First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta

Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting

12:30 p.m., Sunday, August 21, 2016

FUUSM RE building- parlor

**Attending:** George Banziger, Chris Jacobs, Patty Troisi, Cindy Taylor, Ralph Olander, Kelsey Jacobs, Andrew Clovis, Dawn Hewitt

Committee chair **Dawn Hewitt** led the meeting

**Agenda**

*Minutes of the July meeting* were approved.

*Recap of August 19 Just Dinner*: Eleven people attended. Food was delicious and righteous, and discussion of genetically modified organisms in the food supply was enlightening and balanced. There is no evidence that GMO harms human health, and in fact, GMO rice is providing Vitamin A to a region of Malaysia where that nutrient is naturally lacking. But some manufacturers of herbicides, such as Monsanto, are forbidding farmers from saving seeds; it’s difficult for farmers to grow non-GMO crops in areas where other farmers are growing them because of herbicide spray drift; some weeds are becoming herbicide resistant. Also, labeling: Don’t consumers have a right to know whether GMOs are in the food? The next Just Dinner should be planned for the third Friday in November, but that will be Friday before Thanksgiving. Last year, we didn’t have one in November. Discussion tabled for September’s GS meeting.

*MOVCA update*: Cindy Taylor reported on the Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action’s involvement in Parkersburg’s Homecoming Parade on August 20. Members of the group handed out small flyers and stickers to parade spectators. They were warmly and politely received! The GSC and MOVCA jointly plan a showing of the movie *Groundswell Rising*, about fracking, at 7 p.m. Saturday, October 15, in the FUUSM Fellowship Hall.

On Sunday, August 28, from 1-4 p.m. there will be a potluck picnic for all green-minded citizens, hosted by Dr. Wayne Dunn at his home at 968 Chesterville Road, Mineral Springs, WV. Bring your own dishes and silverware, and aim for a zero-waste picnic! Also bring your swimsuit. The group is also coordinating letter writing, and seeking volunteers to write letters to the editors of local newspapers. Their goal is to have one pro-environment letter published every week.

Andrew Clovis has met with several WV legislators. Cindy recommended a CSPAN documentary on bringing together issues of climate change and jobs. George Banziger recommends a *New York Times* story about jobs in coal country. Miners need to face a changing economy with new skills, and communities need to face a changing climate and a changing economy.

*Volunteer for September order of service Green Tips*: Chris Jacobs volunteered. He has a database full of ‘em! He’ll send to Chris and Ralph. We really should collect and compile all the Green Tips, and maybe add them to the revised version of *It’s Easy Being Green*!

*Other items*: Cindy said a coal gassifcation plant is being planned for Vienna. It claims to be near-zero emission, and ultra environmentally friendly, with new technology. MOVCA is researching it. For more information, see TCGEnergy.com

Dawn Hewitt reported that the FUUSM anti-clutter committee has suggested that GSC doesn’t really need to have four copies of our Green Sanctuary Certification plaque on display in the fellowship hall. Dawn volunteered to talk to Sue Price and/or Wendy Morey about it, and to suggest that we hang one in the RE building, one upstairs in the church lobby, and one in the fellowship hall. The anti-clutter committee is also trying to make space in the fellowship hall, and is wondering if we could downsize the table where we collect batteries, CDs, CD cases, & etc. Perhaps house all recycling collection in the kitchen? Perhaps replace the table with shelves? Dawn suggested that we support the anti-clutter committee’s efforts to make the fellowship hall space more attractive to the public while preserving our committee’s recycling efforts. Let’s work together on common goals, and not take anything personally. Let’s be flexible and cooperative, especially since we’re all on the same side.

The next Green Sanctuary Committee meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. September 18. Heather Royer will chair the meeting since Dawn will be working out of town. But Dawn will prepare the agenda.

The meeting adjourned around 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Hewitt, stand-in scribe