

[April 12, 1921]

ANNUAL MEETING K C C I A

Report of Proceedings

The Annual Meeting of the Knott County Community Improvement Association was held at the Court House in Hindman, Kentucky, on April 12, 1921, at one o'clock P. M.

H. H. Smith in the chair and about fifty members present.

Mr. Smith: The Knott County Community Improvement Association has its annual meeting today and as chairman of that Association I now call the meeting to order, and if any one has any motions or business, I will hear it.

W. T. Francis: Mr. Chairmna, as member of the council by virtue of being chairman of one of the Community Centers, I wish to present an instrument of withdrawal from the Association in regard to the Carr Creek Community Center, as federated with it.

(Paper handed to Chairman who reads it as follows:

"At a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Carr Creek Community Center, held on January 8, 1921, the following declaration was made and voted: 'The Carr Creek Community Center hereby declares its withdrawal, as a federated community center, from the Knott County Community Improvement Association, Incorporated; and it declares that it is in no way connected with the Caney Creek Community Center or Mrs. Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd.

By order of the Executive Committee,

W. T. Francis, Chairman,
Olive Marsh, Secretary,"

Mr. Smith: You have heard the motion of the gentleman. He offers a resolution signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Carr Creek Community Center offering to withdraw from the federation. Mr. Francis moves the adoption of this withdrawal. If he wishes to make any remarks he is entitled to preference.

John Caudill: I feel that this matter should personally interest me as much as any member of the house. I got back of and helped to organize the Knott County Community Improvement Association. I want to say further that I have served in the capacity in which I now work at the Caney Creek Community Center for more than two years without salary. I have not only put in my salary that I earned, but I have put in outside money that I have earned, and I feel that there is nobody who more fully understands the relationship between the Carr Creek Community Center and the Caney Creek Community Center. I feel that I am fairly well versed in the laws of the organization. In fact I am giving my life to the work for the past two or three years. I realize too that there is a little personal difficulty to be settled between the Caney Creek Community Center and the Carr Creek Community Center, but I feel that the principles for which the Knott County Community Improvement Association was organized are too great, the cause too big, to let any personal feelings enter into the matter. I stand for every principle of the Knott County Community Improvement Association. I say further that every worker of the Carr Creek Community Center is my friend. I have had opportunity of working with most of them for some time. I worked more in harmony when I worked by the side of those who are now members of the Carr Creek Community Center than with any member of the Caney Creek Community Center at this time. It would seem as though it would be a sad mistake at this time to dissolve an organization like this. Withdrawal annuls the whole thing. At the time the Knott County Community Improvement Association was organized, Caney Had no trouble to get money. At the time of the War Caney did have trouble to get money. There is not a worker there that is getting any salary. We are all turning everything we have into the board and clothing of the pupils who are there.

I feel that the difference between Caney and Carr could be settled in some other way than withdrawal. There are two buildings started now under the Association. If we allow this center to withdraw it practically annuls the Association. I feel that there are great things still in store.

I think great things are still to be done in this county. I am today working on something that I think will get an endowment fund for Knott County Community Improvement Association. I have strong encouragement that it will pass. The withdrawal of the Carr Creek Community Center would upset the whole plan for the endowment of the Association. The little difference that comes up can be settled in a better way. It seems to me that it is better to work hand in hand and in co-operation. Let it be settled in a better way than to dissolve the Association. Every man, woman and child in Knott County can be benefited if more people would put their shoulders to the wheel and push it. We who are in connection with it feel that we see a brighter day for it in the future. I do not think it is just to the organization to allow one member to withdraw. We cannot exist unless we exist under the present institution which was adopted at a meeting in this Court House. Today we do not know that we are working under the Association, but we have two schools and we are doing good. But we are practically working separately. The thing that I am giving my whole attention to now is a thing that will back the whole organization, and not just one Center. I think things can be opened up so that we can accomplish what we started to do.

W. T. Francis: We have been looking for that brighter day for about two years now since we organized. We have rested on many things that have been promised. Carr Creek Community Center was organized and was an existing institution when this Association was organized. So you can take the by-laws and constitution under which we were organized and you will find that none of the provisions, hardly, have been kept. We have been trying to exist over on Carr and make our school, and as Mr. Caudill says, what we have done we have done separately, and without help from the Association. ~~There is no help that was ever promised from the Association have we ever got.~~ No help that was ever promised from the Association have we ever got. We have been hindered every day from getting help that we could get by not belonging to the Association. Not that we want to throw a straw or hindrance in the way of education of any child in Knott County. We want to co-operate with every institution for the betterment and advancement of children. We have tried it for two years. From the two years' experience we find that we on Carr can get along better by being a separate and independent agency from the Association. There is no doubt but that the purpose with which the Association was organized is good, but it has not been carried out. There is no reason that I can see why we have not a perfect right, at our pleasure, to withdraw from the Association. I do not know of anything that would bind us any longer than we as an independent agency would see fit to belong to it.

Mr. Smith: You certainly have a right to withdraw. I will take a vote of the Association.

Mr. Caudill: There is no way provided in this constitution or by-laws whereby any community can withdraw. The only way that any community center can get out of this constitution and by-laws is to annul the whole thing. It has either got to come on amendment to the constitution or annul the whole organization. There is no way in this constitution by which a community center can withdraw. It can only be done by amendment setting up the way in which a community center can withdraw. There is no provision made in there whereby a community center can withdraw. Nor can any member of it withdraw. The mode of procedure can be changed.

Mr. Smith: I presume that they have a right by vote of the Association to withdraw. A motion to liquidate the corporation would settle it all.

Mr. Caudill: It either must be done that way or by an amendment offered to this constitution and by-laws by which they would have a right to withdraw.

Mr. Smith: It strikes me that any one of the federated centers would have a right to withdraw by a vote of the Association.

Mr. Caudill: It would be if there was a provision in there to cover it.

Mr. J. M. Baker: Every man in the county is a member of this Association. I do not want to take any part in this thing, either pro or con, but it seems to me like the purpose for which this Improvement Association was organized has absolutely failed. Of course, so far as Mr. Francis' contention is concerned, about Carr Creek Center withdrawing, I do not see but what they would have a perfect right to withdraw from it. It took a vote of this society before they became members. The Caney Creek Community Center came in by a vote of the society just the same. If we can vote them in we can certainly vote them out. If they do not want to belong to it, I say let them go. But, as I remarked a while ago, I do not know about this whole business. It seems to me that the whole business should be dissolved.

Mr. Smith: What are some of the objections, Mr. Baker, that you have learned?

Mr. Baker: There were certain funds that were to be gotten up, some way, somehow, to be paid over to this society for the purpose of building community centers in various parts of the county. Not a dollar of that has been paid in except to the Caney Center and possibly to Carr. Caney is the only place in the county that any money has ever been spent that I know about. It seems that Mrs. Lloyd needs all the money she can get to run that thing over there now. We ought just to let her run it. We are incorporated and we have no business. We are not doing anything.

Mr. Smith: I think we should turn it loose and let Mrs. Lloyd run Caney.

Mr. Baker: I do not want to take any part in it. It is not hurting me anywhere.

Mr. Caudill: Do you feel that the people of this county ought to stamp their disapproval on the work of the Caney Creek Community Center by saying that they will not longer stand by the organization? That is virtually what it means when you dissolve the organization. You say that the county does not endorse the work that is being done at Caney.

Mr. Baker: The Caney Center and the Knott County Community Improvement Association are entirely different propositions. Caney functions by itself and runs itself and does its own business. We do not have a thing to do with it. We have no control over it. We have no business bothering with Mrs. Lloyd's business. She is doing a good work over there, but this Knott County Community Improvement Association is conducting no business. We have no business. We are not getting a thing. We expected to get money from her to build community centers in other places. We are not getting it. I feel that that has failed. Her center over there is all right, but as far as this organization is concerned I do not feel that it has any business with it.

Mr. Caudill: If we are not interfering with you and you are not interfering with us, I do not see why the people should vote their disapproval of the work. If there is any cause to be removed to give Carr Creek Center what it wants, or if there is any hindrance that you will call to my attention, I will do whatever is necessary to remove it.

Mr. Francis: Here is another point. There has been for two years that circularization has been used by Mrs. Lloyd using the names of these centers for the purpose of raising funds for building these schools, and this association has had a secretary and treasurer for these funds to be place with to be distributed to these various centers, and she is still using these, and people are writing to us saying that they are contributing to us through that circularization, and we are not receiving any of the funds. If it was not for that, they would contribute directly to us. As you all know, the treasurer has not had any of these funds. It is a hindrance to us in that way. Since we cannot get any of them, we feel that we could get along better by being alone and independent, but willing to co-operate in any way that would be reasonable.

Mr. Caudill: Mr. Francis is certainly misinformed if he says anything is going out from Caney that is in regard to Carr. There has not for some time gone out any circularization for anything except the Caney Center. We voted it in Faculty Meeting. Although, because of the lack of funds, we are forced to use the funds for Caney, we do not feel that we are in a position to stand a slap in the face of disapproval.

Mr. Smith: I have been chairman of this organization during all of its existence. I believe the best thing in the world for this county would be the disbanding of this organization. It is not a slap in the face to Mrs. Lloyd or anything else. The people of Knott County are being held responsible to the donors for anything that is contributed and brought in here, and not properly applied. I have heard some complaints along that line. I feel absolutely certain after we have studied the situation,-- I speak without feeling in the matter-- that the best thing is to disband this Association. It does not hurt me or concern me. I know that I have nothing against the work of Mrs. Lloyd and the Caney Creek Community Center. But as Mr. Caudill says, she is trying to work in her own name and Carr is trying to work in its own name. They say they are handicapped, and I believe the best thing the people can do is to disband the organization, and if they do not want to do that, let them vote on Mr. Francis' resolution to withdraw, and I rule that that is in order. If any one of the federated centers wants to withdraw, it can do it.

Mr. Francis: I believe that since Mr. Caudill says there are only two ways to withdraw, though I do not agree, I will withdraw that resolution and enter a motion to dissolve the corporation.

Motion seconded by Adam Campbell. Carried.

Mr. Smith: The majority vote in favor of disbanding. The Association is dissolved. Is there any other business?

Moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn. Adjourned.

Please return

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Motion seconded by Adam Campbell. Carried.

Mr. Smith: The majority vote in favor of disbanding. ~~Therefore~~ The Association is dissolved. Is there any other business?

Moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn. Adjourned.