

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
5th Month 11, 2014

Clerk: Laura Maynard Lane

Recording Clerk: Steve Livingston

Attendance: Barbara Esther, Kitti Reynolds, Gail and Jim Hipkins, Patti Hughes, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Jim Cavener, Alan Robinson, Margaret Normile, Katherine Kowal, Ed Brown, Pat Johnson, Sarah Jane Thomas, Edie Patrick

Meeting began at with a moment of silence at 11:50 a.m. The clerk read a passage from “The World According to Mr. Rogers”:

The purpose of life is to listen – to yourself, to your neighbor, to your world and to God and, when the time comes, to respond in as helpful a way as you can find . . . from within and without.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes of 4th month 2014 meeting were approved as posted on the Meeting website.

Finance

Pat Johnson distributed the Treasurer's report. She reported that Meeting's income is about 23% of the annual budgeted amount, and we are through about 33% of the year. She pointed out that our insurance has gone up 18% over our budgeted amount, but what can we do? She mentioned that this year is the year our Library has the binding of our minutes done, so there is that expense. She indicated that we would be paying our SAYMA dues this week. So at this point we have spent over \$2400 more than we have taken in. We still have plenty of money in our general fund though, so there are no worries.

Alan presented the Meeting with a donation from the FGC Planning Committee for the food that was served at their meeting last week.

Friends accepted the Treaurer's report with thanks.

Nominating

Gjeorge reported for the committee that Cameron Allen requested to be released from House and Grounds.

Friends approved release of Cameron Allen from House and Grounds Committee.

He reported that that many Meetings have a "Naming Committee" to nominate new members of the Nominating Committee. The "naming committee" will be appointed by MFB as an ad hoc committee for that purpose only. We request your approval to make this standard procedure.

Friends were not uneasy with adopting this practice, but some Friends questioned whether it was adding an unnecessary layer of redundancy to the process of staffing the Nominating Committee. A Friend described in further detail the reasoning for having a separate Naming Committee: to refresh the personnel with new blood, to relieve the Nominating Committee of the burden of replenishing its own number, to prevent the Committee from becoming clique-ish. He pointed out that the time commitment for this ad hoc committee is generally very short. The Friend felt that this was a good practice that went beyond mere bureaucracy.

In response to inquiry, Nom Comm is in need of additional membership. A Friend asked if those who serve on a naming committee would then not be available for the Nominating Committee. Another Friend recalled an instance where she served on Naming Committee and ended up being nominated herself.

Friends approved forming an ad hoc Naming Committee for the purpose of increasing the membership of Nominating Committee by one or two more Friends, after which the Naming Committee will be laid down and we will evaluate the experience.

Edie Patrick, Kitti Reynolds, and Steve Livingston agreed to serve on the ad hoc Naming Committee.

Further, Nominating Committee recommended that Meeting adopt the policy of appointing a Naming Committee when time comes to identify new clerk(s) of Meeting. A Friend suggested that we postpone this until we have evaluated the experience with the first Naming Committee. Another Friend was uncomfortable with the idea, favoring the discernment of the Nominating Committee in conjunction with Ministry and Counsel.

A Friend acknowledged that Nomination Committee's request reflected that the task of finding the next clerk is more involved than finding someone to serve on one committee or another. Friend suggested that we give more thought to how we can support Nominating Committee in the task of discerning who is next clerk.

Gjeorge then pointed out that Nominating Committee does not fully know what are the duties of clerk of meeting, and asked if the Meeting could support the Committee by helping to discern what is the job description of this position. A Friend suggested that Ministry and Counsel lead this effort. The several members of Ministry and Counsel present immediately agreed to begin this work.

Minute of Thanks from FGC Planning Committee

We want to express our gratitude to Asheville Friends Meeting for hosting the 2015 FGC Gathering Committee last weekend with such grace. Traci Hjelt Sullivan of FGC read our Minute of Appreciation on First Day, but we thought you might like an electronic copy for the meeting archives. (and if you don't, it is easily deleted)

We are aware that this request came as an unexpectedly sudden challenge and the committee certainly outdid itself!

A Friend recalled that when we agreed to host the Planning Committee, it seemed like a wing and a prayer, but we undertook it because we felt it was the right thing to do. She was encouraged that when we consider taking on a responsibility, the primary discernment is whether it is right to do; whether it seems feasible is secondary.

Other Concerns

No other concerns were brought to the Meeting.

Closing worship

There being no further business, meeting adjourned with silence at 12:35 p.m.