

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Asheville Friends Meeting

11th Month 9, 2014

Clerk: Gail Hipkins

Recording Clerk: Steve Livingston

Attendance: Kitti Reynolds, Nancy Kuykendall, Angela Sullivan, Jim Hipkins, Ruth Stewart, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Edwin Brown, Margaret Normile, Edie Patrick, Bobby Carter, Patti Hughes, Mary and Greg Howell, Pat Johnson, Robin Wells

Meeting began at with a moment of silence at 11:58 a.m. Clerk read from “The Faith and Practice of Quakers” by Rufus Jones (p 166-167)

This is certainly not “the best possible world” - I can think of a much better one – and if the word “optimist” is to be taken in its superlative sense I am not one of that extreme type. What I am contending for as a working principle is the faith that the world can be remolded nearer to our hearts' desire, that we can rebuild the moral and spiritual world, and that we can do it by the cultivation of a new spirit, by the practice of a new way of life and by loyalty to the ideal of love, cooperation, and fellowship. The important question, as Phillips Brooks used to say, is whether, in our admittedly checkerboard world of black and white, the black squares are on a white background, or the white squares on a black background. It is a deep-seated Quaker faith that the permanent background is white, not black, and that the ultimate nature of the universe backs the aims that are true and the things that are good.

In response to an inquiry, clerk explained that items on the agenda with a star beside them are “action items”. Friends approved the agenda as presented.

Friends approved the agenda as presented by the clerk. Friends approved the minutes of 10th month meeting as posted on the Meeting website.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Johnson distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report. She noted that contributions at this point amount to 72% of our budget projection, and she is hopeful that we will be able to meet our financial needs. Some committees have not reported any expenditures.

Peace and Earth made decisions about recommendations for our outreach funds at their last meeting, and Pat has found that they total slightly more than the allotted amount. A Friend reminded the Meeting that such a small overrun is within the accepted limit for committee spending.

Pat informed Friends that our General Fund balance is over \$25,000 so we are in good shape.

Friends accepted the report with thanks.

House and Grounds

Nancy K reported for the committee that the houseplants in the Meeting room are being housed here temporarily not permanently. She informed Friends that there will be a bonfire on the Meetinghouse grounds in conjunction with the upcoming SAYF retreat being hosted by our Meeting's youth.

Meeting also learned that our house seems to be mouse free.

Nancy informed Meeting regarding the overwhelming number of black locust seedlings coming up in the areas that had been graded last Summer. Our neighbor to the west toured the property with Nancy, she will attend the next H&G meeting. She brings expertise as the former head of a national park.

Lead paint has been found in the Meetinghouse and will be dealt with.

We are undertaking an engineering survey of the backyard area before we finalize grading and landscaping.

Drainage tiles have been laid around the building to drain away rainwater. Thanks to Scotty U and to our lawn maintenance man, Jay the "Eco Mower". Notice the patches of clover he judiciously avoids mowing.

Our basement now appears to be dry.

We plan to put in some redbud trees on the W side of the property, hopefully before Winter sets in.

A Friend expressed gratitude to Nicholas Wells for his recent Eagle Scout project that resulted in our having a front lawn where there used to be bare dirt.

Friends accepted the report of House and Grounds.

Religious Education

Nick Wells and Sara Wila Villatora Weir reported on the upcoming SAYF retreat. The young people have acquired a permit from the City to have a bonfire in the front yard. It will be in the parking area, and in accordance with the City's regulation will be more than 50 feet from any structure as well as all trees. They will inform the neighbors of this upcoming event.

A Friend inquired about cleanup of the remains – Nick and Wila agreed that the SAYFers will take care of that.

Friends approved the SAYF bonfire plan.

Peace and Earth

Pat J inquired for the committee as to whether Friends wanted to put a paid ad in the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast program. The Committee feels that the ad is more for publicity than for outreach, so did not include that cost in their budget for this year.

A Friend asked why the committee did not consider it to be outreach. A Friend spoke in favor of continuing the practice, based on our historical support. Another Friend asked that Peace and Earth season the matter and make a recommendation rather than the “committee of the whole”. Pat informed us that the deadline for the ad is 11/30.

Answering a Friend's inquiry, Pat informed us that we ran a \$50 ad in the last one. A Friend united with having Peace and Earth make the decision. A Friend admonished us to listen carefully for approval and allow enough space to be sure that all are united.

Clerk sensed that given the impending deadline, we need to make a decision. Clerk acknowledged support for continuing our presence in the MLK program, as well as support for the MLK event held in the Swannanoa Valley. A Friend asked where the funds will come from to pay for the ad. A Friend suggested that we simply take the money out of the general fund rather than trying to figure out which line item it will come from.

Friends approved placing a \$50 ad in the MLK Breakfast program with funds coming from Peace and Earth's General Outreach Fund. Pat Johnson will prepare the ad.

Care and Nurture Committee

Clerk reported on behalf of the committee. She underscored the reasons why such a committee is needed. Margaret Normile has agreed to serve on the committee along with Jim C, Jim H, Nick W, and Edie P. Jim Barham has agreed to serve in the near future once his personal situation allows. Clerk thanked these Friends for offering to serve.

Closing worship

There being no further business, meeting adjourned with silence at 12:20 p.m.