller, (AA), will serve for 1 year as co-clerk along with Maryann Concannon (RC).

Joe Mills (K) will serve for 1 year as Recording Clerk

Jeff Cooper (AA) will continue to serve as Treasurer as well as Resident Agent.

Mark Donovan (K); Robert Orr (D); and John Williams (AA) will continue to serve on the Finance Committee as well as Trustees.

Peggy Daub (AA) will continue on the Nominations Committee.

Jamie Archer (RC) will continue on the Nominations Committee.

Ellerie Brownfain (BMM) has volunteered to be on the Nominations Committee.

April Allison will continue as Communications Coordinator.

7. Michigan Friends Center

Richard Tucker presented an update on the operation of Michigan Friends Center (attached)

He highlighted the following: The MFC continues discussions with the Friends Lake Community (FLC), on the possibility of a merger. FLC now has 200 members, mostly non-Quaker. Plans for the future of the MFC must include a strong environmental emphasis. Saad Shah, a member of MFC board, has created a fine website for the Center, (MFCenter.com). Patricia Pennell,.(RC), volunteered to act as an administrator for the website, which was welcomed.

8. Michigan Quakers for Environmental Action

Peggy Daub presented an update on MQEA activities in 2021-22. (See attached) Zoom sessions with members of the Michigan Legislature were undertaken to discuss issues such Enbridge Line 5 threats, negative legislation on solar power, and Polluter Pays legislation. Several mailings have sent encouragement for people to send comments to State and Federal legislators. Efforts continue to mitigate DTE's negative activities on solar power. Richard Tucker supplemented the discussion by including his efforts on Green Energy and Water Quality. Not much is happening on these issues because of pending elections.

9. Announcements

Peggy Daub, as a member of the Earth Care Committee of AA, posted a report on the First Peoples Program in the Quarterly Report. Past land ownership is a major effort in this work. The AA website is a place to make contributions on this issue.

Maryann Concannon announced the upcoming Picnic in the

Park in Battle Creek, Sunday, August 7, and the Fall GPQM Meeting, possibly at MFC, possibly a hybrid meeting, on Sept.17th.

Presentation:

Jane Bush (RC), shared her experience as a small-scale farmer operating a single-woman business. After she bought a 40-acre apple farm, Apple Shram Orchards, from her aunt and uncle in 1987, she set about making a living, without an extensive farming background. Even with 1200 apple trees, it was difficult work, because the apples were not of sufficient quality to sell directly, and had to be converted into apple products like apple butter. Naturally a market for such products also had to be established. She found another possibility in marketing fresh eggs, which she obtained from nearby Amish farmers. She opened a Farmer Egg Co-op in 1997. Eight farmers joined, and she now has 3 employees and is the manager, She has also added sheep to her operation, who happily eat the fallen apples, and contribute to keeping down pests! Where there is a will, there's a way!

Respectfully submitted
Geoff Brieger
Acting Recording Clerk