

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Eleventh Month 12, 2017

Present: Katherine Kowal; Kitti Reynolds; Steve Livingston; Elizabeth Davis; Winn Utz; Rick Weigel; Anders Utz; Kristen Jayne; Adelaide Utz; Sierra Weigel; Zach Weigel; Robin Wells; Sarah Jane Thomas; Jim Barham; Scottie Utz; Edie Patrick; Jim Cavener; Pat Johnson; Bob Lackey; Beth Eddy; Patricia Campbell; Michael Eddy; Rusty Maynard; Bobby Carter; Gita Larsen; Nickietie Jayne; Adrienne Weir; Patti Hughes, Clerk; Barbara Esther, Recording Clerk.

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which clerk, Patti Hughes, read the following:

Reminders for Friends During A Meeting for Business in the Spirit of Worship?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Respect the process | - Be receptive |
| - Always address the Clerk | - Be willing to change your mind |
| - Listen | - Speak and release |
| - Hear actively | - Feel the divine presence |
| - Practice patience | - Be in community |
| - Leave room Openness | |

Clerk's Reminder: The clerk reminded us that we have some written guidelines posted next to the agenda to guide us in our worship with attention to business. If necessary she will point to them as a gentle reminder.

Friends accepted the agenda as prepared.

Minute 1: Friends approved Tenth Month Minutes

Announcements:

Letter from SAYF, Southern Appalachian Young Friends - Wren Hendrickson, clerk of SAYF Steering Committee, wrote to monthly meetings to hold up the work that SAYF does and to stress the urgent need for FANs (Friendly Adult Nurturers) to continue having regular retreats. The letter was read aloud in its entirety to the business meeting attendees. Friends are asked to consider becoming a FAN. [See attachment for the entire letter.]

Ministry and Counsel has revisited the use of the short-term stays at the meetinghouse. For the time being, the committee has suspended the availability of the meetinghouse room upstairs. A couple is staying here tonight, Nov. 12 and two Asheville Friends are able to introduce and close the house for these visiting folks.

Committee Reports:

Religious Education-Junior Monthly Business Meeting - Robin Wells and young Friends.

The goal of today's presentation is to begin a conversation about building a new playground on the Meetinghouse grounds. Of course this has been in our Long-Range Plans for over a decade, but the children of the meeting would like to re-activate the idea and contribute to the plans. Friends park, as they prefer to call the play space, could include a dirt kitchen, monkey bars, a slide, a hard surface for basketball, a net for the hoop, and a climbing apparatus. Spring fund-raisers such as selling cards, art and baked goods are ideas the children have and want to host. They also hope to host a rummage sale in the spring. Friends are asked to begin donating items for that sale. These items can be stored in the meetinghouse in the northeast room for the time being.

In conjunction with Finance Committee, meeting will want to decide if a portion of the playground funding will come from the Building Fund or other meeting funding. We recommend that the Meeting set up an ad hoc committee to work with Junior Business Meeting to further these plans. One or two people from House and Grounds, and perhaps one from the Finance Committee.

A Friend thanked the JBM for their ideas and for coming to us with this playground plan. Adults expressed willingness to help with the projects to raise money and to assist the young Friends in prioritizing implementation of the various parts of the plan. Items for the sale in the spring will be stored upstairs. Furniture and items that are not clothing are particularly salable. It will take a lot of energy to organize and run, as well as clean up at the end of the sale hours, but can bring in enough money to be helpful with the building of a playground.

Minute 2: Friends approved the idea of organizing a rummage sale toward building a playground in stages. Although we might be able to fund the playground construction, we also see merit in the youth taking a part in raising money for projects. An Ad Hoc Committee for the Playground to involve Finance, Religious Education, House and Grounds and at-large members will begin the work on this project.

Nominating Committee - Nickietie Jayne

David Clements will continue to serve on the Finance Committee but not as assistant treasurer.

Patricia Campbell will begin service on the Finance Committee.

Minute 3: Friends approved these two changes: continuation of David Clements as a member of Finance Committee, while stepping down from assistant treasurer; and the addition of Pat Campbell to that committee.

Treasurer's Report - Satchel Loftis

We are looking for another \$9,000 to meet the budget. However, about \$4,000 underspending may make it possible to fund the budget with contributions of \$5,000. Friends are asked to spend where there is a valid need, and to refrain from spending where there is no valid need. All submissions for budget 2018 should be submitted by November 19th.

Minute 4: Friend Steve Livingston has asked to be released from the support committee for Sharon Smith. Friends approved.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on Twelfth Month 3, 2017.

Attachment 1:

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter as a long time adult participant and Steering Committee member of the Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) in the hope of letting Friends know about the joys, rewards and need of this really great Quaker youth program.

The focus of SAYF is to bring together Young Friends between the ages of 12 and 18 across the region, during weekend retreats that experientially teach community building, spiritual exploration, Quaker values, process and leadership, under the care of Quaker adults. (SAYF adults are called Friendly Adult Nurturers or “FAN”s.)

Since SAYF is led by the youth, our role is not to be authorities but to find ways to support and encourage the teens’ own sense of responsibility for themselves and each other, as well as their own and the wider community. They define, revise and enforce their own guidelines, with the purpose of creating a safe and caring space for love, respect, fun, spirituality and learning. They plan and lead the retreats, and nurture both the SAYF community and each other, and we FANs are observers and guides in their journey. We provide the environment that allows and nurtures the process of their growth.

One of the rewards of participating is observing how the Young Friends grow within this role of self leadership, and how much they love the community that they help to create, and how important it is in their lives. It often becomes a focus of their teenage lives, and influences the development of who they become as they grow into the next stages of their lives. As an adult, participating in this process is a unique and fulfilling experience. Since SAYF accepts teens starting at the age of 12, and goes until they graduate High School, this is an often amazing and exhilarating period of development.

Being a FAN is an opportunity to be part of this life changing process, which I feel also helps create an optimistic view of the future, since these amazing growing beings are the

ones who will shape it, and we are helping to shape them, so it is an overall very positive way to contribute to the future of the world. Being part of this is uplifting, often moving, and usually fun as well. As an aside, it is also rewarding to get to know the other adult participants, since they are generally a special kind of person.

The existence of SAYF depends on having enough adults to support and participate in the program, and this is an ongoing need, since there is a continuing flow of adults who are involved for a period of time, and then find other things that they choose to do, and the more adults we have, the less each one has to do. Sometimes adults are afraid to take on this role, for many reasons, but we encourage anyone who is curious about it to volunteer at one retreat, so that you can see first hand and understand what it is like, and no long term commitment is involved in trying it out.

Right now we are dangerously short on adult participation, SAYF is actually in danger of not being able to continue, unless more adults volunteer to help. It is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. Sometimes people thank me for doing it, and I tell them that it is not something that I feel needs thanks, because it is so much its own reward. And the fact that it also helps young people grow into amazing Quaker people is an added benefit for the world.

There is no SAYF without Friendly Adult Nurturers. Could you be one? If you are at all interested, please contact any of the SAYF Steering Committee members listed below. Or you can call me, Wren Hendrickson at 919-602-1587 if you have questions about it. We need Quaker adults of all ages, genders, sexual orientation, background and culture. Starting now.

Sincerely,

Wren Hendrickson, on behalf of the SAYF Steering Committee

Aaron Ruscetta *Atlanta Friends Meeting* Phone: 404-315-0406

Wren Hendrickson *Asheville Friends Meeting* Phone: 919-602-1587

MaryLinda McKinney & Mark Wutka *Nashville Friends Meeting* Phone: 404-822-8604

Jennifer Chapman *Durham/Chapel Hill Friends Meeting* Phone: 919-491-0450

Mari Ohta *Celo Friends Meeting* Phone: 828-675-0469