

Bellingham Friends Meeting
Approved Minutes
May 15, 2016

Present: Betty McMahon, Nan Macy, Susan Richardson, Dorrie Jordan, Karen Steen, Virginia Herrick, Mary Ann Percy, Lynn Lohr, Wendy Goldstein, Don Goldstein, John Hatten (Clerk), Judy Hopkinson (recording clerk), Larry Thompson, Dave Hopkinson

2016.05.01 Agenda was adjusted and approved.

2016.05.02 Minutes of the April MfWfB were approved.

2016.05.03 Social and Environmental Concerns Report (see attached). Four information items + two action items.

2016.05.3.1 - The meeting reaffirmed its approval for use of the Quaker Banner for the Gay Pride Parade every year.

2016.05.3.2 - The meeting approved shifting the July MfWfB away from the second Sunday in July to the determined by M&C. M&C will work to schedule it so that MfWfB for July and August are combined.

2016.05.04 - The Meeting minutes it's gratitude and appreciation to the Lopez Oversight Committee for many years of faithful work and lays down that committee at this time.

2016.05.05 - Outreach and Welcoming Committee (report attached) Three action items were addressed:

2016.05.05.1 - The meeting accepted for seasoning the job description submitted by OWG. (attached). Final approval of the job description will mean that OWG an independent standing committee of Bellingham Friends Meeting, rather than a standing subcommittee of the Ministry and Counsel Committee

2016.05.05.2 - The meeting approved having the online photo gallery of the member directory on the public portion of the website - on a "opt-in" basis.

A Friend asked whether they could submit an avatar. Don G. replied that it would seem to defeat the purpose, but a standard image might be considered for those who chose not to submit a picture.

2016.05.05.3 - There was discussion of the proposed educational/ discussion series, "Quaker Ways" (see report).

2016.05.06 - Finance Committee Report - The treasurer reminded Friends that they are asked to increase pledges by 10%. Currently donations are down slightly

2016.05.07 Children's Program Committee (report attached) Note highlights of report below:

2016.05.07.1 The committee would like Friends to contact them with answers to these questions:

1. What are some topics or skills you know more about than most people?
2. What are you passionate about?
3. What do you like to do in your spare time?

2016.05.07.2 Laura Howry will be attending committee meetings and will help with tasks since Dorothy de Fremery will be available only sporadically.

2016.05.07.3 The committee is currently interviewing replacement for Monique while she is away.

Discussion:

- A Friend asked why what Monique / child care person will be doing now that we will have regular adult involvement in the Children's program. Virginia H explained that it is not really possible to conduct a program for older children when infants / toddlers are part of the same group.
- A Friend reminded the committee of some of the resources available for children's programs - such as "pages for all ages" in Western Friend. Other such resources were also mentioned and noted by the committee clerk.

2016.05.07.4 Virginia H. Asked Friends whether two childcare people would be sufficient for the retreat. It is not clear yet how many children will be attending. Friends felt that two will be sufficient given the experience and skill of the two who have been hired (Monique and Anna Row).

2016.05.08 - Retreat Planning Committee (report attached)

Discussion:

- A Friend suggested that the E-News request that Friends respond to the doodle poll - even if they are not yet sure, because "maybes" are helpful.
- Another Friend asked that all Friends be asked to hold in the Light the intention as articulated in the report.

2016.05.09 Friends gave final approval to the changes to the nominating committee report which were accepted for seasoning last month.

2016.05.10 Ministry and Council Report

Action Item: **The meeting accepted for seasoning Aurora Fox's request for membership.**

2016.05.11 - Member Concern - actually a question - A Friend wanted to know whether other uses of the building might occur during our time of rental. The answer is yes - since we sublet from the school - has not changed from it's traditional arrangement.

2016.05.12 - Planning Committee for the Spring Quarterly meeting now consists of Don G, Sharon T, and Mark H, and three members from Lopez Island. Friends who have ideas for possible themes for that meeting are encouraged to contact Don G and/or to attend the next meeting of the committee on Tue, May 24th, 2016.

Ministry & Counsel Report, Meeting for Worship for Business, May 15, 2016

1. "Advices and Queries" of The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in

Britain (Little Red Book) #5 Take time to learn about other people's experience of the Light. Remember the importance of the Bible, the writings of Friends and all writings which reveal the ways of God. As you learn from others, can you in turn give freely from what you have gained? While respecting the experiences and opinions of others, do not be afraid to say what you have found and what you value. Appreciate that doubt and questioning can lead to spiritual growth and to a greater awareness of the Light that is in us all.

2. Second hours:

May 22: Applying Quaker values to food choices, Lynne Lohr

May 29: Memorial day – no second hour

June 5: Welcoming activity/game followed by Potluck

3. Distractions in Worship. (Information) Ministry and Counsel invites Friends who have concerns regarding distractions during worship or second hours are invited to visit a M&C Meeting and hold this matter in the Light and labor with us about it.

4. We are delighted to report that Aurora's clearness committee has found her clear to become a member of Bellingham Friends Meeting and we ask Friends to accept her membership for seasoning until next month. Once this has seasoned, we will schedule a celebration for after Aurora's return from AK later this year.

5. We are delighted that Kristen McLewin has also applied for membership and a clearness committee is forming to meet with her

6. M&C has provided some input to the Retreat Planning Committee, and we appreciate the considerable work they have done. We are also acutely aware that gathering for this extended period is a rare opportunity for our Meeting and want to try to use this time together to directly explore our commonalities and differences on our ideas of a suitable home for our Meeting.

7. The Clerks' Supper will be held on Tuesday May 17, from 630-830PM. A reminder to RSVP to Susan, who will be hosting and clerking. Following supper, we will offer this query for worship sharing: "2015 challenged our Meeting's wholeness and resiliency. What is your sense of the state of that wholeness and resiliency at this time?"

8. Don from OWG met with us to encourage us to schedule the usual potluck on June 5, the day after our retreat, when they planned some welcoming activities and also to introduce the idea of scheduling Quaker Ways programming for those new to Friends on a roughly quarterly basis; M&C supports both.

9. M&C's next meeting will be June 2, 2016, at 7 p.m. at Mary Ann's home.

SEC Report to MfWfB – May 15, 2016
May 3, 2016

Information items:

1) SEC is considering a second hour for discussion of November's ballot initiatives. We would be inviting speakers who can address these initiatives, including Betsy Pernotto who can discuss the minimum wage proposal.

2) A concern about Navy SEAL war games being planned for WA state parks has been brought to our attention by the Whidbey Island Friends Meeting. SEC is drafting a letter for Gov. Insley regarding this and we will be bringing this to Meeting for discussion.

3) The Golden Rule peace boat has a planned stop in Bellingham Aug 20 - 22 during its PNW tour. We are in contact with the organizers and with local Vets for Peace and Beth Brownfield about events being planned during the boat's time here. The Golden Rule set sail in 1958 to stop nuclear testing in the atmosphere, and has been renovated for educational trips to promote a message of peace and an end to nuclear weapons.

4) We are planning a film night in the fall to view *On a wing and a prayer*, a documentary film about a local Bellingham Muslim who wanted to take flying lessons post 9/11 – the film addresses issues of racism and cultural identity.

Action items:

1) SEC proposes that the Quaker banner be used for this year's Pride Parade on July 10th. We also propose moving MfWfB from the second Sunday in July to a different weekend so that Friends will be able to attend the parade without missing the meeting.

Children's Program Committee report Bellingham Friends MfWfB, May 15, 2016

1. *Information.* **Program planning.** The committee has met once, and discussed different ideas for how to organize the program and create a cohesive and consistency, despite our kids' irregular attendance. Aurora is interested in doing an art project with the kids once a month starting in the fall. We will be continuing this discussion, and welcome input from interested Friends. So far, we agreed that having a routine of moving chairs and tables aside and sitting in a circle to start the program would helpful, and starting with a song (“Simple Gifts” or other) or a quick game.
2. *Information.* **Art supplies.** The committee authorized Aurora and Virginia to go shopping for art supplies at Allied Arts thrift store, Goodwill, and Value Village. We also agreed to start collecting cardboard tubes, egg cartons, and old newspapers at home, for future craft projects. Origami paper, paints, coffee stirrer sticks, glue, stamps and stamp pads, and other raw materials are now in the cabinet.
3. *Information.* **Volunteers.** Virginia will facilitate Children's Program once a month. When she returns, Aurora will do the same. In Aurora's absence, Eric Bablinkas has agreed to do music with the kids once a month, and Laura Howrey has agreed to sit in on the Children's Program Committee. Kristen will be on the “substitute” list that Friends can call if they are unable to make their scheduled Sunday for some reason. We have also received many affirmative responses to a request for Friends to volunteer once per quarter with the kids. If you have not been approached and feel a leading to be part of the regular rotation, or would like to be on the substitute list when someone cannot make their Sunday, please contact Virginia or Kristen.
 - a. We considered surveying Meeting members about their passions and skills. These might form the basis of special projects that we could develop for the kids, or for intergenerational programs. We

would like Friends to contact us with answers to these questions:

1. What are some topics or skills you know more about than most people?

2. What are you passionate about?

3. What do you like to do in your spare time?

4. *Discussion/Information. Paid Childcare.* Monique will be leaving after June 5 to go overseas to study for six months! M&C decided to contact some of the other candidates who applied last summer, as well as Tom and Maddie Solenberger's granddaughter, Anna Row, and a candidate Susan Richardson has recommended, Annika Olsen. We will be interviewing this week in hopes of having two people to job-share the position in Monique's absence. The hours and reimbursement would remain the same as approved by Meeting last summer.

a. We also have asked Monique and Anna Row to work together with the kids at the retreat. So far, we know the Bee family and Sharon and Don's grandkids will be attending. If the Styles' and Akiva also attend, should we hire a third childcare provider, given that that would include two toddlers, plus children ranging in age from 4 to 16, 9:30-3:30?

Report from Outreach and Welcoming Group to Bellingham Friends Meeting MfWfB, May 15, 2016

The Outreach and Welcoming Group would like to present two action items, as follows:

1. We have reached unity on our readiness to become an independent standing committee of Bellingham Friends Meeting, rather than a standing subcommittee of the Ministry and Counsel Committee, our status since our inception in the fall of 2010. We ask the Meeting to accept for seasoning the new job description inserted below for a month and then to approve it at our Meeting for Business in June. The job description would establish us as an independent standing committee, and also has been updated to more accurately reflect the tasks and responsibilities that the committee carries out.
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Updated April 2016

Outreach and Welcoming Committee

The Outreach and Welcoming Committee's mission is to help make the Bellingham Friends Meeting visible, welcoming, and informative to all in our community.

Purpose:

The Outreach and Welcoming Committee prepares welcoming materials and introductory brochures; works to make our Meeting accessible and easy to understand for newcomers; provides and monitors the Welcome Cards and follows up with new attenders in person or via postcards, email, or phone calls; plans and helps publicize outreach activities and events; and informs the Meeting of opportunities for action which manifest our Quakerism in the community and/or in concert with other organizations.

Responsibilities

Weekly

A member of the committee will collect completed Welcome Cards and respond as requested.

Monthly

The committee will:

- meet monthly for two hours or less. Meetings are open to all interested members and attenders.
- keep minutes of its activities and report to Meeting For Worship For Business as needed.

Yearly

In January, a member of the committee will collect and summarize data on the previous year's Meeting attendance from the Greeter portfolio; add the information to the group's contribution to the Meeting's State of Society report; and create a new Attendance Record page to the Greeter portfolio for the current year.

As Needed

The committee will:

- monitor the Meeting's website and make suggestions as needed to the webmaster about ways to make it more accessible to newcomers.
- work with other committees, with individual Friends, and with other organizations as appropriate and possible, to execute outreach-related activities.
- contribute to the Meeting's annual State of Society report.
- publicize Meeting events in local newspapers, radio and other media, as requested, including special events and second hours.
- develop guidelines for the Greeter role, train new volunteer Greeters, and maintain materials in the Greeter portfolio.
- create name tags for Meeting attenders as requested and update/organize the contents of the name tag wallets as needed.
- post announcements of OWC-sponsored activities in the Meeting's weekly Enews and facilitate such events.
- prepare, maintain, and make available various documents to assist both old and new attenders to better understand our Meeting in particular and Quakerism more generally.

Terms and desired composition of committee

The committee members will have two-year, staggered terms. Ideal number of members is four or five. The Nominating Committee is requested to try to ensure that this committee has a balance of seasoned Friends and relatively newer attenders, ideally at least two of each.

2. In April we announced that the OWG, with input from webmaster John Hatten, had discerned a need for an online photo gallery, primarily as an additional way for newcomers to learn our names and faces, supplementing personal contact during worship and other Meeting activities. This came in response to the Meeting's request that we consider the possibility of a large wall-mounted display for nametags and photographs of Meeting members and attenders, which we determined involved so many logistical difficulties that it would be impractical. We also indicated in April that such an online photo gallery could be posted in either the public or the private portion of the website, and asked the Meeting to make that choice. We recommend having it in the public portion, since a major purpose of having the gallery is to help introduce newcomers to us visually as well as by name. Any Friends with privacy concerns would be free to opt out of being included, or might opt to just have their names and not photos included. Our recommendation has now seasoned for a month, during which time the photo gallery has been started so that Friends can readily see what it's like. We ask the Meeting for action on this matter today.

We also present an informational item. In response to the other recommendation referred to us by the Meeting in January, we propose to offer and coordinate a series of Second Hour sessions whose primary purpose is to help members and attenders to become more familiar and comfortable with contemporary unprogrammed Quakerism. The series is proposed to be titled "Quaker Ways" (as opposed to "The Quaker Way") to emphasize the fact of diversity in contemporary Quaker practice. We currently envision a series of

six presentations, all including adequate time for questions and discussion, to be scheduled on a quarterly basis beginning this fall, as follows:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>	<u>Suggested date(s)</u>
Quaker discernment and “Sense of the Meeting”	Dusty Andersen	Oct. 16 or 23, 2016
Diversity in today’s Quaker world	Don Goldstein	Jan. 15 or 22, 2017
The work of national and international Quaker organizations	Allen Stockbridge	April 16 or 30, 2017
Quaker unprogrammed worship	John Hatten	July 16 or 23, 2017
Quaker testimonies	Virginia Herrick	Oct. 15 or 22, 2017
Recommended further reading for relative newcomers to Quakerism	Wendy Goldstein	Jan. 21 or 28, 2018

We are definitely open to suggestions for additional topics. The specific ordering of the sessions as shown above is based partly on the fact that John Hatten has only recently presented a Second Hour on the same topic. The dates shown are meant to be illustrative, and have not been confirmed at this point either with all the facilitators or with the Ministry and Counsel Committee, which has responsibility for Second Hour scheduling.

The Outreach and Welcoming Group will meet next (barring any late changes) on Saturday, June 18, beginning at 11:30 am at the Goldstein home. All Friends are welcome, but please let us know in advance, if possible, that you will be visiting.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of Outreach and Welcoming Group, 5/12/16
Other OWG members are Dusty Andersen, Wendy Goldstein, and Kathy Long