

Meeting For Worship With Attention to Business
December 13, 2015
Approved Minutes

Present: Dorrie Jodan (Clerk), Judy Hopkinson (Recording Clerk), John Hatten, Allan Richardson, Wendy Courtemanche, Kristen McLewin, Don Goldstein, Lynne Lohr, Allen Stockbridge, Wendy Goldstein, Rob Dillard, Virginia Herrick, Lorina Hall, Dusty Andersen, Mark Hersh, Karen Steen, Sharon Trent.

2015.12.01 Minutes were approved for Aug 8, Aug 30, October 11, November 8 with the caveat that the list of those present on November 8 may be altered as needed since names were entered retrospectively by the clerk

2015.12.02. Outreach and Welcoming Report (Attached) was read.

2015.12.02.01 A supplementary report (attached) was read and further explained by Allen Stockbridge. The proposal is that Bellingham Friends Meeting undertake to sponsor weekly programming on a new local radio station, KVWV, which is just beginning its broadcasting to the Bellingham area. The specific proposal is that we sponsor two hours of programming from Northern Spirit Radio on Sunday mornings from 8 to 10 am. Northern Spirit Radio is a Quaker-founded organization that produces two program series, "Song of the Soul" featuring folk music and musicians from around the country, and "Spirit in Action" featuring activities in support of various social justice, sustainability, and peace-related concerns. The cost of doing this is estimated at \$240/ year, and this will be confirmed before we come to a decision. The radio station will be 94.9 FM. The website for this new station is www.KVWV.org. It is currently streaming on line at this website. There is some possibility that the price is a special introductory price, and details will be confirmed. Friends were generally supportive.

The proposal was accepted for seasoning.

2015.12.03 Finance (report attached). The proposed budget assumes a 20% increase in income over what has been received to date and projected to the end of 2015. **The budget for 2016 was approved.**

2015.12.03.01 The meeting approved payment of an outstanding invoice for the work of an architect carried out in relation to application for the conditional use permit.

2015.12.04 Ministry and Counsel (Report Attached)

2015.12.04.1 Meeting accepted for seasoning a request to approve a Woolman School scholarship of \$500 from our Quaker Activity Fund for Sara DeRoy. M&C will ask her to present a report of her experience. Funds would be given after all financial arrangements are in place to cover her expenses.

2015.12.04.2 Friends approved M&C proposal for Iris Graville and another Friend to come and facilitate a Meeting for Worship for Sharing on Jan. 31. The meeting will pay her travel expenses from the committee's budget.

(This meeting will focus on the meeting's experience of decision making process around the proposal to purchase the Bell Towers Studio and in the future). Dorrie will contact Iris and ask her whether she would like to have any written comments ahead of time.

2015.12.04.3 Second hours:

Dec 20th: M&C clarified that Friends can bring any sort of contribution to our Christmas sharing

Potluck for February has been changed from Feb 7th to Jan 24th.

2015.12.04.4 Susan Richardson's nomination to Nominating Committee was approved.

2015.12.05 Social and Environmental Concerns Committee (Report Attached) SEC also plans to survey Friends in the coming year to find out how they are realizing their personal leadings in the community so that we can better recognize the full contributions of Friends in our midst

2015.12.05 Retreat Committee Report (attached). The committee has been laid down.

2015.12.06 Member Concern presented by Allen Stockbridge (attached). This concern is a request to co-sponsor a Bellingham stop for David Swanson on his book tour for the book "War is a Lie: Second Edition". **Friends approved a \$50 donation to co-sponsor this tour. Judy will clarify whether this can be taken from the SEC budget this year.**

2015.12.07 Member Concern John Hatten shared his appreciation of how caring and loving we are with each other most of the time. He also wanted to acknowledge that we all make mistakes and we need to work to support each other and look for the good in one another especially in the aftermath of the Bell Towers Studios purchase proposal.

2015.12.08 Don Goldstein (at the request of Allen Stockbridge) shared his impressions of last weekend's Alternatives to Violence Workshop - he enjoyed it and felt that he and the other participants benefited greatly.

Meeting closed with silent

Ministry & Counsel Report,

To BFM MfWfB Dec. 13, 2015

1. (Information) Advices and Queries – From *Advices and Queries* of The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain:

“Come regularly to meeting for worship even when you are angry, depressed, tired or spiritually cold. In the silence ask for and accept the prayerful support of others joined with you in worship. Try to find a spiritual wholeness which encompasses suffering as well as thankfulness and joy. Prayer, springing from a deep place in the heart, may bring healing and unity as nothing else can. Let meeting for worship nourish your whole life.”

2. (Action) Woolman School -- Sara DeRoy of Bellingham is requesting assistance with tuition to Woolman Semester School. Her family's cost is \$6,500. M&C has invited her to attend Meeting sometime in this month, and asks the Meeting to accept for seasoning our recommendation that we contribute \$250 to her tuition from our Quaker Activity Fund.

3. (Action) January Meeting for Sharing – Since our MfWfB last month, M&C has been praying, meeting, reflecting and discerning about best ways to help our Meeting move forward in light of our months-long process and inability to reach unity before the end of our contingency contract on the Bell Tower Studios building. We realize that Friends have a wide range of feelings and thoughts, and wish to create a safe space to honor them and hear one another. We have invited Iris Graville to come facilitate a Meeting for Worship for Sharing for us, pending approval by the Meeting for this. Iris is available Jan. 31, and if Friends approve, M&C will pay her travel expenses from the committee's budget. We also have invited her to bring another Friend from the Quarter to assist her. John Holding from Lopez and Warren Ostrom from University Meeting are two who have been suggested, among others.

4. Ministry and Counsel is also available to Friends individually who would like to share about their experience in the meantime. Please contact Virginia if you would like to come to our next meeting, Dec. 30, or to schedule another time to talk to us.

5. Second Hours:

Dec. 20 – Holiday Community Sharing. After our rich, beautiful poetry-sharing second hour, M&C would like to ask Friends to bring a favorite and/or seasonal poem to share.

Dec. 27 – “Sprinkling Happiness” (Aurora?) or extended social time

Jan. 3 – Potluck

Jan. 10 – MfWfB

Jan. 17 – Second Hour on Quaker Worship: A How-to-Do-It-Yourself Discussion, including distractions, focusing, and communal worship.

Jan. 24 – Pre-February Potluck

Jan. 31 – Meeting for sharing about (a-lot-more-than) a Meetinghouse, with Iris Graville and someone else (TBA) facilitating.

February 7 - State of Society brainstorming

Feb. 14 – MfWfB

Feb. 21-

Feb. 28 -

Mar. 6 – Celebration of Mary Ann's membership?

6. State of Society: M&C reminds committee clerks begin process of considering the State of the Committee reports, which are usually given to whoever is drafting our report by the end of January. A first draft of the report is usually submitted at February MfWfB, and Friends are invited to make suggestions and additions and accept for seasoning. The final report comes back for approval in March, so that it can be sent off to the Quarter in plenty of time for spring Quarterly Meeting in April.

7. Nominating Committee Nominee. Susan's nomination comes to Meeting for final approval in December.

Next Meeting: Dec. 30, 7 p.m.

Bellingham Friends Meeting Finance Committee

Report to Meeting for Worship for Business

December 9, 2015

Action item:

The Bellingham Friends Meeting budget for 2016 is presented for final approval.

Discussion:

How to generate enough revenue to cover the expenses included in the budget? The 2016 budget includes an increase of \$2,030 over 2015, and is more than \$3,000 above the actual contributions in 2015. Thus, the proposed budget is over 20% above this year's income. The gap would be almost filled if all financial contributors to Meeting increase their donations by 20%. This year 34 individuals or households have made donations to Meeting—17 are regular monthly donors of \$50 to \$100 per month, the other 17 donors give in smaller amount or at irregular intervals. As an example, a \$50 per month donation would need to be increased to \$60 per month to support next year's budget.

Action item:

Authorize payment of an architect's bill for \$742.50. In order to continue the process of acquiring the conditional use permit, Haven Design Workshop, an architect, was contracted to determine feasibility of needed work in the Bell Tower building. The invoice stands at \$742.50. Will Meeting approve the payment of this cost incurred in the exploratory process?

2016 Proposed Operating Budget

INCOME		Proposed 2016	2015	Variance
Contributions				
4010	Contributions by Check	\$ 15,963.00	\$ 13,933	\$ 2,030
4015	Contributions by Cash	\$ 400.00	\$ 400	\$ -
4018	Contributions in Kind	\$ 427.00	\$ 427	\$ -
Total Income		\$ 16,790.00	\$ 14,760	\$ 2,030
EXPENSES				
Finance Committee				
5010	Bank Service Charge			
5011	State Filing Fee	\$ 10.00	\$ 10	\$ -
5020	Equipment	\$ 50.00	\$ 50	\$ -
5030	Liability Insurance	\$ 575.00	\$ 575	\$ -
5040	Rent	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 6,600	\$ 600
5060	Supplies, Postage, Copying	\$ 30.00	\$ 30	\$ -
5070	Quarterly Yearly Assessment	\$ 80.00	\$ 80	\$ -
5070	Yearly Meeting Assessment	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400	\$ -
Total Finance Committee		\$ 10,345.00	\$ 9,745	\$ 600
5600	Children's Program			
5630	Childcare	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 400	\$ 1,100
5650	Supplies and Materials	\$ 500.00	\$ 100	\$ 400
Total Children's Program		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500	\$ 1,500
Communications				
5710	Advertising	\$ 70.00	\$ 70	\$ -
5720	Directory	\$ 80.00	\$ 80	\$ -
5730	Newsletter	\$ 80.00	\$ 125	\$ (45)
5740	PO Box	\$ 80.00	\$ 80	\$ -
5750	Website Communications	\$ 30.00	\$ 30	\$ -
5700	Total Communications	\$ 340.00	\$ 385	\$ (45)
Ministry and Counsel				
6030	Gifts	\$ 50.00	\$ 50	\$ -
6040	Pamphlets and Subscriptions	\$ 125.00	\$ 125	\$ -
6050	Outreach and Welcoming	\$ 200.00	\$ 200	\$ -
6060	Retreats and Special Events	\$ 500.00	\$ 400	\$ 100

6000	Total Ministry and Counsel	\$	875.00	\$	775	\$	100
	Other Committees						
	6510 Hospitality	\$	450.00	\$	450	\$	-
	6520 Library	\$	150.00	\$	150	\$	-
	6530 Oversight for Lopez P.M.	\$	-	\$	125		
	6540 Social and Environment Concerns	\$	140.00	\$	140		
	Total Other Committees	\$	740.00	\$	865	\$	(125)
	Outreach and Support						
	6610 AFSC	\$	165.00	\$	165.00	\$	-
	6611 FCNL	\$	150.00	\$	150.00	\$	-
	6612 FCWPP	\$	150.00	\$	150.00	\$	-
	6613 FGC	\$	100.00	\$	100.00	\$	-
	6614 Interfaith Coalition	\$	125.00	\$	125.00	\$	-
	6617 FWCC	\$	125.00	\$	125.00	\$	-
	6618 Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$	125.00	\$	125.00	\$	-
	6620 Right Sharing of World Resources	\$	125.00	\$	125.00	\$	-
	6630 Whatcom Peace and Justice	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,200.00	\$	-
	6640 WA Coalition to Abolish Death Penalty	\$	50.00	\$	50.00	\$	-
	6650 W. WA FOR	\$	75.00	\$	75.00	\$	-
	6860 Bellingham Human Rights Festival	\$	100.00	\$	100.00	\$	-
6500	Total Outreach and Support	\$	2,490.00	\$	2,490	\$	-
	Total Expenses	\$	16,790.00	\$	14,760.00	\$	2,030

Report from Outreach and Welcoming Group to BFM, 11-8-15
Re-submitted for 12-13-15

The Outreach and Welcoming Group has been working with others to season a proposal to improve our distribution of information concerning Meeting for Worship for Business. The proposal is that the Enews published on Wednesday before each MfWfB contain three items intended to help more Friends be aware of our upcoming business and be able to prepare more fully for it. These items are:

1. A list of action items known to be on the agenda for the coming MfWfB, primarily items that were accepted for seasoning during a previous month and which have not yet received final action.
2. A disclaimer making it clear that there will likely be other action items brought to the meeting, most of which will be in committee reports received between Wednesday and Sunday.
3. A statement indicating how one can ask to be included in the distribution list for such committee reports and for both draft and final minutes from the MfWfB.

The motivation for this proposal is the observation that quite a few Friends (and not just new attenders) have not been aware that there is an existing emailing list of those who want to receive those business-related reports and minutes. For example, of the six BFM Friends who attended the Group Discernment Workshop on Whidbey Island last month, three were unaware of the MfWfB email list, despite that fact that it is clearly related to our being prepared for group discernment.

The current Enews editor and distributor, Judy Hopkinson, is aware and supportive of this proposal, and we are working with her and others to figure out the logistics of how it can most easily be implemented. Since this proposal requests, in effect, a small but significant modification of an existing Meeting function, we believe it does not require formal Meeting approval. We are reporting this for your information and are happy to invite any questions or comments.

The Outreach and Welcoming Group will meet next on Saturday, December 12th at 10:30 am at the Goldstein home. All interested Friends are welcome to join us.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of OWG

Other subcommittee members are Dusty Andersen, Wendy Goldstein, and Kathy Long
M & C members Virginia Herrick, Mary Ann Percy, and John Hatten also participate on a rotating basis.

Final report of 2015 BFM Retreat Planning Committee to MfWfB, 11-8-15
Re-submitted for 12-13-15

The 2015 Retreat Planning Committee met on October 11th to discuss how this year's retreat had gone and to look at the results of the evaluation survey.

Approximately one-third of adult BFM attenders responded to the survey. Nearly all said that they agreed or strongly agreed that they had had a positive experience at the retreat with respect to accommodations, meals, venue, worship, and length. When we asked respondents to indicate their preference for an overnight versus one day retreat, there may have been some confusion about what was meant by the term "one day retreat", so we suggest clarifying that to read "8 hours" in future surveys.

Friends' responses as to what they liked most largely revolved around the sense of community and opportunities for those connections, including worship sharing as a rich opportunity for building connections. Friends reported they would prefer to have had more free time and intergenerational activities, and more Friends available to work with the children.

Our recommendation for future retreats is to consider both 24 hour/overnight retreats as well as shorter retreats to take place during one day—8 hours or less. We believe it would be best for the then-current retreat planning committee to discern what would work best for Bellingham Friends, perhaps including a survey to gauge preferences in the context of a specific weekend. Some kind of alternation between overnight and one day retreats might work best for many of us.

From the perspective of the Retreat Planning Committee, the Camp Lutherwood venue worked well for the most part, the staff there was helpful and accommodating, and it fit well with our budget. With attendance similar to this year's (18 adults and 7 children), all of our activities would have worked without using the Upper Chapel. An option for the dancing would be to have it during the day and outside, close to a building for access to the music/sound system. We might choose for the children's program to use the upper chapel. With higher attendance numbers, renting the main chapel instead of the upper chapel could be desirable.

In regard to food, more food was brought to the potluck than was anticipated, and partly for that reason there was quite a lot of purchased food left over (much of which was brought back to Explorations Academy to use for snacks). The serving area in Lakeview Lodge was quite crowded, especially for the potluck dinner on Saturday evening, and this problem needs further study before we use the venue for an overnight retreat again.

We are mindful that BFM will be the host Meeting for the Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting session in April 2017. This may impact a Retreat Planning Committee for a 2016 BFM Retreat, since the PNQM Planning Committee will need to do much of its work during 2016.

With this report, the 2015 Retreat Planning Committee requests to be laid down.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of 2015 Retreat Planning Committee

Other committee members have been Mary Ann Percy, Carole Teshima, Wendy Goldstein, and Mark Hersh

Request for Sponsorship of David Swanson Book Tour Event in Bellingham

Submitted by Allen Stockbridge

I was invited by Sharon Abreu to help with the planning of a visit by David Swanson as part of his new book tour promoting "War is a Lie: Second Edition".

I suggested that we invite other local groups with an interest in this cause to collaborate. I suggested the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center, Veterans for Peace, The Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship and Bellingham Friends Meeting.

I took a request to consider BFM co-sponsoring this event to the Social and Environmental Concerns Committee, and they suggested that I bring the request to a Meeting for Business.

I am now one of the organizers, and we have secured a date, time and place for the event.

The event will be at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship on April 14th at 7 pm.

All of the other groups have agreed to co-sponsor the trip and the event and have provided between \$50 and \$200 towards the travel costs.

Will the Bellingham Friends Meeting agree to be a co-sponsor of the event?
Will the Meeting consider a contribution towards the travel expenses and stipend?
Something in the range of \$50-100 would be appropriate.

I have attached the original request from Sharon Abreu and information about the book.

Dear Friends,

I highly recommend David Swanson and his new book, War Is A Lie: Second Edition. (see below) I encourage you to get the book and to share this with everyone you know.

I'm a big fan of David's and have been since I first met him in 2004. He's a great progressive thinker and peace activist. I'll be helping set up a couple of talks for David in our area.

If you know of specific venues that would be good for David to speak at, please contact events@worldbeyondwar.org. Book stores are great, but venues where David could get paid something for speaking would help him cover his travel expenses - colleges, universities, churches, community organizations, conferences, etc.

With thanks, best wishes, and in peace, Shar Abreu

War Is A Lie: Second Edition will be published by Just World Books on April 5, 2016. Please buy it online that day. I'll come anywhere in the world to speak about it. Invite me!

David Swanson is an author, activist, journalist, and radio host. He is director of WorldBeyondWar.org and campaign coordinator for RootsAction.org. Swanson's books include War Is A Lie. He blogs at DavidSwanson.org and WarIsACrime.org. He hosts Talk Nation Radio. He is a 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee.

Supplementary report from Outreach and Welcoming Group to BFM on 12-12-15

The Outreach and Welcoming Group has received a proposal from Allen Stockbridge which we believe is worthy of further study. The proposal is that Bellingham Friends Meeting undertake to sponsor weekly programming on a new local radio station, KVWV, which is just beginning its broadcasting to the Bellingham area. The station is currently streaming content via its website and expects to begin broadcasting via a low-power FM transmitter early in 2016.

The specific proposal is that we sponsor two hours of programming from Northern Spirit Radio on Sunday mornings from 8 to 10 am. Northern Spirit Radio is a Quaker-founded organization that produces two program series, "Song of the Soul" featuring folk music and musicians from around the country, and "Spirit in Action" featuring activities in support of various social justice, sustainability, and peace-related concerns. The sponsorship by BFM would be mentioned at least twice in each hour of our programming and also at times during the overnight hours of 2 to 6 am. Such mentions could include information about where and when we meet, our unprogrammed worship and other regular activities, and our special events when that is appropriate.

Allen can provide some further details and also indicate what questions would need to be resolved before we can make a decision. He will also address the matter of costs and how the needed funds might be raised. I can report for our subcommittee, however, that this proposal seems to provide a potentially fruitful means of outreach to the community and that, should the outstanding questions be resolved satisfactorily, we are in support of the Meeting trying out such a sponsorship arrangement for one year. For now, we recommend that the proposal be accepted for seasoning over the next month or two, depending on availability of the needed information, and that Friends be invited to submit questions to Allen during this seasoning process.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of Outreach and Welcoming Group, Bellingham Friends Meeting
Other committee members are Dusty Andersen, Wendy Goldstein, and Kathy Long

Year End Report from the Social and Environmental Concerns Committee December, 2015

This past year, Social and Environmental Concerns of Bellingham Friends has designated a "concern of the month" and collected funds for several organizations including: Friendly Water for the World, Community to Community, Re-Resources for a Sustainable Community, Northwest Youth Services, Heifer International- Nepal relief, Growing Vets, Lummi Totem Pole Journey, Rainbow Recovery Center, Friends Ugandan Safe Transport Fund, Dorothy Place, Whatcom Land Trust, and Syrian Refugee Relief. The total donated for concerns this year came to \$1476. We also developed guidelines for selecting our Concerns and brought them to the Meeting for approval.

In the past year, the Social and Environmental Concerns Committee of Bellingham Friends Meeting has:

- Organized a movie night to watch and discuss *Return of the River* (A documentary film on the removal of the Elwha River dams, and the changes it will bring to the ecosystems and the people of the North Olympic Peninsula)
- Helped bring attention to the issue of farm-worker justice issues through reading the book "Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies" and holding two film nights to watch and discuss the documentaries *Food Chains* and *The Harvest*
- Brought attention to tribal issues through: supporting the Lummi Totem Pole Journey, bringing information on how to comment on the EIS for the Tongue River Railroad in Montana, and sending a letter from the Meeting to the Army Corps of Engineers in support of the Lummi's request to deny the coal terminal at Cherry Point because it violates their treaty rights
- Organized a second hour with WWU students on the Unistoten camp and its resistance to pipeline projects in British Columbia
- Encouraged and supported our Meeting's participation in the local Pride Parade and in Bellingham's Climate March using our Quaker banner
- Organized two second hours for worship sharing around the art piece "39 Questions for White People"
- Utilized our weekly e-news to inform our Meeting about local activist events and nature outings
- Sent out short videos in our e-news addressing issues related to immigration detention centers
- Presented a Quaker Statement on Climate Change to our Meeting for consideration of signing on – this statement was modified to better reflect current research, signed by our Meeting, and sent to QUNO with an explanation of the change we had made