

Bellingham Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Approved Minutes
February 11, 2018

Present: John Hatten (clerk), Frieda Hatten, Jim Gordon, Joanne Cowan, Kristen McLewin, Virginia Herrick, Aurora Fox, Mary Ann Percy, Wendy Goldstein, Don Goldstein, Mark Hersh, Susan Richardson, Lorina Hall, Jill Mount, Dusty Andersen, Sharon Trent, Rolland Lee, Dave Hopkinson, Judy Hopkinson (recording clerk)

2018.02.01 Review of Minutes: Comment - A Friend suggested that we not include names in the minutes except in listing those present at the top of the minutes. The Clerk indicated that this would be addressed in the Ministry and Counsel Report and later by the membership. Minutes were approved for content with the understanding that the Meeting will decide at a later date (see M&C report) about how to refer to Friends in the minutes under different circumstances.

2018.02.02.1 Ministry and Counsel (*Report Attached*). It was noted that the use of "Friend" vs names will be discussed on Feb 25th.

2018.02.02.2 Second Hours: Virginia's spiritual journey will be on March 25 (rather than the 18th, and tentatively Whatcom Peace and Justice will be on the 18th.)

2018.02.02.3 Revised Care of Meeting guidelines were approved for seasoning.

2018.02.02.4 Singing Sunday will begin at 9:40 and that time will be indicated in the ENews

2018.02.02.5 - State of Society Report was read and a few edits were offered. Friends were substantively in support of the document and Don G. volunteered to provide copy editing.

2018.02.03 Children's Program - "We are doing great". A detailed list of volunteers and activities for the coming month was shared. A request was made for additional volunteer teachers for the Children's program.

2018.02.04 Meeting House Committee (*Report Attached*)

2018.02.04.1 Meeting House Liaison reported that there was a leak in the storeroom and some of our paper items were damaged.

2018.02.04.2 Purchase of small house or land was discussed (see report) A question was raised about the required square footage and all Friends were asked to share any information with the committee by email. A second hour may be held in the future. Several Friends suggested that it would be important for Friends to make any decision as a community, and all agreed. A Friend asked the committee not to forget to check with the City Planning Department regarding permitted use of any land / building under consideration.

Description of properties examined are included in the Meeting House Committee report.

2018.02.04.3 Report on possible rental of space in the Temple Beth Israel synagogue. The president of the synagogue seemed very supportive of having Friends share space in their building. He felt it would be in keeping with their mission. The features of the facility were reviewed and a video was shown before MfWfB.

Space is available on Sunday and security will be on site. There are multiple rooms we could use, there is ample storage, and there is kitchen availability. In short, the only drawback is that the regular bus does not run up Yew St. Road on Sunday. However, paratransit busses will run.

Having a permanent sign may or may not be an option.

A Friend asked where the congregation is meeting now. A: At this point they are moving around - sometimes at BUF, sometimes at Larabee school, having sold their previous building — which was not suitable for us. The space we are considering is smaller than the auditorium where we are meeting now. It has natural light and has a capacity for seating 55. It is very quiet and we may not need microphones.

Temple Beth Israel is not going to be using all their space for many years. The congregation has no debt, having taken 17 years to raise money in stages. The president offered to come and talk with us about how they accomplished this.

A Friend asked if there a projected date for completion and occupancy of the building. It is essentially finished. They expect to be in before the end of March. The main holdup is permitting.

Of particular importance, we would need to keep their version of Kosher - no meat and no shellfish.

Several options for transportation assistance were discussed for those who cannot not use paratransit.

Friends agreed that the committee should continue to explore this option for a rental.

2018.02.05 Outreach and Welcoming (Report Attached)

KZAX proposal - (*Proposal attached*) Sponsorship = associated with a particular program; Underwriting = general financial support, which includes more frequent mentions on air.

Discussion:

A Friend asked whether a shorter trial period is an option.

Another Friend asked about the intended audience.

A Friend pointed out that Western Friend advertises Northern Spirit Radio and suggested that the audience for the specific show we might sponsor would likely be in line with our target audience.

A Friend expressed concern about the cost and suggested that our move to the synagogue perhaps should be considered first.

Another Friend suggested that we post a link in the next ENews.

One Friend suggested that if we were to try it, we should do it over a long period of time. This Friend suggested an alternative might be to offer a Quaker quote for a shorter period of time.

Another Friend asked that OWC bring back a menu of options for outreach so that we could have a better way to assess the relative value for funds spent.

Another Friend suggested that we may already be facing uncertain an financial landscape with the potential move, and perhaps we should wait to consider taking on such a large expenditure.

Another Friend reinforced the idea that we need to have more information about options and cost/benefit.

2018.02.06 Nominating Committee - nothing to report this time

2018.02.07 Finance Committee - Regarding the request from Annual Meeting to change the way they handle the financial need which was discussed at the last MfWfB: The Treasurer reviewed the amount we have spent from our Quaker Activity Aid Fund for travel to Quaker events (not including FGC).

2015: 750

2016: 637.50

2017: 550.00

2018.02.07.1: This information was referred to Ministry and Counsel so that they can come up with a recommendation

2018.02.08 SEC - reported that they are working on a framework for introducing the Postcard Project with the hope that it would feel welcoming and would not feel like a burden to Friends.

2018.02.09 A Friend noted her appreciation for the delicious lunch and snacks provided today, and the Meeting concurred.

Following a few moments of silent worship, the meeting closed at 1:40 PM

BFM M&C Report
February 11, 2018

1. Query for February: “Do we seek to be formed by a living silence? How are our lives shaped by the practice of stillness?” from NPYM Faith and Practice, Silence.
- 2.
3. Second Hours dates and topics:
 - February 4--Potluck
 - February 11--MFWFB
 - February 18--Virginia Herrick on “Quaker Testimonies”
 - February 25—Membership and Minuting “Friend/friend/attender”
See NPYM Faith and Practice “Meeting for Business”, “Reaching Decisions” and PYM Faith and Practice. M&C recommends having the minutes reflect whether statements are said by a Member or an Attender. This requires the Recording Clerk to know who is who. In anticipation of the upcoming second hour, we recommend that Friends read the section on membership in Faith and Practice. Links to the new F&P will be sent in the eNews.
 - March 4—Potluck
 - March 11--MFWFB
 - March 18-- Virginia Spiritual Journey talk (or switch dates w/ below)
 - March 25--Whatcom P&J Presentation How we as a Meeting can help w/ shared goals
 - April 1 - Potluck
 - April 8 - MFWFB
 - April 15 - Forgiveness
 - April 22 “What is QEW and Why Should I Care?” “Earthcare for Friends” (part 1) presented by Mary Ann
4. Stephania has requested membership and we are setting up a Clearness Committee for her.
5. We discussed retreat options for the fall. We are considering a silent retreat.
6. Follow Up MH Financing.
7. Care of Meeting Guidelines revision recommended. Thank you Judy for this clearer format. (see attachment).
8. Spiritual Nurture Groups— Three groups have been meeting regularly, and a fourth is nearly ready to launch.
9. M&C will hold a mini-retreat to include any incoming M&C members Thursday, April 19, 1 to 5 p.m. This will allow time to consider broader issues, such as dividing into two committees.
10. Nominate to nominating committee
11. Date and time for our next meeting, Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 7 p.m. at Susan’s.

CARE OF MEETING GUIDELINES

1. **Begin the Silence:** About 10 minutes before 10 AM, settle into the Silence holding the Meeting in the Light.

2. **Joys and Sorrows:** About 11:00 (when you sense the worship coming to a close), rise and invite Friends to share joys and sorrows.

Here are some words you can use if you like:

“Welcome, Friends. Continuing in the spirit of worship, we invite you to share joys and sorrows, or to ask Friends to hold you or someone else in the Light. We will introduce ourselves and share announcements afterward.”

3. **Handshake to close worship:** When you feel there has been enough time, start a handshake around the room.

(If children have not yet arrived in time for the handshake, open the door for them or ask another Friend to do so).

4. **Introductions:** Introduce yourself and explain that you are in care of Meeting today. Invite others to introduce themselves and invite newcomers to say something about themselves.

Here are some words you could use:

“It is our custom to go around the room and introduce ourselves. You may include your preferred gender pronouns if you would like to do so.”

“If you are new to Meeting or returning after a long absence, please share a little about how you came to be here this morning.”

If time permits, you may also invite Friends to share thoughts that did not rise to the level of ministry during worship.

5. **Introduction of Ministry and Council:** After everyone has been introduced, introduce members of Ministry and Council:

“Members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee are here to receive any questions, concerns or ideas that you might have about our Meeting. Their nametags are identified with a green dot.”

6. **Administrative details:**

Guest book:

“Welcome guests; please sign our guest book on the table and fill out a Welcome Card if you would like to receive our weekly electronic newsletter or other information, or to request a permanent name tag.”

Bellingham Friends Meeting State of Society Report for 2017 (DRAFT)

How does the spirit fare with us?

How well do we “set the table” for our Meeting community?

The most visible development for Bellingham Friends Meeting is that we began meeting in a larger and more open space downstairs. We have also become more intentional about accessibility issues--both mobility- and hearing-related. We are adjusting to the use microphones. This new space presents challenges, being darker and harder to hear in.

We now have unity that we want a more permanent home, better suited to our needs, and explore both rented or purchased options.

We feel that spirit is rising. We have a greater sense of unity among us, as we heal from differences following our consideration of purchase of a building. Our fall retreat, “Roots, Shoots, and Fruits,” was facilitated by the Runyans of Ben Lomond Quaker Center (BLQC) on the road program and helped us to get to know each other better and to increase trust; we have launched 3 small spiritual nurture groups as an outgrowth of this program. Attendance at our monthly spirit group is strong. We invite individuals to share their spiritual journeys for second hour.

We participate in the wider Quaker community: Annual Session, FGC, Quarterly Meeting, and consultations at BQC. We planned spring Quarterly Meeting together with Lopez; this partnering works well for us, drawing on broader base of inspiration and energy.

All the work we offer is holy, and we recognize the importance of “letting our life speak” (which we do daily, whether or not we intend to) and how spiritual grounding undergirds activism. Active participation, both in the inner workings of meeting and the community at large, helps people feel connected. We recognize that people have different gifts to share and are serve in called in various ways. How can we better help identify and nurture the gifts of those at Meeting.. We have many positions and committees, and we notice that some slots on the weekly sign-up tasks go unfilled. We try to be mindful of leaning too heavily on a few and to simplify when possible.

Supported by the Social and Environmental Concerns Committee, we seek to let our lives speak--via Concern of the Month, film sponsoring, tabling at community events and carry our BFM banner at Bellingham Pride, Science and Women’s marches. We have committed to a community program (Community Promise) that helps homeless families by partnering faith community to provide temporary housing, meals and support on a rotating basis a few weeks each year.

Our outreach and welcoming committee works to make Meeting more accessible, “setting the table”. We attempt to be welcoming to meets varying needs. We help each

other as needs arise with assistance and care committees. We held trainings and second hours to create greater appreciation for acceptance for gender diversity and have taken concrete --bathroom signs, opportunity to give pronouns during introductions, on name tags to make this evident.

We appreciate the richness that age diversity offers our community and seek to make young adults and children feel welcome. We have drawn young people looking for a spiritual community. We've "set the table" for a dynamic children's program for our children and hope to attract more families with children.

Donations. *“We have a donation box on the table.”*

Sign-up Sheet.

Pass Volunteer sign-up clip board around the room. Here are words you can use;

“Our Meeting is run entirely by volunteers. Please take a look at the sign-up sheet being passed around and sign-up to help with the meeting if you are able.”

If more people are needed for clean up today, you also can say:

“I notice that no one is signed up for cleanup helper today. Please help if you can. It is very much appreciated!”

7. Children.

If children are present, invite them to tell the adults what they did today)

“What did the children do today?”

Children’s departure: After they are finished

“The children may leave for snack.”

8. Announcements. Ask Friends if there are any announcements.

You may also add:

“Please be brief. Use the calendar to record the date and time of upcoming events.”

Second hour. (If not already announced)

“What is today’s second hour?”

9. Snack. *“Thank you to those who brought snacks. Please remember to clean your own dishes. We always need volunteers to stay and help with clean-up.”*

Meetinghouse Committee Report, MfWfB, Feb. 11, 2018

1. **Explorations Academy report** from Meetinghouse Liaison
2. **For sale: Land with small house, Land only.** Preliminary discussions regarding the purchase of land and/or a small house on a good-sized piece of property, with the intention of using the house for social events, library, children's program, etc., and erecting a simple worship hall adjacent. We decided that in order to proceed along these lines, we need to guidance from Meeting about how much square footage is needed for our worship area. How many people should our new meetinghouse accommodate for worship? How much square footage, and is the shape of the room important? Perhaps the committee could host a second hour to address these questions and generate recommendations from that to bring to MfWfB?
 - a. Dave and Allen visited some uncleared, wooded property that is off Lakeway, not far from Civic Field. Found it to be very steep and boggy. Determined not suitable, even if we had more clarity regarding the issues above.
3. **For sale: Small house.** House at 1160 Nevada Street, near Whole Foods Shopping Center. (About a block away from the shopping center; about four blocks to Civic Field/Carl Cozier Elementary School.)
 - a. \$345,000
 - b. 1650 square feet in the house, one-car garage. One-story house, built in 1948.
 - c. Lot size is only a quarter acre. House is small, shabby. The only parking would be on the street, which is residential but no sidewalks. The lot probably not big enough to accommodate a worship hall in addition to the house, and City would likely not permit more impervious surface on lot this size. Checklist "NOs": 2.; possibly 3; 6; 12. Committee determined that was too many "NOs" to pursue.
4. **Rental possibility: Visit to new Beth Israel Synagogue**
 - a. Steven Garfinkle met with Virginia last fall to get acquainted and talk in a very preliminary way about whether it might be possible for us to rent space in the new synagogue.
 - b. Last week, a half-dozen Friends went to get a tour of the nearly-finished facility. Beth Israel community plans to move in within a month or two. Waiting for carpeting inside and some paving outside.
 1. Read through checklist

2. Show video
3. Hear from Friends who visited
- c. Special considerations
 1. In almost every way, this facility/landlord have the potential to meet very well our needs for quiet; accessibility; an uncluttered, peaceful worship space; room for children to safely go outdoors; and a like-minded community. Because they've not rented before, as their first tenants, we have an opportunity to negotiate with more flexibility than we might find with other, similar landlords. For instance, upon approaching St. Paul's Episcopal recently, we received a handful of forms and policies, which we are still studying.
 2. Food: We would need to observe their vegetarian/dairy kitchen restriction. In kosher diet, mixing of dairy and meat products is forbidden; the easy way for people not practiced in eating kosher is simply to avoid meat.
 3. Bus service. The WTA presently does NOT run along Yew Street Road on Sundays.
 - a. Possible solutions/alternatives
 1. Paratransit WILL go out there now. Confirmation rec'd Thursday, 2/8 from WTA.
 2. Regular bus service/alternatives
 - a. Vanpool rental: we provide drivers, WTA provides van. Need at least 5 regular riders, "several" who are willing to drive.
 - b. Carpool (our own cars) from Railroad Avenue bus depot on Sundays at 9:30 (Quaker Uber!)
 - c. Special line to accommodate the school (and, incidentally, our Meeting!)
 - b. High probability this will change, eventually, when the San Juan Boulevard connector goes in and that road becomes an alternate route with Lakeway. Bus service will likely follow. The connector is part of neighborhood plan, to be funded by LIDs as the land is developed for residences. No telling when that will be.
 - d. Decision needed: Should Meetinghouse Committee continue to investigate this possibility?

Report from Outreach and Welcoming Committee

to Bellingham Friends Meeting MfWfB,

February 11, 2018

(Information) The Outreach and Welcoming Committee facilitated, on December 31st, what we expect will be the first of a series of Second Hours that we call “Soup and Stories”. In each such session, we offer Friends who attend a cup of homemade soup, followed by brief stories from the life experiences of two Friends, one of them a long-time attender and one a relative newcomer to our Meeting. There is also time for questions and reflections from other Friends. The first “Soup and Stories” was successful, and we already have volunteers to provide soup and stories for the next such event and are now working with them and with M & C to find a date that works for all, probably in late April.

(Discussion and possible action) About two years ago this committee presented a proposal for sponsorship of some programming from a Quaker source on a local community radio station, KWVW-FM. The proposal was set aside awaiting receipt of more details, which as it turned out were not forthcoming due to difficulties at the station. The station operation was subsequently taken over by another management group, which is now broadcasting as KZAX-FM at 94.9 mHz and also online at KZAXradio.org. Via Allen Stockbridge, we have received a new proposal from the station. A variety of sponsorship and underwriting packages and their respective costs are listed in the document accompanying this report, which was received from the station manager, Katie Gray. The Outreach and Visitation Committee offers these options as possible means of increasing our visibility in the community and suggests that we consider trying one of them for a year, but we do not have a recommendation regarding a specific package.

(Information) Our next committee meeting will be on Saturday morning, February 24th, 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 will be coming.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of Outreach and Welcoming Committee, 2/8/18
Other OWC members are Dusty Andersen, Lynne Lohr, and Don Reinke

Sponsorship & Underwriting options:

Smallest Underwriting only package:

\$60 per month for 10 mentions a month

Total of \$60 per month

Annual total: \$720

Sponsorship of only one program:

Spirit in Action **or** Song of the Soul
\$50 per month

Total \$50 per month

Annual total:\$600

Sponsorship of both programs:

Spirit in Action \$50 per month
Song of the Soul \$50 per month

**Total of \$100 per month
month**

Annual total: \$1,200

Underwriting + sponsorship of one program:

Spirit in Action **or** Song of the Soul \$50 per month
\$60 per month for 10 mentions a month

Total \$110 per

Annual total: \$1,320

Sponsorship of both programs plus underwriting package:

Spirit in Action \$50 per month
Song of the Soul \$50 per month
10 underwriting mentions per month \$60 per month

Total \$160 per month

Annual total: \$1,920

Katie Gray

Station Manager
KZAX 94.9 LPFM

