

FIC Board Meeting: Minutes

October 30- November 1, 1990 • Ganas Community, Staten Island, NY

TUESDAY: Session One - Morning Laird (F); Betty (R)

Present: Laird Schaub, Sandhill Farm(MO); Timothy Ash, a community seeker: Julie Grieve, Ganas (NY); Caroline Estes, Alpha Farm (OR); Geoph Kozeny, Community Catalyst Project (NAm); Elke Lerman, Ganas (NY); Ira Wallace, Twin Oaks (VA); Harvey Baker, Dunmire Hollow (TN); Gene Gordon, representing Bob Brown, Kidstown (CA); Joe Peterson, Eugene (OR); Dan Questenberry, Shannon Farm (VA), Betty Didcoct, Skysong (WA).

LOGO: (Geoph)

We are asking various people to work on logo design. Harvey presented two ideas as a starting point. We want to have a number of possibilities to chose from at the spring '91 meeting. We considered approaching this as a "competition" with a \$50 prize for the winning design.

Geoph will follow up on logo work with Rick Bickhart (the Directory's cover designer), and with a graphic artist at USI. **Harvey** will work with **Dan** to get a notice into the next FIC newsletter, and work with **Geoph** to identify any additional people this info should go to. **All:** submissions should be sent to Harvey by February 14, 1991. He will send out copies to Board members prior to our next meeting.

PAMPHLET SERIES: (Joe)

To start with we might look at back issues of *Communities* magazine and work with the ideas and articles which come out of the Directory. We could talk to Pendle Hill (the Quaker conference center in PA) for guidance. We will aim to have a pamphlet series available by the time the next Directory is out. **Dan** will visit Pendle Hill to get ideas and hints about how best to produce a pamphlet series. For the next newsletter he will prepare a blurb requesting articles for such a series. **Caroline & Joe** will screen the Directory and back issues of *Communities* and other magazines for articles that might be used as pamphlet material.

Suggestion: each pamphlet should include a standard paragraph on FIC, a suggested reading list, resource referrals, and a request for feedback and leads.

At the fall '89 Board meeting, an editorial review committee was created for this project: Dave Thatcher, Laird Schaub, Geoph Kozeny, and Albert Bates. At the spring '90 meeting that committee was reconstituted as follows: Jim Estes, Arun Toke, Russell Mills, Dave Thatcher and Katheryn Sutter.

NEWSLETTER: (Dan)

One issue of the newsletter has come out since our spring meeting, and Dan will edit a second one soon after this meeting. As agreed at the last Board meeting, the newsletter (accompanied by the brochure) will initially be sent to all the communities listed in the Directory, and to people who inquire about FIC.

We expect 4 issues per year (two featuring a summary of the most recent Board meeting, and two which contain general information about FIC and an announcement of the next scheduled Board meeting). The Center will print the newsletter from camera-ready copy supplied by the editor. **Exec Committee** will select target publishing dates. **All:** Submission of graphic material (drawings and photos) is encouraged.

Suggestion: The newsletter should include short features about new FIC member communities.

Down the road, we will need to re-examine the role of the newsletter in light of our decision to explore becoming the publisher of *Communities* magazine.

TUESDAY: Session Two - Morning Harvey (F); Betty (R)

DIRECTORY PROJECTED FINANCES [based on rough estimates] (Laird):

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Income</u>	
production	4K	6,000 issues @ \$6 = 36K
printing	16K	1,000 issues free to subscribers
shipping	1K	These figures account for very little of our labor expenses.

postage	2K	After paying off all loans taken out to produce the
advertising	<u>2K</u>	"K" = \$1,000 Directory, we have 2K committed to repayment of
	25K	an old CESCI loan to CPC.

Reimbursements: We will give one free copy to each author (regardless of number of articles authored). *Next meeting:* we will consider the possibility of giving each author an honorarium of \$25 per article.

Audit: In light of past difficulties in getting accounting information from Charles, magazines sent to him will be credited as if he has received income equal to the retail price; therefore no accounting is necessary from him until that amount exceeds what is owed to him. *Caroline* will send Laird a sample audit form. *Laird* will contact an outside auditor prior to the next Board meeting, in order to determine what is necessary to create clear audit trails.

FIC RELATIONSHIP TO COMMUNITIES MAGAZINE

Split of Profits: According to our contract with CPC, the profit split will be negotiated. In the event of failure to reach an agreement, this split will be 50-50. Our negotiations need to take into account our future relationship with the magazine, which is an open question at this time.

Concerns in our negotiations: As early as possible we need to set up at Stelle a method for keeping accurate records of new subscriptions and renewals. An alternate plan would be to have all of these requests forwarded to Sandhill. We also need to be aware of Charles' expectation that we publish 4 times per year... probably twice as much as we (or he) can commit to in the short run.

Committee: *Laird, Geoph and Betty* will investigate the exact nature of the magazine's old debt, get data on what it cost to publish recent issues of the magazine, explore how FIC can coordinate publishing by dividing up and identifying who could do each component of the work (editorial, subscription fulfillment, marketing, advertising) and who could be managing editor, with compensation for that person. *Betty* will prepare a report for the next board meeting.

MARKETING THE DIRECTORY:

Geoph is compiling a list of names of the people who should be sent review copies. Give him any suggestions for additional ideas.

Mildred of Ganas will work with Laird and Geoph on marketing ideas.

All communities listed have been contacted recently about purchasing copies of the Directory.

Suggestion: Offer Directory to new FIC members at reduced cost. (Discuss under membership drive.)

Follow-up: We need a system for handling all responses, changes, and new community listings which will be generated by the Directory. *Laird, Geoph, and Dan* will work out a system for this.

NEXT DIRECTORY:

The Board intends to do a full evaluation of this project, but deferred it until the spring meeting to allow feedback from users. **Exec:** start thinking about a team for the next Directory, and make selections by the spring meeting. *Dan* will put a notice in the newsletter soliciting volunteers for this team. (Cont'd.)

We will consider including a feedback card in the next Directory (if a reprints is necessary) so we can pinpoint its market more accurately. *Joe* will check with Don Pitzer to see if there is a way to insert such a card into the first batch of Directories as they go out from the Center.

TUESDAY: Session Three - Afternoon Betty (F); Geoph (R)

Guest: Jerry Minsk arrived (formerly of NCACS, now doing his own newsletter: AERO Gramme)

REPORTS ABOUT NETWORK GROUPS:

FCE: Harvey reported that our relationship with FCE is still growing. Ginny Bartter, on the FCE staff, continues to be an interested and supportive contact person. Harvey led a session on contemporary communities at one of their conferences, though only one of their staff people attended. Harvey thinks we should still work closely with them, trying to offer a bridge between their introductory workshops and contemporary groups. Their process helps many people get beyond their internal stress and puts them in a frame of mind to be open to new ideas... but FCE facilitators aren't trained to guide participants beyond that point, and lack familiarity with groups outside of their own organizations. Developing our definitions of community terms might help to identify our common ground, and we can also gain some credibility through our association with the CSA. **Harvey** will check with Ginny Bartter about her interest in attending the next FIC board meeting.

In FCE workshops, people who are inspired to seek community in their daily lives aren't given the necessary bridging tools, and a great deal of frustration results. In contrast, Christine Morgan, an experienced communitarian from Celo, attended one of FCE's workshops and was very inspired -- she hopes to become trained by FCE so that she can facilitate the development of "unity" at Celo through that process.

Faithist Community: Harvey attended a Faithist Conference in Georgia this summer. Representatives from Sirius and Celo were also present.

NASCO: Geoph facilitated a formational meeting of their West Coast Chapter, and Debbie Altus (Sunflower House in Lawrence, KS) will promote FIC at the annual NASCO conference held in Ann Arbor next week. It would be valuable to sign up NASCO as an endorser of the '93 conference/celebration. We should also consider having a NASCO representative on our Board.

Geoph & Harvey will try to make contact through their personal connections, and will invite participation at our next FIC Board meeting. Geoph may offer his slide show for their '91 NASCO Conference, and we will also encourage them to make presentations at the '91 CSA Conference and at our '93 gathering.

Bioregional (Caroline): The NABC has changed its name to TIBC (Turtle Island Bioregional Congress). Their fourth biennial conference was held in Maine this summer, and the Congress has taken its first big step in creating an organizational structure -- having approved and funded a Steering Committee and a central office in Dallas, TX.

Folks in the bioregional movement already think of themselves as being in a community -- or at least enough so that the drive to participate in the Communities Committee is not as strong as that for committees engaged with "hotter" issues. FIC should consider taking on the responsibility of focalizing/facilitating that committee next time (to be held in the Southwest in '92). **Agreement:** For each of our Board meetings we will extend an invitation to the TIBC Steering Committee member nearest our meeting site. **Exec** will write to their headquarters in Dallas, inviting a variety of options -- especially encouraging their participation in FIC, and our participation in their conferences. We will also make certain that all of our affiliate organizations and all of the groups discussed today are added to our regular mailing list.

Other Groups: Jerry Mintz described many of the alternative groups he has visited over the past few months, in conjunction with his work promoting home schooling and alternative education. He often takes children along on his visits. His work is now sponsored by SoL's Education Committee.

TUESDAY: Session Four - Afternoon Betty (F); Geoph (R])

Utne Reader Conference (Written report submitted by Arun is attached.)

Greens (Caroline): The Greens met in Boulder for five days this summer to come up with a national platform. For a while it seemed that everything was going to fall apart, but -- with serious work -- many planks came together at the end. Some planks were adopted unanimously, and many others were approved through balloting, using a 75% approval standard. A few key planks remained unresolved, yet the platform is largely done, and very radical when viewed in the framework of traditional U.S. politics.

The approved platform is going to be edited for style. Once that work is done, and before implementation, Caroline recommends that FIC review the platform and consider offering input on the

community plank. Both Caroline and Joe are actively involved with the Greens on the national level. While Caroline must remain separate from content to preserve the neutrality of her role as facilitator, Joe is well-placed to offer any input we agree to offer. (A copy of the draft community plank is attached.) **Caroline** will send Greens & TIBC mailing lists to CCS for addition to our outreach mailings.

Fourth World: At their annual assembly this summer, Caroline ended up being the only presenter on the topic of communities, and was disappointed that the group was more interested in having her lecture than participating in a dialogue among peers. **Caroline** will send Laird a list of the people who attended the communities track at that assembly (it was well attended). **Laird** will use it for marketing Directories. **Exec** will write to John Papworth (founder of Fourth World), expressing appreciation for his work and offering our help to create a track on community for future 4th World Assemblies.

School of Living (Dan): Their \$160,000 revolving land trust fund is now starting to move. Two of their members have been developing a model which falls midway between long-range trusting (anti-speculation, community ownership) and contemporary market practices. FIC should be aware that this fund is available for creating new community land trust holdings (including long-term investment, especially in the Mid-Atlantic region).

TUESDAY: Session Five - Evening Discussion Geoph (F); Laird (R)

Topic: what's happening with TIBC and the Greens, and how can/should intentional communities and FIC work with them to further mutual aims?

Caroline gave an overview of the bioregional and Green movements in North America. Bioregional thrust: we need to pay attention to where we live; the physical and climatic realities of place. Peter Berg and David Haenke were among the original framers of the bioregional viewpoint. The first bioregional congress was in Kansas City in 1984; the second in Michigan in '86; third in B.C. in '88; and the fourth in Maine in '90. The Southwest is next (in '92), followed by Mexico in '94.

Following their principles, bioregionalists organize according to geography and climate. North America divides (according to this analysis) into about 50 major bioregions. The boundaries between bioregions is soft; there are transition zones.

In Caroline's particular bioregion, Cascadia [about 500 miles north to south, by 75 miles east to west], there are 53 subdivisions, which are planning to meet as a congress soon. Cascadia expects to be the first bioregion on the continent to organize a regional congress.

Bioregionalism places environmental concerns at the top of the political agenda, and its intent is to create a shadow government

An illuminating exercise is to set aside all the food in a household which is not produced in the bioregion in which it is consumed. This often means eliminating the vast majority of one's food.

Bioregionalists ask: if you import out-of-region food, what is the impact on local agriculture? What are the full environmental costs of one's out-of-region purchases?

For a theoretical piece, read Kirkpatrick Sale's Dwellers in the Land. Re the Greens, the seminal thinkers are the co-authors of Green Politics: Fritz Capra and Charlene Spretnak.

The initial Greens convention in 1984 resulted in the creation of committees of correspondence. Their work culminated in a continental convention this past summer which developed a national party platform based on the work of a central committee which has been meeting every three or four months. The political viability of Greens as a third party in the U.S. is about to be tested.

In the last two years the Greens have relied primarily on SPAKAs (Strategy and Policy Amendments in Key Areas) to refine the platform. These suggestions (amendments) were digested first at Eugene in June, '89, and worked into a 75% majority-approved platform at Boulder this past summer. Eleven planks were passed unanimously in plenary; three were rejected. The remainder were subjected to written ballot, paragraph by paragraph. The ballot ran to eleven pages and took two hours to fill out! There were 220 paragraphs under consideration. The resulting platform is to be printed in the *Green*

Letter and then sent to a style (read: no content adjustments) editor to meld it into a smoother document.

A decision has been made to separate clearly two efforts: local politics and national Politics. Mildred asked about the substance of the struggles. Her experience in political work has been that whatever is put together (through the very best of process and facilitation) invariably comes apart. Then what? If you cannot cooperate and stay together for the most part, what can you build? "What are the Greens trying to create?" (as opposed to what are they against).

Caroline believes there is a vacuum in U.S. politics today that either the Greens will fill or no one will.

Geoph notices a parallel between the Greens and the intentional communities movement, and others agree. Mildred's concern is people's difficulty in getting beyond ego concerns to achieve a co-creative relationship. She isn't worried about the presence of conflict, but rather about the lack of the ability to hear one another, or the tendency to force personal opinions on others.

Betty's perspective is that people need to learn to hear one another, and to try to reach decisions in a more inclusive way. In fact, she feels it is one of the most hopeful signs in the culture (or at least in the counter-culture). Laird concurred.

Caroline suggested that each community should consider what role to play in supporting the politics of Green and bioregionalists. Mildred observed that most communitarians appear to fit comfortably within the value umbrella that the Greens have articulated. Joe's sense is that most communitarians are apolitical (at least when compared to the Greens he meets with).

Harvey noted, and Caroline agreed, that community people seem to affiliate more easily with bioregional issues than Green ones (despite the overlap). He suspects that this represents an affinity more for environmental concerns than political ones.

Bruno admitted that he felt lost in trying to imagine his contribution to national or continental political movements. He feels completely involved in addressing the basic and universal problem of how people communicate and work together clearly and effectively. Joe and Elke agreed that communitarians tend to be fully engaged at home, and are invariably stretched even to do networking -- much less to become fully engaged in someone else's issues and conflicts. Even so, there appears to be agreement that significant, supportive contributions can be made, without heavy investments of time and energy.

Ira expressed concern about whether these continental political groups are looking deeply enough at assumptions and unconscious choices... sometimes the way they go about doing their work perpetuates (albeit unwittingly) the predominantly white, middle class constituency. She wonders if efforts to include the consciousness of non-humans (as in the bioregional model) may be stronger than efforts to include people of color.

Caroline asked: How much diversity can we stretch to accommodate? Who will be present to ease the stretch? Can participants help each other? Are the constituencies moving toward each other?

WEDNESDAY: Session Six - Morning Caroline (F); Geoph (R)

SPEAKERS BUREAU (Laird): We have only a few inquiries so far, but we expect that a lot more interest will be generated by mention of the Bureau in the Directory. Our largest audience will likely come through our growing academic connections. Laird would like to see it coordinated through CCS, but doesn't sense that the staff there could handle it at this point. He also feels that more work is needed to set up the Bureau's various mechanisms. **Exec** will work with **Laird** getting the rest of the process in place, and will come up with a plan for implementation. **Betty** will administer the program through next fall.

COLLEGE STUDIES & OTHER OUTREACH POTENTIAL (Laird): Don Pitzer has been wanting to develop curriculum for communal studies, and create opportunities for on-site thesis work about communities. Programs on campus may be a way to support guest lecturers (lecture fees or honoraria could provide some travel funds) and could facilitate getting Board members to the Center.

Don is also interested in creating programs for continuing education curricula and for nursing homes and prisons. NASA is looking at the dynamics of groups working in close quarters over long periods of

time, an essential factor in their space station program. *Exec* will draw up proposals for Don. *All* are encouraged to look for entrées into NASA, and we'll reevaluate the possibilities at the spring Board meeting. *Exec* will also gather information about existing community-based college study programs (such as those at High Wind and Sirius).

FACILITATION SERVICE (Laird): Caroline is planning to offer a masters class in the fall of '91. No specific details have been worked out yet, and the group involved is not seeking any official association with the Fellowship at this time.

CESCI (Dan): This community business loan fund has had no new board members since 1985. Faith Morgan assumed the role of CESCI president last spring, and they are looking for a new treasurer. They would consider making the 501(c)(3) status available to FIC, and are looking at several groups -- including the Fellowship -- who might take over the loan fund. Dan has drafted a letter to CESCI suggesting that they use the interest on that fund (\$2,000-\$3,000/year) for grants to support FIC operations at CCS for at least two years. We definitely need a 501(c)(3) to do the gathering, but the CESCI option isn't time-critical because TIES-USA can provide that status. It might be possible for us to assume responsibility for the CESCI Board, while adding one or more of them to our Board to provide continuity and oversight.

Dan & Laird will suggest to CESCI that we plan a joint session in Yellow Springs in conjunction with our spring meeting. In the interim, *Exec* will examine the possibilities in much greater detail, create a concrete proposal, poll all FIC board members for approval, and if accepted, present it to the CESCI Board.

WEDNESDAY: Session Seven - Morning Betty (F); Laird (R)

1993 COMMUNITIES GATHERING (Joe):

Time & Place: Joe researched prospects for hosting a June '93 gathering either at Evergreen State College or at the University of Oregon. Available dates are already limited because commitments are made years in advance -- even when regular classes are not in session.

Evergreen, on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State, seems to be the best choice. Their staff is well-informed, cooperative, and enthusiastic about the possibility of hosting. The gathering will more or less have the run of the campus, and the focused attention of the college conference staff. There is on-site camping space which opens up a low-end cost option for participants -- an important consideration. Evergreen is only 75 minutes from the Seattle airport, yet is isolated enough for a sense of defined space. It is currently available for the period June 20-30, 1993. Joe guesses that the deposit is probably on the order of \$7,000-10,000 (estimated 10% of total bill), though this may be flexible. Evergreen's literature does not specify the size of the deposit -- only that one is required when signing the contract to reserve the space. Caroline reports a very satisfactory experience at a Permaculture conference she attended at Evergreen.

Slight drawbacks: there's a greater chance of wet weather in Washington than in Oregon this time of year; and there is state sales tax in Washington, while there is none in Oregon. **Decision:** We selected Evergreen State College as the site, and June 23-27, 1993, as the dates. By scheduling the gathering Wednesday through Sunday, participants can qualify for discounted weekday air fares.

Ira raised concerns about how to offer scholarships wisely. We also need to encourage volunteers to arrive early for set-up, and stay late for clean-up (possibly by offering free housing for those periods).

Timeline: *Joe, Caroline, Betty, Ira* will comprise the Gathering Committee. They will prepare a timeline for the conference, to be presented at the next Board meeting. In addition, the committee is asked to develop:

- A model layout of facilities and how they will be used.
- A plan for procuring the deposit funds and other revenues.
- A brochure or flyer promoting the event, including the letterhead with graphics and a list of endorsers.
- A strategy for recruiting a body of organizers much larger than the present committee, & a list of int'l contacts.
- A definition of "community" to be used in identifying whom we are trying to attract as participants.
- Strategies for working with media, both mainstream and alternative.
- A rough overview of workshop and presentation tracks.
- An ethical framework for soliciting money from sponsors.
- A strategy for effectively involving the academic community.
- Ideas about how best to integrate diverse energies.
- An investigation of off-campus housing possibilities for "day participants," to overcome accommodation limitations and allow greater attendance.
- A budget for the whole project.
- Plans for audio-visual documentation and dissemination of information about the Gathering (including both tapes and proceedings).
- Possibilities for organizing a West Coast communities tour (possibly utilizing the Green Tortoise) that ends up at the Gathering .

Some concerns were raised about the likelihood of being swamped by people wanting to attend. We probably need to limit participation to the first 3,000 -- the limit that the facilities can reasonably handle. Ira mentioned an event she attended where organizers asked applicants to write a page about themselves and what the event would mean to them as a possible way to select whom to accept. **Decision:** priority will be given to community representatives over seekers. Work needs to be done to define "community" carefully, to encourage diversity. To emphasize the importance of early registration, promotional materials need to mention the priorities and the possibility of attendance restrictions.

Securing a 501(c)(3) status will help enormously in raising funds for the Gathering . TIES-USA is a probable tax-exempt sponsor. Dan thinks CESCI might be friendly to the idea of lending FIC deposit money for the Gathering .

The timing of the next edition of the Directory is crucial. It needs to be finished by January, 1993 (as currently planned) in order to feed the energy building for the Gathering **and** to free FIC members for conference organizing.

Betty, Caroline, and Joe all have tentative plans to travel abroad, and will try to make personal contacts with international communities to build interest in the Gathering.

Ira recommends that in the earliest stages of program development we recruit representatives from the various desired elements of the movement (to avoid the situation where one group structures the event for others, then tries to fill the slots

after the fact). Comunidad (in Sweden and Uruguay) is a good example of an international community with members from a variety of cultures -- they should be contacted as soon as possible.

Laird wonders if it would be advantageous to reserve a clump of housing spaces for "community" people, and to prepare for a much larger flow of seekers as "day people".

Harvey recommends that at our next meeting, or by next fall at the latest, we start thinking about what steps to pursue **after** the Gathering. Followup efforts will be a whole lot more effective if the groundwork is laid early.

WEDNESDAY: Session Eight - Afternoon Laird (F); Caroline (R)

MEMBERSHIP - PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE (Betty):

Currently membership has two levels. Full membership is attained by becoming an associate member, filling out a profile and being invited by the current full membership to be elevated to full status. Associate membership is available to anyone who pays dues and agrees to support the FIC statement of purpose.

It was proposed to have only one level of membership. The criteria for membership would be: 1) to support the mission statement, and 2) pay annual dues. The motivation for this change is the belief that FIC should be a place for dialogue among all expressions of cooperative living, and that broadening our membership will invite a wider range of views. We have reservations if militant groups such as Skinheads or Neo-Nazi groups want to join, but would rather look upon this situation as an opportunity to encourage dialogue rather than designing membership criteria to keep these types of groups out. Our commitment to a consensus process (which can only be removed through a consensus decision) is a protection against being "voted" out by a group which might try to disrupt or subvert our group.

Exec: will draft a new bylaw and have it sent to the Board and membership for review at least 30 days prior to the spring Board meeting. (See attachment.)

IN-KIND DUES (Geoph): Some individuals and groups want affiliation with us but don't have the money to join. We could create a membership option that allows dues to be "paid" by working a certain number of hours on FIC business. We certainly need more volunteer labor and an in-kind dues arrangement might provide a source. The two big questions are how to cover our cash expenses and how to use the volunteer energy in an efficient and effective manner. It is a great idea in principle but hard to administer. One of our immediate challenges is to line up people for the 1993 conference. Perhaps people could work with us now for future dues; maybe a barter system would be appropriate. If we are open to the idea of membership tiers, we might create a sponsorship level and a working level. One suggestion is to require money for first year dues, and provide an opportunity to accumulate in-kind hours that apply toward dues for the coming year.

While the Board deferred any decision on this proposal in general, it is noted that Geoph in particular is considered a member in good standing by virtue of his extensive work on FIC projects.

The **Membership Committee** will review this idea and make a recommendation at the next Board meeting. They will also consider a new dues structure, examine its relationship to Board decision-making practices, and look at the list of affiliated organizations to determine whether they are dues-paying or not.

Our list of member communities is not up to date at the moment, and some groups are behind in their dues. Some, such as Stelle, have never paid dues. The **Membership Committee** will consider the possibility of giving dues credit (for the following year) to a community that hosts one of our board meetings.

FIC FLYER (BROCHURE) (Geoph): The printing quality of the new brochure prototype seems to be very good, although it is weak on graphics. 300 were printed on recycled paper. The current plan is to develop an insert which lists current Board members and affiliated communities, and to add a membership form on the flap of a business reply envelope. This would leave space to expand other sections of the brochure and to add graphics. As we grow, we can reconsider several options: listing member organizations in the brochure, having an insert, or listing only a total number which represent "x" number of states and provinces.

The address should be displayed in a conspicuous place on the flyer (it was inadvertently omitted altogether from the prototype). We will also use the old logo on the front cover of our next run of 3,000. The Board membership list should be dropped from the flyer.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: If there's a problem getting the brochure printed at the Center in a timely fashion, then we should take it to a commercial printer in Evansville. The mailing of 3,000 flyers will include about 2,000 to the CSA mailing list, plus lists from CSI, School of Living and *Communities* magazine (after they have been screened for duplicates). Work/study students at USI might be able to help with the screening and do the actual mailing. **Laird** will get the *Communities* mailing list and send it to the Center. The **Center** will input the lists, combine them, and eliminate duplicates.

The mailing will probably not go out until mid-January. We will send it first class with "Address Correction Requested" on the envelope.

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR: Nothing happened to create an FIC presence at the Fair this past summer. Joe is still interested in our having our information available in the Community Village, an annual feature of the fair. There is a fee for being a participating organization. **Joe** will talk with **Arun** about staffing the booth in the Village in 1991.

DIRECTORY DISCOUNTS: It might be a good idea to include in the membership mailing an offer of a Directory discount for a limited time (until March 15, 1991?).

We should also identify ways that being a member has advantages, and emphasize these in our outreach efforts.

Decision: We agree to include a discount coupon in our next newsletter mailing, allowing FIC members with paid dues for 1991 to purchase one copy of the Directory for \$10.00 postpaid.

REVISED QUESTIONNAIRE: **Geoph** and **Laird** will revise the community questionnaire used for Directory listings. When a new community joins FIC, we will immediately send a copy of the latest newsletter and a profile request. The revised Directory questionnaire will not go out until next fall, as part of our initial mailing for the '93 Directory.

THURSDAY: Session Nine - Morning Caroline(F), Betty(R)

BOARD MEMBERSHIP (Dan):

We have 4 openings which we will look to fill at the spring meeting. The present Board consists of 11 members and five alternates. There are some in this list who have missed two consecutive meetings. On the Board, Dave Thatcher has now missed his second meeting. All alternate Board members — Faith Morgan, Bob Watzke, Rita Tarkinow, Bill Land, and Anne Beck — have missed the past two meetings.

Agreed that the alternates, with the exception of Faith, be dropped. We also will retain Dave until the spring meeting. We recognize that both Faith and Dave have contributed to the Board in ways other than attending meetings and we want them to stay on the Board at this point.

Exec: will contact Dave about his standing on the Board. They will also consider policy guidelines for extending Board time if two meetings are missed, and how we can encourage participation from potential Board members.

At our next meeting we will consider the issue of holding a Board seat for a specific group.

TRAVEL SUBSIDIES (Joe): We discussed possible options for assisting people traveling to Board meetings. For example, each attendee (or each member) might receive a per-mile amount to subsidize whatever mode of travel they use; an assessment could be levied on each person/group and contributed to the pot from which the subsidies are drawn. **Joe** will write up 2-3 proposals to circulate before April, so the Board can consider the topic prior to the spring meeting. **Harvey** will assist.

There are some possible new Board members in the group attending this meeting — in particular, Ira, Mildred, George, and Elke (all of Ganas) are invited to the next Board meeting if they are interested in being considered for a Board position. Sister Regina and Jim Wallace (Sojourners) are also interested and will be encouraged to attend the next meeting.

SITES & DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Spring '91 meeting: will be April 9-11 at The Vale, outside Yellow Springs, Ohio, and will be held in conjunction with the annual CESCI Board meeting. Cost per attendee is projected at \$10/day, including food. Housing will be a combination of homes in Yellow Springs (a 5-minute car ride), homes at The Vale, and camping.

The evening discussion topic will be "History of Community Movement," planned to take advantage of the experience of the Morgans and other long-term communitarians who will be with us.

The CSA Board meeting is scheduled for April 13, at New Harmony. FIC will meet the Tues-Thurs preceding CSA, then the Exec will travel to New Harmony to attend the CSA meeting, and do wrap-up work from the FIC Board meeting.

Fall '91 meeting: We will investigate Lama Foundation (NM) and Ananda (CA) as preferred sites, aiming for Oct 30-Nov 1 dates.

We brainstormed the following list of future Board meeting sites:

East: Koinonia (GA), Jubilee Partners (GA), Celo (NC), Sirius (MA), Sojourners (DC), Yogaville (VA), the Abode of the Message (NY).

Midwest: High Wind (WI), The Farm (TN), Dunmire Hollow (TN), Padanaram (IN).

West: Common Ground (Alberta), Ananda (CA), Lama Foundation (NM), Breitenbush (OR), Evergreen State-Organic Farm (WA), Community Alternatives (BC), Linnaea (BC).

THURSDAY: Session Ten — Morning Harvey(F), Geoph(R)

FIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CENTER (Laird): There is an increasing flow of mail that is being forwarded to Laird by

CCS. In addition, Laird is getting correspondence directed to *Communities* magazine because Sandhill's address is listed for Directory work, and because Twin Oaks is forwarding magazine mail they get (they published *Communities* until the transfer to Stelle in 1984).

Laird is presently handling this load entirely, and is willing to continue, though this may need to be reviewed in the spring if the Directory generates (as we hope) significantly more correspondence.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Betty): Shifting the Treasurer role from Allen to Betty is taking a while to clarify the procedures in place at the Center.

Don would like us to increase our budget for the Center (which is matched by USI) from \$1,700 to \$2,000 for the next fiscal year. To integrate our finances with the USI budget cycle, we need to have most of our matching funds in place by the end of March. This money could come from a number of sources: our membership drive, Directory sales, and/or matching funds for a travel expense pool. **Betty** will check with Don to determine if it is permissible to use the matching funds for travel expenses, and she will work with Mary to define the procedures for handling FIC finances at the Center.

VISITS TO THE CENTER: Don will be happy to put up Board members for short periods of time if they arrange a working visit to the Center. We need to explore other options of housing for long-term visits: perhaps a permanent FIC facility, or local hospitality from a group such as Patchwork Central (an active Mennonite group in Evansville which once had a residential community). Or perhaps CCS could create a hospitality facility which would allow them to host guests from FIC, CSA, and visiting students and guest lecturers who come for the Center's programs. Another possibility would be reinhabiting the historic site at New Harmony, creating a community there which could also provide hospitality to community folks coming to Evansville.

CENTER STAFF: Mary Hayden presently provides three full days a week of office support, and Don is now looking for an additional staff person to increase this to five days per week (to be funded partly by the increased Center budget). Board members will talk with Don about our openness to the possibility of job sharing between Mary and a second staff person, also noting our confidence in Mary's abilities.

CSA: Joe has been appointed to coordinate the production of an encyclopedia of 20th Century intentional communities. He invites the suggestions and support of FIC members in compiling entries, community bios, and bios of individuals (he emphasizes that this is not a directory). Specifically he's interested in information that is not listed in the Directory.

Joe feels that we need to be sensitive to our relationship with CSA, and not seek to convert them to our contemporary agenda (there is already a bit of polarization among some of the old-time academics who aren't enthusiastic about the recent increase of focus on contemporary groups). In a sense, we're helping to develop a whole new field of study that will benefit both the academics and the communities. Because of its institutional resources, CSA provides a valuable entrée into the academic world, particularly in setting up presentations and workshops.

THURSDAY: Session Eleven - Afternoon: Harvey (F), Laird (R)

RESOURCE CENTER & BUSINESS ENCOURAGEMENT (Mildred):

These two topics are related and can be discussed in tandem. (In particular, providing business encouragement would be one function of the Center.)

Mildred and Ganas want to develop a Resource Center (probably located in Manhattan) which among other things, can offer services and/or information to seekers, researchers, project coordinators; and develop markets for community products and services. The Center would be funded by user fees and not by dues from communities. Ganas is willing to provide the seed money to get the Center up and running.

In addition to the above, the Center could:

- do recruitment and public relations
- develop and coordinate workshops
- publish a product catalog
- raise funds for specific projects
- develop office space and loose affiliation with a local NYC university (keeping in mind the importance of remaining neutral);
- coordinate and facilitate political actions (boycotts, demonstrations, leafletting, and the like).
- have a complete library of print and video materials from communities.
- facilitate labor exchanges and skills-sharing among communities.

The Center would operate independently of FIC, but seek Fellowship support in finding staff for the Center, and for providing information and ideas about how to increase or improve offerings.

We had some questions about the relationship between the Center and FIC: What role would FIC have in establishing screens for political actions the Center might facilitate? Would the Fellowship play any role in deciding who could access the Center? One challenge in this work is coordinating (as opposed to duplicating) what the Center wants to do with what is already being done elsewhere.

Mildred suggested the Center begin by recruiting potential members for various communities, especially from segments of the society not currently attracted to community alternatives. She thinks this step could begin as soon as early 1991, but that Ganas will not have the resources (either in dollars or labor) to initiate the Center before early 1992. An operational Center in early 1992 could be very useful in assisting with the '93 Gathering.

Joe notes that communities are chronically short on marketing skills (as well as energy) and that it might be a tremendous boon to community businesses to have marketing services available.

The Fellowship could immediately assist the Center by helping to identify and gather materials. Joe expressed concern about the possibility of spreading ourselves too thin and possibly expanding too rapidly (in light of other important commitments already made or reaffirmed in the course of this Board meeting).

Decision: The FIC supports Ganas' intention to proceed with the Center project, and will participate in a call for gathering materials. **Mildred** is asked to write a short article about the Center for inclusion in the FIC newsletter, which will also invite suggestions for staffing, and ideas about how to get people now in community to take time off to help shape and staff the Center. **Mildred** is further encouraged to write an article specifically on business opportunities.

CSA (formerly NHCSA) REVISITED Geoph [F]; Laird [R]

Impressions of the 1990 conference: Caroline: Geoph's slide show was well attended, though the audience was relatively naive about contemporary communities. She had trouble with the formality/superficiality of much of the conference. She didn't think that the time allowed for presentations was sufficient, given the interest among the audience. In at least one instance, time was not proportioned evenly among presenters; this is something to watch out for next time. Contemporary communitarians have not regularly supplied written materials for distribution, or copies of presentations for inclusion in proceedings. She wants us to improve the quality and polish of our presentations, and to think more about how our input can be best placed in the context of an academic event.

Dan will try to get the tape recording of Caroline's presentation (which was oral only) transcribed and submitted to Communal Studies editors for consideration. He found interest among some academics for copies of his presentation, which included an analysis tying together contemporary and historic communities.

Joe: when presenters focus on issues that are timeless (childrearing, decision-making, ownership of property), there is plenty of opportunity to hook academicians, who then naturally think about how this might supply insights into how the historic communities (their primary focus) dealt with similar issues.

Caroline notes that academicians can get lost in their research and miss the common sense explanations (because they don't have a visceral, experiential knowledge of community?). We can help scholars learn to read between the lines.

The new CSA president, Richard Kathmann, asked Harvey for input on process for running better CSA meetings — another way we have something to offer this organization.

Joe is now president of the CSA Pacific Coast Chapter, but only an ex-officio member of the full CSA Board.

Harvey would like a slot in the next CSA program for a NASCO presentation.

Geoph really enjoyed staying at the Abode between sessions at New Lebanon. The opportunity to stay at a living community while attending a CSA conference is something that we should encourage.

Betty proposes that we suggest a contemporary community as a possible host for a future CSA conference. Joe notes that there is a significant segment of CSA which would prefer traditional hotel accommodations — no matter how interesting or inexpensive community housing might be. Therefore any living site under consideration should also have more traditional options nearby.

The deadline to submit papers for next fall's conference is March 1, 1991. The conference theme will be: "Community as Family; Family as Community." **Dan** will get this info into the FIC newsletter.

Geoph asks: what are we doing about participation in the July, 1991 meeting of the ICSA in Elizabethtown, PA.? Deadlines for papers at this event is November 15, 1990. Theme is: Communal Values and Structures.

Exec will prepare a track and submit abstracts for presentations on contemporary communities for both the ICSA and CSA conferences in 1991.

Suggestion: That we ask for the last slot of the day, each day, to allow people to stay afterwards if they get drawn into the topic. We should also aspire to arrange for both pre- and post-conference tours of contemporary communities.

VISITATION/CONSULTATION TEAMS (Betty): We want to make our skills in facilitation and process available to communities in time of need, whether acute or chronic. Betty's thinking is to draw together a small group of skilled, interested people and get some experience in this work before approaching the Fellowship with a proposal for formal

recognition or affiliation. The people who have talked about it most are Betty, Caroline, Laird, and Geoph. Boundaries are loose, however, and related work has been done or talked about by others as well.

The emphasis of this group is on dynamics and unblocking conflicts in community, rather than on technical expertise.

Laird asked if there were any reservations about referring this service to potential users, in his role as Fellowship Secretary. No reservations were expressed.

OVERALL MEETING EVALUATION

Our process shows our maturity and that we are more efficient in moving through our work.

Thrilled and frightened about our '93 gathering.

Need to be careful not to set a pace for ourselves which will burn us out.

Really enjoyed being at Ganas.

Appreciated the wide scope of our fellowship - we have moved past prior boundaries.

Did a good job of blocking out the agenda; very few adjustments were necessary; never had a sense of needing to squeeze the agenda.

Enjoyed the quality of participation from new folks, though would have liked to have more participation from the host community.

Excited by the amount of work we have taken on — appropriate work for our stated purpose.

Disappointed that there were so few new faces this time.

Enjoyed the pace of our work, and the occasional humorous interjections.

Appreciated the impact of having many trained facilitators in the body of participants.

Impressed that Board members do not feel compelled to repeat what the previous speaker said in order to state agreement; also in the ability to assign much of the work to committees rather than hash out the details in the larger group.

Disappointed that there wasn't more participation by communities in the immediate geographic areas.

Might it be worthwhile to create a checklist for Board meeting preparation?

Exec will consider this suggestion.

We were at times a little lax in our focus (perhaps because with ample time for our work?)

three days we had

Didn't make much use of written reports in this meeting, which could have saved a lot of meeting time. At the same time we did complete an agenda which we initially feared might be overly ambitious.

It's getting harder to shoehorn these multi-day sessions into our lives (agenda prep, a 3-day meeting, two wrap-up days). Perhaps make use of Exec meetings between full Board meetings.

Orientation to FIC meetings could occur the evening before meetings start rather than as a part of the first session.

Do more outreach to get participation from others - especially from neighboring communities and host community members.

For The Vale meeting, we should think about giving the task of inviting nearby communities to the Center or some nearby community. Sending out a summary of this meeting as soon as possible, then follow up with more detailed info a few weeks before the meeting.

We did not have an agenda mailed out to the Board ahead of time. Getting it out ahead could help generate interest among local communities and help get Board members more up to steam.

We need to evaluate how effective our policy of rotating meeting sites is in expanding interest in FIC. We may want to start having meetings at the Center, at least some of the time, so we can better accomplish things that need to be done there.

Exec will consider these various ideas for attracting more people to meetings. Perhaps the "Later" committee can produce a tentative agenda for the following meeting and send it out with the newsletter. Possibly enclose a response card with info about the next Board meeting, asking people to indicate if they are interested in attending.

Consider getting an 800-number voice mail box (\$2.95 per month, plus \$.29 per min for messages left) so people can leave us messages that we could return in a timely fashion. Perhaps the Center should consider this service.

Consider the possibility of having a booth/presentation at Body Mind and Spirit Gatherings.