

**Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship
with Attention to Business
June 11, 2017**

Present: John Hatten (clerk), Judy Hopkinson (recording clerk), Lorina Hall, Dorrie Jordan, Dusty Andersen, Jean Brechan, Lynne Lohr, Don Goldstein, Wendy Goldstein, Susan Richardson, Mark Hersh, David Hopkinson, Virginia Herrick, Mary Ann Percy, Don Reinke

Meeting opened with silent worship at 12 noon,

The agenda was approved and minutes from the May meeting were approved as amended.

2017.06.01 Ministry and Council (Report Attached)

Discussion of ideas brought up at the Transition Supper. One Friend said that she would like to hear why people have concerns and joys (rather than Friends just saying names into the silence). She also said she likes to add an activity when Friends introduce themselves because it encourages fellowship. Another Friend said that he does not like the idea of an announcement clerk because having each person make their own announcements fosters leadership. Yet another Friend said that she likes people making their own short announcements and offering to provide more information for those who want it. One asked what people are wanting to do rather than be with Friends - what was more important. Another said that she often feels overwhelmed and overstimulated by announcements and would like a period of quiet to recenter afterwards. A Friend summarized the thoughts expressed. She asked us to consider how we discern and balance diverse needs. Another asked that we be clear that suggestions for sharing during introductions are optional to avoid putting people on the spot. And another shared that we are already trying out the bulletin board for posting more information for announcements. The Clerk shared that Friends all have different needs between family and the Meeting and that respecting Friends' discernment about the use of their time is appropriate. No action was taken

Regarding the Western Friend free subscriptions - A Friend shared that there is no limit on how many free subscriptions can be offered to any individual Meeting. The Clerk suggested a deadline of 2 weeks from now (15 days) to get names to him if a free subscription is desired.

A Friend asked that non-Quaker enews items (continue to) be at the bottom of the enews.

The Clerk asked whether we would have MfWfB in both July and August. A Friend reminded us that the Pride Parade is on July 9th and would conflict with MfWfB. One Friend said he could not make an MfWfB in July and would prefer August. **The Meeting agreed that we will not have MfWfB on July 9.** A Friend pointed out that we are not yet sure of the date our speaker will be coming for the Gender Inclusivity Minute Second Hour, so it is hard to pin down a specific date. The Clerk summarized: **July 16 or 23rd would be either MfWfB or the second session for the Gender Inclusivity Minute**

Don G. shared that Wendy and he would also help with the retreat along with Joanne C who volunteered previously. Don and Wendy G volunteered to host a committee meeting at their home.

2017.06.02 OWC report (attached)

The Clerk asked that copy for the new sandwich board sign be posted in the enews. Don will send it to Judy for the enews.

Regarding the personal comment in the report - Two other members of the committee shared that they found the situation less unsettling than suggested . One Friend said that he felt it is awkward to schedule a 30 min activity between meeting and potluck. Another shared that she feels that we need to be more mindful of Friends competing needs for use of their time. The clerk of OW said that the activity was not long enough for a second hour, so they had decided to just slip it in after meeting for worship and announcements. A Friend suggested that we might consider scheduling special, short issues at the end of potluck. The Clerk suggested that OW take this concern under consideration and report back with suggestions on ways that such awkward situations might be avoided in the future.

2017.06.01 FCNL Advocacy team. The leader of our FCNL advocacy team shared some of the recent activities of the FCNL lobby team including efforts related to the authorization for use of military force, the Iran deal, mass incarceration, and other issues. The lobby team meets with our representatives or their staff, writes letters to the editor, and communicates with representatives via social media. There are also monthly conference calls with FCNL which provide guidance regarding the month's lobbying activities. The team had a lobby visit just this week with Susan Del Bene's staff now that a new member who resides in Del Bene's district (Mimi F.) has joined the team. This year's primary effort will be asking for no increase in military spending and they are meeting with staff for all of our representatives. Joanne C (formerly Lynne L), Virginia H, Allen S., and Mimi F are members of the team as are non-Quakers including Michael Jacobson, Micki Jackson, Gene Marx and Neah Montero.

2017.06.03 Nominating Committee. The meeting gave final approval for the appointment of Dave Hopkinson, Mimi Freshley, and Virginia Herrick as members of the Meetinghouse Committee. Dave Hopkinson will be Clerk.

2017.06.04 Meetinghouse Committee (Report Attached)

2017.06.04.1 Dave H. read the report,

Discussion followed

A Friend asked whether Explorations will continue in operation. One of the scouts reported that they will be opening in the fall.

A Friend suggested that the statement that we do not have funds to purchase or build is not entirely accurate. Rather we have some funds, but need more for a large purchase. He hoped that the committee has not written off the idea of purchasing. He also asked about the status of a capital campaign. He asked that the Meetinghouse committee bring forward some request regarding an ongoing capital campaign.

One of the meetinghouse scouts shared that the committee is continuing to look for purchase options. She also shared that one item on the checklist is duplicated.

2017.06.04.2 Reports on specific properties:

One of the meetinghouse scouts shared a specific report on the 4073 Hannegan shopping center site. It has space, a kitchen, a fridge, plenty of parking, a playground, is ADA compliant. The committee discussed that option of renting the place when we are not using it. BUT the rent is prohibitive (\$3000 / month). She had visited the place earlier that day between 10 and 11am and there was a lot of noise from a very loud church nearby.

At a Friend's request, the scout described the former bank building which was considered - it is near Yeagers. Another scout shared that the building has been empty for some time because no one wants it.

2017.06.04.03 Meetinghouse funding

A Friend asked that the committee give the meeting more information about the amount of money available. One of the meetinghouse committee members shared that he was not aware that the Meetinghouse committee had any monetary responsibilities. His understanding was that they were to scout places and report details including cost to the meeting. Another member of the committee shared that last time we assessed it, we thought we could raise about \$400,000.

A member of the Finance Committee asked that as a meeting we consider mounting a **general capital campaign**.

A Friend said that she would prefer that any capital campaign not begin with the assumption that people would immediately give the same amount they pledged for the imminent purchase of the Firehouse. A member of the meetinghouse committee suggested that the meeting might allocate the difference between \$1000 and our current rent to the meetinghouse fund.

A Friend said that he would not be comfortable having money tied up indefinitely in a meetinghouse fund.

The Clerk suggested that the Meeting put the item on the agenda for the next MfWfB. A member of the meetinghouse committee suggested that we send this back to committee rather than take it up at the next MfWfB

2017.06.04.04 Possible next moves

A Friend suggested that we consider just purchasing land without a building because it would put us in the market and we could either eventually build on it or sell it.

Another asked that we send this to committee

Another was concerned about the cost of borrowing money from Friends because it would still need to be paid back.

Two Friends asked that M&C consider a second hour.

The Clerk. asked that Dave H. meet with Joanne C to set a joint meeting of meetinghouse and finance committees to discuss formulating a proposal for a general capital campaign

The E-news editor suggested, and the meeting agreed that enews remind Friends that funds can be donated to the meetinghouse fund at any time.

2017.06.05 Interfaith Committee (Report Attached)

2017.06.06 Member Concern - A Friend asked that Friends bring only finger foods when it is not potluck.

2017.06.07 Children's Program Committee (Report Attached)

2017.06.08 *Gender Inclusivity Minute Ad Hoc Committee* (Report Attached)

A member of the committee read the report which included a request for funds

2017.06.08.1 Request for approval of \$200 for a stipend for a speaker for the second of two second hours to be held regarding this minute. A Friend asked whether there would still be a second 2nd hour if they are not able to obtain a speaker within the proposed budget. The committee member said yes. They also shared that three members of the committee are attending Annual Sessions where this minute will be presented for discernment.

A Friend asked the purpose of this work. A committee member shared that it was a way of helping us to understand what it means to be open and welcoming to marginalized communities. The presenter said it is to broaden and deepen our understanding so that we can broaden and deepen our worship. A committee member added that Friends of Color experience things differently than white Friends. We do not always see what it feels like to be marginalized.

A Friend expressed appreciation for the work of the committee and the opportunity it will provide for the Meeting to expand our understanding of the diversity of experiences among Friends.

Another Friend asked about the request for funds from an Ad Hoc committee. The treasurer said the request for funds can be accommodated by asking a standing committee to cover the expense. If it exceeds the committee's budget, it will simply be noted.

2017.06.08.2 Friends approved the meeting spending \$200 for a stipend for a speaker to be identified by the Gender Inclusivity Minute Ad Hoc Committee.

2017.06.09 *Member concern*

Don G. asked what happened to the report on the children's book drive that was requested several months ago. M&C will contact Lisa F. to follow up on that request.

2017.06.10 Member concern

Virginia H discussed what we might do to make our presence at the Pride Parade more notable. Last year she picked daisies and distributed them to people all along the Parade Route. She invited people to pick wild daisies and bring them to her for distribution during the parade.

2017.06.11 *Member Concern* - returning to a Friend's request that we bring only finger foods for snack. The Clerk asked people to comment on the suggestion to bring finger foods.

Ministry and Counsel Report June 11, 2017

1. June query-- NPYM F&P p.43 Participation in the life of the Meeting. “How are strangers made to feel welcome in our midst? How do we encourage attenders to share in Meeting activities and responsibilities and to consider membership when they are ready?”
2. Save the Date: Annual Retreat with Kathy and Bob Runyun of Ben Lomand Center “Radical Quakerism: From Roots to Fruits” on Saturday, September 16, 2017. We welcome announcement volunteers to help work out some of the support details. Please contact Ministry and Counsel if you are willing to help with this. Possible venues include St. Paul’s, Camp Lutherwood and Explorations Academy.
3. A question was raised about announcements in e-news, and whether non-Quaker events be included. Friends are requested to use good judgment; Judy prefers not to be a gatekeeper. If you have concerns about the suitability of announcements, please let M&C know of you concerns. M&C is fine with letting any announcements from any member or attender until such time as it is a problem and we can address the issue then.
4. Second Hours dates and topics
June 4 - Potluck and “Web of Connections/Needs of Newcomers”, an exercise from FGC that Dusty and Lynne will co-facilitate
June 11 - MfWfB
June 18 - Gender Inclusivity Minute Part I -(or Intergenerational)
June 25 - OWC play reading
July 2 - Potluck
July 9 - MfWfB
July 16 - Quaker Ways, “Unprogrammed Worship” presented by John Hatten
July 23 - Gender Inclusivity Minute Part II?
July 30 - No second hour (Annual session)
August 6 - Potluck
August 13 - Possible MfWfB* (note sometimes we have omitted aMfB in July or August)
August 20 - Open
August 27 - Camping trip?
5. **Scholarships:** In the past, criteria for allocating scholarships (for FGC, NPYM and mutual aid) has been: youth, those who are active in Meeting, a need, a request, those who haven’t already benefited previously, leadership potential. We benefit from a clear process for deciding including criteria, clarity of which funds are used for what, what programs qualify for scholarship, expected contribution from participant, maximum amount allocated per person or per year, whether we have a requirement to report back, etc. M&C will work to clarify criteria. Note that Yearly Meeting is planning to initiate a pay what you can for Annual Session for 2018.
6. Ben Lomond Quaker Center Consultation, October 20- 22 2017. We have participated the last two years and, and Ben Lomond will again offer it this fall at no cost for up to 2 participants. As a Meeting we have contributed up to \$250 toward travel for each participant. This is something that develops internal leadership and can be an honor bestowed upon current, growing and potential leaders. We intend to send people a second time after offering the opportunity to others.

7. At the Transition Supper we discussed concerns and ideas about deepening the spiritual quality of our Meeting and making a better transition from Worship to what follows. Many expressed a desire for shortening lengthy announcements. One idea was for people to use e-news and also to bring written announcements that could be posted for details and announced in a sentence or two, ending in see me for more details. Another idea was to have one person (announcement clerk) read brief announcements. Another idea that came forth was the idea of just speaking the names of people we want to hold in the light, followed by a period of silence. Another idea that came forward was to invite Friends during introductions to share afterthoughts or Joys and Sorrows . Our goal is to support a more worshipful and less perfunctory approach to the transition from worship to rising to snacks.
8. We have been requested to submit names for people who might be interested in a free copy of Western Friend who haven't previously subscribed.
9. **Next meeting:** Monday, July 3 if MfWfB or Tuesday, July 11 otherwise at Mary Ann's.

To: Ministry and Council, Bellingham Friends Meeting

From: Meetinghouse Committee

Re: Report for June 11, 2017 Meeting for Worship for Business

Committee composition: Clerk: Dave Hopkinson. Meetinghouse Scout Allen Stockbridge; Meetinghouse Liaison and seasoning Scout, Dave Hopkinson, seasoning Scout Virginia Herrick, and seasoning at-large member of the committee, Mimi Freshley.

Categories of meetinghouse for consideration:

Emergency Rental, if we lose our sublease.*

Long-term Rental, equal or better to present sublease from Explorations Academy (EA). Nothing we have found meets this requirement, other than The Majestic, available only Sunday afternoon.

Building Purchase: such as the "Firehouse", 1295 E. Bakerview, bid away from us.

Land Purchase: a site that would be suitable for a purpose-built meetinghouse.

Given that we do not have funds either to purchase or build, the latter two categories are long-range.

*Friend Dusty Anderson mentioned sites in Ferndale that may meet this need, should it arise.

Scouts are using a *Meetinghouse Checklist* of attributes that has been revised as of 5/30/2017 (attached). Feedback is welcome. Using the checklist, the Committee has made reports on several buildings examined prior: a) 3605 Bennett, b) The Majestic at 1023 N. Forest and c) the Firehouse at 1295 E. Bakerview. Copies of these reports are available to Friends at MfWfB, or by email. Several buildings, such as 3110 Northwest (previously a bank) and 4073 Hannegan Road, a storefront church in a strip mall, were discussed but rejected as unsuitable for various reasons.

At the EA celebration of the academic year, the Meetinghouse Liaison, Dave Hopkinson, attended the program held in the basement of the Creekside Building. Impressive program conducted by students, and backed by a sophisticated slide show. Equally impressive is the renovation of the basement to be an auditorium and performance space, which would might be more suitable than the "library" currently being used for Meeting.

A brief, informal conversation between Dave the Liaison and Abram the Head of EA suggests the possibility of Friends could use the downstairs space, rather than the library, if Friends are inclined. Please take time after Meeting to examine the renovated basement space and make a critical evaluation in order to determine whether the Meeting should pursue negotiation.

Next meeting of the Meetinghouse Committee will be June 21st. (Allen will be out of town). We meet the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Hopkinson home 1446 Franklin at 5 P.M.

- Y N 1. Space available Sundays 9AM-2PM
- Y N 2. Seating for 50+
- Y N 3. Kitchen, fridge, storage and seating for 50+.
- Y N 4. Close to centrally located bus stop
- Y N 5. Rent, utilities \$1,000/month.
- Y N 6. ADA Compliant: __ building access __ restrooms
- Y N 7. Children's Program Rooms: Younger __ Older__
- Y N 8. Children's Outdoor safe play space or nearby park
- Y N 9. Children's Program Storage, closet or other
- Y N 10. Storage space for administration: two large cabinets
- Y N 11. Library space and book shelves
- Y N 12. Parking adequate Estimated number spaces: _____
- Y N 13. Attractive building
- Y N 14. If rental, allow subletting during week or in evenings.
- Y N 15. Allow permanent sign in front of building
- Y N 16. Attractive building
- Y N 17. Easy to find or location well known.
- Y N 18. Chairs and/or tables available for use.
- Y N 19. Neighborhood reasonably attractive, quiet
- Y N 20. Audio equipment available
- Y N 21. Landlord: capable, cooperative, solicitous

Observations and Evaluation:

Children's Program Committee Report
June 11, Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship for Business

1. We have arranged for Lily Bee to begin helping with the children starting June 25. She will be filling in for Dora Kovacs, who is not living in Bellingham this summer. Welcome, Lily!
2. We now have an account with the Washington State Patrol and can run background checks for free for childcare workers who will be alone with children. If you are willing to have a background check run, please give Virginia your legal name and your birthdate. (WSP requires these.)
3. We have ceded our June 18 Intergenerational Second Hour to the Gender Inclusivity Ad Hoc Committee, in the interest of allowing Friends more opportunities to learn about gender issues before NPYM annual session. However, we have a terrific intergenerational second hour plan, and look forward to sharing it at the first opportunity!
4. Jessica and Lily Bee will be program facilitator and childcare helper during the August campout this year! Many thanks, Jessica and Lily!

5. Quarterly Teaching Schedule

June 18 – Susan R. (Anna)

**June 25 – Dusty A. (Lily)

July 2 --Kristen M.

July 9 --

*July 16 --Virginia H.

July 23 – Sharon T.

July 30 – -- (NPYM)

** two-hour second hour

* Virginia could switch to July 9, if someone wanted to teach on July 16

6. Our next meeting will be June 23 at Kristen's house. Please contact a member of the committee if you'd like to attend, or have a concern for the committee to consider.

Report from Outreach and Welcoming Committee to Bellingham Friends Meeting MfWfB, June 11, 2017

(Information and discussion) The Outreach and Welcoming Committee has decided to purchase a new sandwich board sign for Meeting which will be plastic instead of wooden as the current sign is. It will have the advantages of being less heavy and thus easier to move, having a handle on top, being free from the danger of splinters, and being more weather-resistant than is the current sign. The cost of the sign, \$189 plus tax from Copy Source, is available in our committee budget, although we would appreciate having a portion of the cost taken from the Meeting's equipment budget line if possible. The cost includes the printing and mounting, with plastic lamination for weather protection, of our own text and graphics (including color) on both sides. Don Reinke has drafted the copy for the sign and it is awaiting review and approval by the committee on June 17th. Once approved by us, we will submit the proposed copy for review and approval by the Meeting on July 9th. It is our understanding that the committee is authorized, as part of its job description, to decide upon and purchase the sign medium itself, but that the Meeting as a whole will have final say on the copy to be displayed by it.

(Information) Outreach and Welcoming is also working to present a semi-staged reading of the play "The Queen and the Rebels" during an extended second hour on June 25th. The play concerns the sources and meaning of nobility, an aspect of the traditional Quaker value of Integrity. There is one small part remaining to be cast and we also request the loan of six music stands for holding scripts during the reading. In addition, we would welcome provision of more substantial snacks than usual for that Sunday owing to the length of the play, about two hours.

(Information) Our next committee meeting will be on Saturday morning, June 17th, beginning at 10:30 am at Lynne Lohr's residence. All interested Friends are welcome, but please let me or Lynne know in advance if you are coming.

(Information) The remainder of this report is from me as OWC Clerk and has not yet been discussed by our full committee. I want to share with you my sense of sadness and disappointment at the shabby manner in which Lynne Lohr and Dusty Andersen were treated last Sunday when they attempted to facilitate a presentation and discussion between announcements and potluck time on the subject of "Web of Connections and Needs of Newcomers". Virtually everyone present left the library during what was assumed (by Dusty and Lynne, at least) to be a very brief stretch break preceding their activity, and virtually no one paid them any attention when they attempted to begin it. After a couple of minutes they decided to give up for lack of attention and interest. It would not surprise me if they felt anger as well as disappointment that so little regard was paid to their willingness to share something interesting and useful with Bellingham Friends.

(Discussion) I'm sure that there were numerous reasons for last Sunday's fiasco, and plenty of blame to go around, but my main purpose in raising this matter is to ask for your feedback regarding how it might be prevented from happening again.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of Outreach and Welcoming Committee, 6/8/17
Other OWC members are Dusty Andersen, Lynne Lohr, and Don Reinke

Interfaith Coalition Report

June 2017

Summer Opportunities

1. Project Homeless Connect is on July 21st. It is a one-day one-stop event at Bellingham High School that coordinates services for homeless people. They need donations of camping supplies, new socks and underwear, blankets, flashlights and batteries and personal hygiene items. Give your donations to Sharon Trent by Sunday, July 16th.
2. Eleven units of transitional and emergency housing need maintenance ranging from carpentry and landscaping to fence painting and yard work. Call 734-3983 or e-mail info@interfaith-coalition.org to volunteer. This would be a good family project.
3. Childrens books are being distributed throughout the county all summer. You may give them to Sharon Trent at any time.

Gender Inclusivity Minute Ad Hoc Committee
Report for Meeting for Worship for Business
June 11, 2017

This ad hoc committee has met three times so far, and is presently comprised of four members: Virginia Herrick, Kristen McLewin, Nan Macy, and Clay Griese. It was convened to aid our Meeting in seasoning the Multnomah Meeting's Gender Inclusivity Minute, which will be considered at North Pacific Yearly Meeting annual session in July.

Bellingham Friends likely vary greatly in their exposure to the range of issues related to gender identities, as well as to the nuances of gender inclusivity and related language. We see our task as helping Bellingham Friends become more familiar with and consider the complexities of gender identity and inclusivity, so that we may whole-heartedly season the minute. In the process, we hope to better understanding how our Meeting may be already gender inclusive, how we can grow to welcome more completely and consistently people of all gender identities and expressions, and how doing so reflects the best of Quakerism.

This ad hoc committee will host two second hours before NPYM annual session: June 18 and either July 16 or 23. The second will build upon the first, so we do hope that Friends can attend both.

On June 18, we will screen the 2016 documentary, *Gender Revolution*, produced by National Geographic and featuring Katie Couric. We will conclude with a short Q&A session. This second hour will run about two hours, so we encourage Friends to bring a brown bag lunch.

In July (either 16 or 23), we will host a speaker from outside of meeting to aid us in integrating and augmenting the information from the first second hour and more deeply season the Multnomah Minute. In support of this, we are asking the meeting to approve a speaker stipend of \$200.

The Hospitality Coordinator said that in practice he did not find it really made much difference because people use plates and utensils anyway. A Friend reminded us that we would have less food. Another Friend suggested that we not put out plates and utensils - then there would be none to wash. Yet another said that his experience was that cleanup can be overwhelming at times with large piles of plates and utensils to wash. Another Friend suggested that snacks be placed around the room with napkins (no plates or forks) so that there is no line and no utensils to wash. And still another Friend suggested that if no one is signed up for snacks, then other people are more likely to bring extra.

The Clerk summarized by saying that there are competing needs and that Friends should use their best judgement to minimize use of utensils and the subsequent work for the clean up crew on non-potluck days.

The meeting closed with silent worship