

Bellingham Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
November 12, 2017 Minutes - Approved

Present: Susan Richardson (Clerking), Mark Hersh, Michelle Sarju, Nan Macy, Virginia Herrick, Dusty Andersen, Mary Hansen, Allan Richardson, Alice Robb, Sarah Bibbey, David Hopkinson, Don Goldstein, Wendy Goldstein, Sharon Trent, Don Reinke, Lorina Hall, Mary Ann Percy, Dorrie Jordan, Judy Hopkinson (recording Clerk)

The agenda was approved.

2017.11.01 Meetinghouse Committee Report (attached)

2017.11.01.1 Discussion:. Does the Meeting wish to meet downstairs at least until the end of the next school year?

- A Friend/Friends said she preferred downstairs to upstairs in the library, and wanted to know if there were any alternatives as well as the consequences if we decided to move. ANS: Alternatives continue to be explored and consequences for moving to another building would not be affected by our move to the basement. The agreement with Explorations Academy would not change in any other way if we move downstairs.

The Clerk clarified that there are two questions - one is the space, the other is the contract. She asked that we focus on the space first and the contract later.

Friend /Friends -

- shared that meeting upstairs would mean that her partner could not attend because of accessibility problems.
- asked about the expense of microphones. ANS: EA has microphones we can use and we would not have to use John's microphones.
- asked about food and beverages in this space and about the impact on the hospitality providers. ANS: (From Hospitality Coordinator) We have discussed the issue with EA and they are fine with us eating downstairs. The experience last week with potluck downstairs was manageable, and gave us more space. Moving our supplies downstairs will make it even easier.
- shared that she really liked eating down here. The space and acoustics were a vast improvement. - also noted that the heater blower is a new noise to which we will need to adjust.
- Citing University Friends Meeting as an example, one friend asked about talking to EA re: installing acoustic ceiling tiles downstairs to improve the ability for folks to hear. The building liaison shared that acoustic tiles are quite expensive and relatively ineffective. I don't recall whether it was taken up by Dave as building liaison.
- shared that she approved of the move as long as it does not mean we stop looking for another place.
- asked that we increase the signups for clean up to include more people.
- shared that she had the perception that we were to stop looking for another space. ANS: The clerk felt that we do need to keep looking.
- Dave H noted that he turned the furnace up when he arrived and that the building design draws heat up the stairs and to the roof. He asked that we keep the doors closed to reduce heat loss and also to allow the furnace to shut off and reduce the noise. He also shared that we will continue to look for another space.

2017.11.01.2 The Meeting is in unity to use the downstairs auditorium for our regular meetings. Children's program will continue to use the rooms upstairs.

2017.11.01.3 Rental Agreement Renewal (**Proposed contract attached**)-

Discussion:

- The Clerk asked about the clause for 4 months notice. ANS: This was part of the previous contract and is a courtesy.
- Virginia H pointed out that the proposed contract specifies "quiet".
- A Friend asked whether EA has approved our moving our cabinets downstairs. ANS: This will be addressed during negotiations.
- Another Friend asked about the alternative group that sings when they meet quarterly. ANS: The committee will negotiate an arrangement with them.
- **The Meeting approved that the committee take this contract to EA for consideration.**

2017.11.01.4 - Additional discussion related to the Meetinghouse Committee

- Virginia H. Reported that she looked at a place on Ellis St., but it was too small, even though there was adequate parking and the cost was under \$400,000.
- A Friend asked about the Majestic rental. Virginia H. reminded the Meeting of the issues with the Majestic that made it unsuitable including that it was unavailable on Sunday mornings.
- Don G. asked whether the Meetinghouse Committee has explored sharing a space with another business that uses it Monday - Friday. ANS: Dave H. reported that the committee has looked at shared space.
- Sharon T. asked if we had looked at the Bell Tower for shared space. ANS: The Bell Tower has an issue with parking and handicap accessibility.

2017.11.02 Ministry and Counsel Report (Attached)

2017.11.02.01 -Request for input regarding a Christmas Program. Do we want to have a Christmas Program?

- Don G. asked what happened with Aurora's plan for a craft activity. ANS: Virginia H. reported that Aurora will not be available. The Children's Program Committee felt that they were not moved to have a special program this year, but felt that gathered singing would be good.

2017.11.02.02 The Meeting agreed that in lieu of a Christmas Program, we would all sing Carols on Dec 24th after rise of meeting - Don R. volunteered to play piano

2017.11.02.03 - Allan R. asked about switching funds for graduation gifts from M&C to some other line in the budget.

- After discussion, it was clarified that the Children's committee has been purchasing graduation gifts for the children.

2017.11.03 Social and Environmental Concerns Report (Attached)

- A Friend asked why the SEC proposed to exclude the men's room upstairs from the bathrooms which would be labeled "All Gender Bathroom". ANS: SEC is exploring the use of the space and the resulting comfort for people of all ages.
- A Friend pointed out that other people use the building when we are here, and they may have difficulty with the signs.
- Nan M. suggested that if others have a concern, she would be happy to field those concerns.
- Don G. wanted to know whether our liaison would be willing to ask EA about leaving the signs for the downstairs bathrooms posted permanently.
- Dave H. pointed out that our contract says that we will leave the place as we found it.
- A Friend who is a key holder shared that she sees no problem with this, and that three added signs would not be a problem
- **The Meeting agreed to move forward with the recommendation to put up the All Gender Bathroom signs on the 2 downstairs bathrooms and the upstairs women's bathroom when we meet and take them down afterwards. The liaison will let EA know that we are doing this.**

2017.11.04 Interfaith - Report on the Family Promise Program

- Sharon T. described the program and some of the potential role(s) that Bellingham Friends might play.

2017.11.04.1 Discussion: Would the Meeting commit to cooking meals for a week 4 times a year at one of the churches that houses the Family Promise families?

- A Friend thought it was a great idea and that we would need a very responsible person to maintain a schedule and coordinate our involvement.
- Another Friend asked if we could have a second hour on this.
- Sharon T. said we do not need to decide immediately, and there should be time for a second hour.
- A Friend shared that we do need to think about Quaker process. She requested that we have a proposal and have time to season it according to our regular Quaker process.
- The Clerk asked who might have interest in working with Family Promise, and many Friends expressed interest.
- A Friend asked whether a short informational hour might help.
- Sharon T. said she has had many calls asking if we want more information or are willing to commit.
- A Friend suggested that we might agree on further exploration, but that we need a real proposal in order to discern whether we can honestly make and fulfill a commitment.
- A Friend asked about putting this in the E-News, and asking Friends to contact Sharon so that we can formulate a proposal for Quaker participation
- Friends thanked Sharon for bringing this opportunity to Quakers.

2017.11.04.2 The Meeting agreed to have an informational session about the Family Promise program at the December 3 potluck. We are supporting this in concept and gathering information to develop a specific proposal to bring to MfWfB.

2017.11.05 Finance Committee (Report attached)

2017.11.05.1 Budget - Discussion

- SEC has requested an increase of \$100. This request is in support of a 2018, SEC-led initiative to encourage Friends to let their lives speak by reaching out to elected officials.
- Friend suggested that we might need funds for an ad hoc committee (e.g., to manage a capital campaign) and therefore leaving it in the budget as a line item might be appropriate
- It was suggested that if funds are needed at any point, an ad hoc committee can obtain funds by requesting them as an out-of-budget expense, therefore a line item in anticipation of a possible need would not be necessary.

2017.11.05.2 Finance committee requested that a formal process for routine review of general meeting donations be considered. - Discussion

- A Friend asked whether SEC might take this on.
- Nan M agreed that SEC would be happy to do this in the future, and Friends were welcomed to offer input into this process.
- Another Friend asked whether, since the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center is the recipient of a large portion of our donation funds, we should seek to have a representative on their board of directors in order to be better informed concerning WPJC's programs and needs.
- A discussion of Bellingham Friends extensive history with WPJC ensued.
- Friends agreed that we should explore developing a stronger relationship with WPJC and explore having a Quaker on their board. Don G agreed to contact Neah Montiero.
- A Friend asked whether the monthly contributions to the Meetinghouse fund should be reported so that Friends are all aware of the status of the fund. The Finance Committee clerk acknowledged the need to facilitate awareness of the fund.

2017.11.06.1 Outreach and Welcoming Committee report

Discussion: Should the Meeting put rainbow stickers on our sandwich board sign?

- A Friend asked if they were weather-proof. ANS: Probably - we will see.
- A Friend asked why and where and whether it was Quakerly. ANS: The rainbow is a symbol of inclusiveness.
- A Friend said it seemed political. Another Friend said it was just as political not to put it on the sign.
- A Friend who still has concerns said that she would not stand in the way.
- **Friends agreed to move forward with placing the stickers on the sign**

2017.11.07.1 Children's Program Committee Report **(attached)**

- Ministry and Counsel will work with the Children's Program Committee to plan a baby welcoming for Saia Manzo.
- Virginia H invited Friends to let her know soon if they wish to be on the teaching schedule.

2017.11.08 Nominating Committee Report

- **The Meeting gave final approval for Janine Bruton as key holder**

2017.11.09 Minutes from the October MfWfB were approved with minor changes.

2017.11.10 Member Concerns

2017.11.10.01 Don G requested that we create a new nominated position as a member of the WPJC Board.

- A Friend suggested that we might want to explore that with WPJC first since decisions regarding the composition of their board are their responsibility rather than ours.
- Another Friend suggested that we appoint a representative to WPJC who might become a Board member at WPJC's discretion.
- Another Friend asked for an explanation of the WPJC center and how they were related to Quakers. Don G. shared that he works closely with WPJC on one of its peace projects.
- The issue appeared to be resolved in favor of appointing a representative, but no process for that appointment was identified.

2017.11.10.02 Mary Ann P. asked a process question regard member concerns. In her previous meeting, member concerns are presented, seasoned, and discussed the following month. The Clerk replied that that has not been our practice, but that it an interesting idea.

- A Friend felt that seasoning member concerns for a month and/or referring them to a committee would be a good idea.
- The Clerk asked if Nominating Committee might work on this (WPJC) concern for a month and come back with a specific proposal. ANS: Yes, the committee will do their best.

2017.11.10.03 A Friend asked if we might have a second hour on the WPJC.

Ministry and Counsel will work to make this happen. Don stated that when he contacts Neah Montiero about the Board-position idea he will also ask about her willingness to present such a second hour.

BFM Meetinghouse Committee

Report to Meeting for Worship for Business 11-12-2017

Second Hour on Financing a Meetinghouse

Friends are in unity around relocating. Many want to purchasing (or build) a meetinghouse. There is *not* unity about financing. Finance and Meetinghouse Committees came to the conclusion that: *purchase of a property for a meetinghouse will require borrowing money.*

The Second Hour was an opportunity to delve into one area where we have not had unity, namely that of obtaining a loan. Larry Thompson explained the four types of loans. There was great interest, and Friends seemed receptive to the ideas, but we have much more to learn. There was not enough time for the presentation regarding a *capital campaign*.

Meetinghouse Committee Recommendations

1. Meeting continue to seek unity regarding the financing of a meetinghouse purchase: this would mean committing to be prepared to borrow money for a property that seems suitable. (This is *not* about seeking a pre-approved loan, but rather agreeing to the concept that we will borrow money).
2. Ministry and Council should schedule another Second Hour to educate ourselves about a capital campaign and continue to explore the issues of borrowing money.
3. That Meeting commit to meeting in the basement of EA at least until the end of the school year, at which time we re-evaluate our experience. As part of that commitment, we would ask EA if we may move our dishes and our Admin cabinets to the basement. (Children's Program would remain upstairs). (The request to complete the move downstairs would coincide with the joint signing of the Memo of Understanding).

Memorandum of Understanding

Revised 9-11-2017

This sublease agreement is between Explorations Academy (EA) and the Bellingham Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (BFM) regarding use of the space of EA for the purpose of Quaker worship and instruction. EA agrees to provide usable space: reasonably clean, heated, reasonably quiet, illuminated by overhead lighting, and otherwise suitable for small group activity. BFM agrees to leave the space reasonably clean and as was found prior to use as regards chairs and tables.

Payment: BFM agrees to pay \$600 on the first business day of each month throughout the term of this agreement for the use of the School facilities during that month.

Use: BFM agrees to use Classrooms, Commons, Library or Basement of EA on Sunday from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Space may be available at other times and is arranged in advance as an opening exists on the Creekside Building Online Calendar. Reservations on the Calendar are made in advance of use on a first-come-first-served basis.

Indemnification: BFM agrees to accept full and complete liability for all Quaker participants and guests while in the Creekside Building, including entering and leaving. Under no circumstances will EA, or building owner, John Blethen, be held liable for any accidents, injuries or illnesses associated with use of the facility by BFM members or guests. BFM agrees to provide current certificates of insurance, one copy that names EA and another that names John Blethen, as additional named insured.

Period: The agreement covers January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. This agreement is renewable by mutual consent. Written notice of four (4) months is required for either party (EA or BFM) to terminate this agreement.

Keys: Entry and egress to the building may be made any entrance. BFM has four (4) sets of building keys. BFM is required to keep an up-to-date list of the four current key holders on file with EA and to notify EA immediately, if any are lost.

Agreed:

BFM Representative

Date

Explorations Academy Representative

Date

Ministry and Counsel Report
Bellingham Friends Meeting
November 12, 2017

1. Monthly query: “Are we charitable with each other? How careful are we of the reputation of others? Do we avoid hurtful criticism and gossip? Do we practice the art of listening to one another, even without words?” From *Faith and Practice*, NPYM.
2. Ministry and counsel would like to seek input from Friends about whether to schedule the Christmas program Dec 17 or 24. We recommend Dec 17, as we expect some may be traveling or away Dec 24.

Second Hours dates and topics:

November 5-- Potluck

November 12--MFWFB

November 19--Spiritual Journey--Judy H.

November 26--Worship sharing on gratitude

December 3-- Potluck

December 10-- MFWFB

December 17-- Christmas program?

December 24-- Caroling?

December 31-- Soup and story?

January 7-- Potluck

January 14-- MFWFB

January 21-- (Silent retreat at Gold Bar, WA -ideally before dinner Friday 1-19 -18 to after lunch Sunday 1-21-18, with an option to extend to Monday 1-22 after lunch. Talk with Mary Ann Percy or eNews for more details or carpooling to this low cost retreat in a beautiful and rustic setting).

3. Spiritual Nurture Groups—There was much interest in this. Let Mary Ann know if you are interested. As more people sign up, we will be able to create new groups. These will meet for about two hour meetings, frequency to be determined by the group. We set up groups as follows (**bold** indicates convener):
Mary Ann, Jill, Sarah B, Lisa Farino, Lorina (probably Friday morning)
Janine, Don G., Dusty, Rachel VB, Joanne (probably Friday morning)
Dave H, Virginia, Clae, Sharon T, Don R. (probably Sunday afternoon)
4. M&C budget for 2018: \$775, same last year, \$600 for retreats and special events, \$125 pamphlets and subscriptions. We propose transferring the \$50 gift line used to graduating HS seniors book to children’s program, as they monitor ages and participating children more closely. We went over budget with camping trip and retreat, but we plan to encourage people who attend the retreat to consider contributing as they are able to offset some of the expense.
5. Next meeting: Monday, December 4, 7 to 9:30 p.m. at John’s.
6. A question has been raised about the use of friendly language: friend, Friend, attender. We have made some inquiries about within and beyond our yearly Meeting. We plan to hold a second hour about membership that’ll address this in more detail.

Social and Environmental Concerns Committee
Report to Meeting for Worship for Business
November 12, 2017

Information items:

- November Concern of the Month: Bellingham Food Bank
- Budget Request: The Social and Environmental Concerns Committee is requesting a 2018 budget of \$150 in support of a planned postcard Quaker outreach effort to public officials that we will be leading throughout the year. The money will be used to have postcards printed, and to buy related supplies. More information will be forthcoming in the new year.
- As a step toward living into our Meeting commitment to welcome and support people of all gender identities, SEC plans to follow up on suggestions raised earlier this year to label restrooms at Explorations as “all gender bathroom.” At present, we are prepared to do so for the two downstairs restrooms and the upstairs restroom currently designated as the women’s restroom. In the future, this “all gender bathroom” designation may also include the upstairs restroom currently designated at the men’s restroom.

Bellingham Friends Meeting Finance Committee

Report to Meeting for Worship for Business, November 12, 2017

Draft Proposed Budget for 2018: See separate attachment. Expenses are projected to be very similar to this year, except for \$500 less for Children's Program due to fewer children. The Yearly Meeting assessment amount will be adjusted after the billing is received later this month. The Ad Hoc Committee line will be dropped.

Outreach and Support Budget: Guidance is requested from Meeting for Business. No one is stewarding the Outreach and Support budget of \$2,490. An ad hoc committee reviewed this two years ago, and the amounts and recipients were revised then. Should SEC or some other on-going group monitor this budget on a regular basis?

Bellingham Friends Meeting
2018 Proposed

	2018	2017 Actual Budget	Variance
Operating Income			
Contributions by Check	15920	\$16,846	-\$926
Contributions by Cash	\$800	\$400	\$400
Contributions in Kind	\$450	\$450	\$0
	\$17,170	\$17,696	-\$1,776
Operating Expenses			
Finance Committee (and Administration)			
Equipment	\$50	\$50	\$0
Liability Insurance	\$575	\$575	\$0
Rent	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$0
State license and filing fee	\$10	\$10	\$0
Supplies, postage and photocopying	\$30	\$30	\$0
Quarterly Meeting Assessment	\$100	\$90	\$10
Yearly Meeting Assessment	\$2,760	\$2,760	\$0
Total Finance Committee & Administration	\$10,725	\$10,715	\$10
Children's Program Committee			
First Day Support	\$1,500	\$2,000	-\$500
Supplies and Materials	\$500	\$500	\$0
Total Children's Program Committee	\$2,000	\$2,500	-\$500
Communications Activities			
Advertising	\$70	\$70	\$0
Directory	\$90	\$60	\$30
PO Box	\$95	\$86	\$9
Website/Other	\$50	\$50	\$0
Total Communications Activities	\$305	\$266	\$39

Ministry and Counsel Committee			
Gifts	\$50	\$50	\$0
Pamphlets and Subscriptions	\$125	\$125	\$0
Retreat and Special Events	\$600	\$600	\$0
Total Ministry and Counsel Committee	\$775	\$775	\$0
Other Committees			
Hospitality	\$450	\$450	\$0
Library	\$150	\$150	\$0
Outreach and Welcoming	\$225	\$250	-\$25
Social and Environmental Concerns	\$50	\$50	\$0
Ad Hoc	to be removed	\$50	
Total Other Committees	\$875	\$950	-\$25
Outreach and Support			
AFSC	\$165	\$165	\$0
FCNL	\$150	\$150	\$0
FCWPP	\$150	\$150	\$0
FGC	\$100	\$100	\$0
Interfaith Coalition	\$125	\$125	\$0
FWCC	\$125	\$125	\$0
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$125	\$125	\$0
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$125	\$125	\$0
Whatcom Peace and Justice Center	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
WA Coalition to Abolish Death Penalty	\$50	\$50	\$0
W. WA FOR	\$75	\$75	\$0
Bellingham Human Rights Festival	\$100	\$100	\$0
Total Outreach and Support	\$2,490	\$2,490	\$0
Total Operating Expenses	\$17,170	\$17,696	-\$526

BFM Children's Program Committee Report

1. Budget for 2018. After reviewing our budget request from last year (\$2,000 for childcare, \$500 for materials and supplies) and expenditures so far reported from this year (\$737.55, which does not include figures for the summer months because our worker during that time had not yet submitted a bill; and \$111.13, respectively) CP noted that several things contributed to our low expense figures for childcare helpers. 1) No children attended the annual retreat, because of the unfortunate coincidence that it took place at the same time as the Skilshare Faire; 2) Two families have stopped attending Meeting this year, and no new ones have come, resulting in less frequent attendance at Meeting this year. We hope that the annual retreat will not be so scheduled in 2018, but given the lower number of families with children in the meeting heading into this year, we are reducing our budget request for childcare help. However, we do believe that as a number of other expenses for supplies and materials are paid for in the last couple months of the year, we will come close to our \$500 budget, and make the same request for next year. Our total request, then, is \$2,000: \$1,500 for childcare help and \$500 for supplies and materials.

2. Celebrating our grads. Two children of the Meeting, Maya Hatten-Beck and Ian Herrick, graduated from high school this year. As per our tradition, we have sent books as graduation gifts to them; both received books of poetry by Mary Oliver, inscribed by John Hatten (for Ian) and Lorina Hall (for Maya).

3. Baby welcoming planning. Children's program committee is planning to contact Stephanie and Tim to discuss plans for a baby welcoming. **Wanted to check and make sure this is our responsibility, not M&C?**

4. Fall/Winter Quarterly Teaching Schedule

Nov. 12 – Sharon T

Nov. 19 – Dusty A

Nov. 26 – Rob D

Dec. 3 –Aurora

Dec. 10 –

5. Central and Junior Friends Service Project. Children's Program committee is working to arrange an opportunity for our Middle School and High School age kids to prepare food for homeless or needy people around the holidays. We are considering arranging a Junior Friends program to meet once a month with a separate “Friendly Adult Presence” rather than the usual Children's Program facilitator.

6. Next Meeting: Nov. 21, 5:45 p.m. at Aurora's house