

Bellingham Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
December 10, 2017
Approved Minutes

Present: Clae Griese, Virginia Herrick, Jill Mount, Don Goldstein, Wendy Goldstein, Mary Ann Percy, Kristin McLewin, Susan Richardson, Mark Hersh, Allan Richardson, Don Van Valkenburgh, Larry Thompson, Joanne Cowan, Sharon Trent, Lorina Hall, Tammy Fulton, John Hatten (Clerk), Judy Hopkinson (recording clerk).

Following a period of silent worship, Friends approved the agenda.

Minutes from the November MfWfB were approved as edited.

2017.12.01 Ministry and Counsel (Report Attached)

Comments / Discussion:

Item 2: A clarification was made for item 2 - i.e. the care of meeting person would ask for additional help with cleanup at rise of meeting

Item 3: Friends expressed support for adding an invitation to share preferred pronouns to the rise of meeting script read by the person in care of meeting. It was clarified that adding pronouns to name tags is optional.

Item 6: Second Hours - the report from Ben Lomond is moved to Jan 7 from Jan 21.

Mary Ann P asked that Friends stand up when they speak if they are able because she felt it reduced the likelihood of crosstalk and made it less likely that one would speak without being clear to do so.

2017.12.02 Finance Committee (Report Attached)

We are about \$3,000 short for expenses. We may need to re-evaluate in January if we do not cover expenses. Discussion ensued about the consequences of a shortfall and things that might or might not happen to avoid a shortfall.

The Meeting decided to print a call for donations in the ENews .

2017.12.02.1 The Meeting provisionally approved the 2018 budget as written with an understanding that we may need to revise it later if there is a shortfall in 2017.

2017.12.03 Meetinghouse Committee (Report Attached)

2017.12.03.01 The report circulated in advance was from last month, so it was not read and is not attached. Virginia will look for the December report which addressed the need for a Capital Campaign

2017.12.03.02 - Virginia reported from her notes:

- The Committee has been meeting with Beth Israel Synagogue and they are trying to set up a viewing time for Friends
- The Committee is also exploring options with St. Paul's to see if anything (e.g. time of basketball games) has changed.
- The Committee has also explored the Waldorf School, but they do not have either storage space or adequate kitchen space, so it is not promising.
- The move downstairs has been completed, and the children's program is still in the same classroom. It has not been moved to the commons because there are parents in the school who do not want religious books of any type on display in common areas.

- Dave and Virginia reviewed the memo of understanding with EA and there were minor things (grammatical) that need to be changed. Otherwise the document is approved. A Friend asked about the notice required - it is 4 months.
- Although one person on the Meetinghouse committee would like us to stay at least until the end of the school year, our agreement is four months notice.
- A Friend asked about the rent. ANS: It remains \$600 / month
- A Friend asked about financing preferences. The Committee felt that Friends need to clarify at a future MfWfB (after appropriate notice that the issue will be discussed). whether the Meeting were comfortable with some sort of financing. That decision will help the committee determine what sort of property we might acquire.
- A Friend asked for clarification of how it will come to MfWfB. **Friends agreed that we ask the Meetinghouse Committee to bring this to MfWfB either in January or February.**

2017.12.04 Outreach and Welcoming (Report Attached)

Discussion: A Friend pointed out that *Western Friend* has a short piece about Quaker Culture and terminology on the back cover. She also asked that we consider the impact on announcement time if it were presented then. Another Friend reminded Friends that shortening the announcement period was a priority noted at the last Clerk's Supper.

A Friend suggested that we might post these short reports on Quaker Culture rather than announce them. This idea was intended to prevent extending the announcement period.

2017.12.05 Interfaith Report - Family Promise (Report Attached)

2017.12.05.01 Joan Ofteness has expressed an interest in being the coordinator for our role as a support community. A request was made that we approve Joan taking on this role.

A Friend shared that proselytizing is not allowed.

A Friend asked how we would disengage if we are not able to fulfill our role to provide volunteers.

Another Friend shared that we would be "on-call" just 4 weeks of the year.

2017.12.05.02. The Meeting approved our participation in Family Promise as a support congregation and approved Joan O. as the coordinator.

2017.12.06 - Member Concerns

2017.12.06.01 Western Friend - Joanne C. reminded Friends that subscription commitments are due this week.

2017.12.06.02 Whatcom Peace and Justice Center (Concern Attached)

Don G. proposed that nominating committee select a candidate for the WPJC board

- A Friend expressed concern about the role of a board member and reported that M&C is exploring this.
- A member of M&C shared that they felt that we should make the opening clearly available, but not promise to put a representative on the board every year.
- A Friend asked why we should have a representative on their board.
- Don G. replied that this seemed to him to be a good way to enhance our interface.

2017.12.06.03 Hospitality Concern. Mark H. asked whether the Meeting has any concerns about what kind of covering we put on the dish cabinet.

A Friend shared that it should be attractive.

Another Friend asked that it not be gold lame.

2017.12.06.04 Concern regarding hospitality issue - Shall we have others capable of setting up sound equipment and additional people handling vacuuming?

ANS: 1. Meeting House Committee discussed vacuuming with Explorations. They have agreed to add vacuuming the downstairs to the students' Friday pm work.

ANS: 2. Dave H is preparing a set of instructions for setting up the sound system.

Don G. felt that sound set up should be a separate responsibility on the sign up sheet. **Mark H. will add a column to the sign up sheet.**

Virginia H. asked that instructions be added to the Children's program signup column so that anyone signing up on the sheet also contact the Children's Program Clerk to let her know.

A Friend suggested that we might have a second hour on the sound system.

Don G asked if we could have a column added to the signup sheet specifically for vacuuming. Some Friends expressed concern about the excessive number of columns on the sign up sheet.

After discussion, Mark H. agreed to adjust the sign up sheet as requested so that we can see how it works.

2017.12.06.05 Thermostat - It was too cold in here today. The Meetinghouse committee reported that EA was concerned about our adjustment of the thermostat because it resulted in some of the space downstairs becoming so hot that one of the other tenants was unable to use it. EA agreed to find someone who could reset the program so that the temperature was set it for 65 degrees an hour before we arrive. A Friend pointed out that 65 degrees is too cold for silent worship.

Friends agreed that the building liaison should continue to discuss this with EA until we achieve a satisfactory temperature arrangement.

2017.12.06.06 Friends expressed appreciation for the stool and cushion for the microphones and the signs explaining why to use them in the center of the room.

Ministry and Counsel Report
Bellingham Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business Sunday, December 10, 2017.

1. Query for December: Query for December: “Do we center our lives in the awareness of the presence of God so that all things take their rightful place?” NPYM, Faith and Practice, “Simplicity” p. 48.
2. Regarding the issue of needing more help with hospitality, especially clean-up, M&C recommends modifying Care of Meeting Responsibilities to request people who can help clean-up that day. We feel that there are people willing to pitch in, but not everyone knows their plans far enough in advance to sign up in advance. We welcome input on this matter.
3. We also recommend adding to Care of Meeting Rise of Meeting responsibilities that when people introduce themselves, as an option they may state their preferred pronouns. We welcome input on this matter.
4. Three spiritual nurture groups have been meeting and have been well received. There are Friends who are interested in forming another group. Let Mary Ann know if you are interested.
5. We agreed to print two signs for Meeting. The first sign uses the language we had agreed to earlier that is on the website, “Worship begins when the first person sits and begins worship. Please enter quietly and settle into the silence.” This needs to be added to the responsibilities of the people who set up before Meeting. The second signs are to be placed near the microphones, “Using the microphone helps others hear. Please use the microphone even if you have a loud voice.” This needs to be done by the person who sets up sound. **John will email Don Goldstein with this information.**
6. Second Hours dates and topics:
 - December 3--Potluck+ Interfaith program info
 - December 10—MFWFB
 - December 17-- Meetinghouse question: Capital campaign
 - December 24--Caroling/finger food
 - December 31--”Soup and Stories” (Jill and Sharon)
 - January 7--Potluck
 - January 14 -- MFWFB
 - January 21--(Silent Retreat) Report from Ben Lomand: Jessica and Don G
 - January 28 -- Forgiveness
 - February 4 -- Potluck
 - February 11 -- MFWFB
 - February 18--Virginia Herrick on “Quaker Testimonies”
7. Next M&C meeting: Wednesday, December 27, 7 p.m. at Susan’s

Bellingham Friends Meeting

Meetinghouse Committee

Report to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

December 10, 2017

1. The concern provoked by a notice from the Interior Decorator that the side door to the corridor (emergency exit and ADA egress) had been left open turns out to be a non-concern. However, there remain some concern about leaving the door propped open as a means of providing access for those with mobility problems. Door propped open brings in cold air from outside and poses some degree of security risk. One idea is to ask Friends who need to use that door to call the setup crew and ask that it be opened.

2. The move of BFM to the downstairs auditorium of Explorations Academy has been completed by moving the kitchen downstairs, followed by the Admin Cabinet, the move of which was organized by Don Goldstein. Meeting has committed to staying downstairs for the next year.

3. The Memo of Understanding has been approved both by BFM and EA. With signatures of reps of both organizations, the Memo is complete for 2018. Dave and Virginia met with EA reps Kathy Weinckle and Tania Milana on December 6th for a final review and discussion of details.
For example: 1) the auditorium has been added to the Friday afternoon cleaning schedule and 2) the programmable thermostat will be set to heat the room *prior* to Meeting for Worship.

4. Virginia Herrick is exploring the new Beth Israel building as a possible alternative space for Meeting.

Next Meeting of the Meetinghouse Committee is Jan 30, 5:00 PM at the Hopkinson home.

Bellingham Friends Meeting
2018 Proposed Budget

	2018	2017 Actual Budget	Variance
Operating Income			
Contributions by Check	\$15,960	\$16,846	-\$886
Contributions by Cash	\$800	\$400	\$400
Contributions in Kind	\$450	\$450	\$0
	<u>\$17,210</u>	<u>\$17,696</u>	<u>-\$486</u>
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	\$2,700	\$2,760	-\$60
Total Finance Committee & Administration	<u>\$10,665</u>	<u>\$10,715</u>	<u>-\$50</u>
Children's Program Committee			
First Day Support	\$1,500	\$2,000	-\$500
Supplies and Materials	\$500	\$500	\$0
Total Children's Program Committee	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>	<u>-\$500</u>
Communications Activities			
Advertising	\$70	\$70	\$0
Directory	\$90	\$60	\$30
PO Box	\$95	\$86	\$9
Website/Other	\$50	\$50	\$0
Total Communications Activities	<u>\$305</u>	<u>\$266</u>	<u>\$39</u>
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	<u>\$775</u>	<u>\$775</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Other Committees			
Hospitality	\$450	\$450	\$0
Library	\$150	\$150	\$0
Outreach and Welcoming	\$225	\$250	-\$25
Social and Environmental Concerns	\$150	\$50	\$100
Total Other Committees	<u>\$975</u>	<u>\$900</u>	<u>\$75</u>
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	<u>\$2,490</u>	<u>\$2,490</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$17,210</u>	<u>\$17,646</u>	<u>-\$436</u>

Interfaith Coalition's Representative Report to Meeting for Worship for Business
December 10, 2017

**Interfaith Coalition's
Family Promise Program**

Meeting showed interest in participating in the Family Promise program. The concern was the amount of time and energy and commitment required of a group our size.

Jim Bryngelson spoke to us during potluck last Sunday. He participated in Family Promise in Billings, MT and was very enthusiastic about how successful this program has been in Billings and many other cities across the country.

Jim suggested that we be a support congregation. The obligations would be far less than our previous understanding of the program.

The way a support congregation functions

The coordinator of Family Promise would contact our Meeting's Family Promise coordinator as needs arise. (We have a member who has volunteered to be our Meeting's coordinator, including participation in training.) Our coordinator would then call people who have expressed interest in fulfilling those needs and report back to the FP coordinator.

Those needs might be as simple as:

Making 15 sandwiches for their bag lunch

Providing childcare during the parents' night out

Staying the night

Having dinner and hanging out with the children in the evening or on a weekend to read or play board games.

Going on an outing on a Saturday afternoon

Taking in a cold breakfast and eating with the families

Cooking and sharing dinner some night(s)

Donating food or money for food for any meal activity we choose to do

ACTION ITEM: *approve of signing up as a support congregation for the Family Promise Program.*

Whatcom Peace and Justice Center

Report on Member Concern to Facilitate Better Communication Between BFM and the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center, for Discussion on December 10, 2017

During MfWfB in November, I raised a Member Concern proposing that BFM request a seat on the Board of Directors of the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center (WPJC), in order to facilitate better communication in both directions between the two organizations and in recognition of BFM's substantial annual financial support of WPJC.

Later in November I discussed this idea with Neah Montiero, the current Executive Director of WPJC, and she responded favorably and offered to bring the idea to the WPJC Board of Directors with the understanding that BFM had not yet even decided whether to make a formal request along such lines. I received the following message from Neah today (December 7th):

Hi Don,

I brought up the question of having a rep from your Meeting on the WPJC board with the current board members. Below is a summary of the discussion we had. We are looking forward to having this conversation with the Meeting and deepening our organizations' relationship.

Let me know if you have any questions.

*Thank you,
Neah*

Given the history of WPJC and Bellingham Friends Meeting, our shared values, and Quakers' commitment to peace, a closer relationship would be welcomed and appropriate. WPJC's current board members feel favorable toward the idea of having a Bellingham Friends Meeting representative on the board. There are some questions about what the Meeting expects -- would this position have an advisory role, or participate fully like other board members? Would it be necessary for WPJC to save a spot for the BFM rep, or could BFM simply commit on their end to always have someone on the WPJC board? Would the Meeting expect their representative to commit to a particular term of service?

WPJC board feels that after a representative is selected by BFM, they will then need to go through the same joining process as any other prospective WPJC board member. This would help to avoid favoritism toward one faith community and ensure that the WPJC board maintains final affirmation of the representative's appropriateness for board service.

Neah also told me in November that she would be happy to facilitate a Second Hour concerning the purpose, history, and work of WPJC so that Friends can better understand what we have been supporting in our local community.

--Don Goldstein, 12/7/17

**Report from Outreach and Welcoming Committee
to Bellingham Friends Meeting MfWfB,
December 10, 2017**

(Information)

The Outreach and Welcoming Committee is facilitating, on December 31st, what we hope will be the first of a series of Second Hours that we call "Soup and Stories". We will offer Friends who attend a cup of homemade soup, provided this time by Wendy Goldstein, and brief stories from the life experiences of two Friends, who will be Sharon Trent and Jill Mount for our initial session. Our aim will be to select and invite, if possible, one long-time attender and one relative newcomer to our Meeting to present their stories each time. There will also be time for questions and reflections from other Friends.

(Information)

As a way of supplementing and perhaps extending the Quaker Glossary, OWC is inviting Friends to research peculiarities of Quaker culture, which could involve specialized jargon like "Clearness Committees" or simply practices that put Quakers outside the mainstream in some significant respect. Don Reinke will lead off by researching and giving a brief presentation and/or written report on early and contemporary Quaker attitudes toward music. The committee will develop a list of other such topics and also invites ideas from anyone in our Meeting. Oral reports, we hope, will be presented as the opportunity arises within the Second Hour and Potluck schedule, but in any case not more often than once a month.

(Information)

OWC has recognized the need for new and better signage consistent with our new worship and Second-Hour venue. Friends with suggestions for such new signage are asked to contact Sharon Trent, who is working with us on this matter.

(Information)

Our next committee meeting will be on Friday afternoon, December 15th, beginning at 2:00 am at Lynne Lohr's residence. All interested Friends are welcome, but please let me or Lynne know in advance if you will be coming.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of Outreach and Welcoming Committee, 12/7/17
Other OWC members are Dusty Andersen, Lynne Lohr, and Don Reinke