

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Asheville Friends Meeting

10th Month 13, 2019

Present: Robin Wells, Clerk; Pat Campbell, Recording Clerk. NancyLynn Sharpless, Patti Hughes, Steve Livingston, Bobby Carter, Bob Lackey, Pat Johnson, Gita Larson, Sarah Jane Thomas, Bob Smith, Laura Lane, Raelin Hansen, Rusty Maynard, Satchel Loftis, Kitti Reynolds, Barbara Esther, Margaret Normile, Beth Eddy, Mike Eddy.

We will be using a query this month that comes from our Junior Business Meeting. It is a simple, but challenging query:

How does silence affect our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business?

The agenda was reviewed, and Meeting accepted the agenda.

Minute #1: Friends approved the 9th month minutes with the following changes:

- A. **Meeting finances report, 2nd paragraph, 5th sentence, parenthetical comment: (e.g., the furnace for the east side of the Meeting House)**
- B. **Meeting finance report, 3rd paragraph, last sentence: The General Fund and the Building Fund collect interest.**
- C. **Meeting finance report. 4th paragraph, 2nd sentence: One Friend speculated about the reason we set the budget based on the previous year's income, although doing so was very misguided.**
- D. **Peace and Earth report. 1st paragraph after draft of letter, 4th sentence: Some people suggested that we condense the information about Senator Burr to say:**

Announcements

The first of the three Long-Range Planning and Visioning worship sharings took place on the 1st weekend of 10th month. We had a great turn out as we began to develop our shared vision for Asheville Friends Meeting. Our next worship sharing will be held on the 3rd day in 11th month. The focus for the next worship sharing will be how to nurture our own meeting community and be welcoming to newcomers.

The Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) will hold a retreat here at our meetinghouse next weekend.

We are excited to announce the completion of Boy Scout Eagle rank by Ryan Jackson, the son of Rebecca and Mike Jackson. For his Eagle project, Ryan led a group of Boy Scouts as they built a wheel-chair accessible picnic table at the Cradle of Forestry.

We will need a substitute Recording Clerk for the 12 the Month Meeting for Business. Kitti Reynolds volunteered.

This Wednesday at 10 pm, help is needed to move out the broken sofa. Steve Livingston and Bob Lackey volunteered to help those already coming.

All the 1st Day School children will start attending the latter part of Meeting for Worship once a month.

The burning of Jennine Capo` Crucet's book – *Make Your Home Among Strangers* – by students at Southern Georgia University was announced. It was suggested that those who are able buy the book as a response to this action. It was also suggested that others consider buying any book that is burned as a pointed but peaceful response to a book burning.

Request for a member on an ad hoc SAYMA committee:

The Outreach Committee of SAYMA was asked by Spring 2019 Rep Meeting to consider the possibility of reviving the Southern Appalachian Friend newsletter. They are now considering a SAYMA Newsletter website that would serve the purposes of inreach among SAYMA meetings and worship groups and outreach to seekers who wish to know what Quaker life is like in our meetings. They are now forming an ad hoc committee to explore the requirements involved in this undertaking. They would like to know if someone from our meeting would like to be involved on this committee. Meetings will take place online using ZOOM, which requires a computer with a camera. You can expect to have approximately 3 meetings in the next 5 months. No one indicated interest in being involved in this committee at this time.

They are also looking for a contact with our meeting to generate a story for the first trial newsletter. The time commitment for this would be approximately 30 minutes. Pat Campbell volunteered to act as that contact.

Friendly Eights?

The Clerk has received a request for Friendly Eights to be re-established in our Meeting. This also came up at our last retreat. Friendly Eights is a fun way for members and attenders to get together outside of Meeting. Groups of approximately eight people gather at a friend's home for a cozy and casual potluck meal. The same group meets again in a month or so but at a different person's house. This format has been used in Friends meetings around the world for decades and is a great way to build lasting friendships.

In order to do this in our meeting, we will need one or two coordinators to help get the groups formed. Once they are formed, the groups take over their own planning. Beth Eddy and Pat Campbell volunteered to act as coordinators. A sign up list was passed around.

Treasurer's Report: Satchel Loftis

Satchel started the budgeting discussion with a review of the Meeting funds and how the budget is conceived. Pat Johnson passed out a list of our Funds and balances as of 9/30/19.

Our most relevant income (for this discussion) is from contributions. We are 75% through the year and show 66% of budgeted contributions received. We have received 72% of forecasted rental income. Our budgeting approach puts constraints on the budget.

- We forecast a balanced budget, not one with a negative balance (debt) or overage.
- We use a conservative method of forecasting income; that we should not expect to receive or spend more than was received during the previous year. This method limits projected expenses to the previous year's actual contribution amount.
- There are some budgeted items that are more easily predicted.
 - Utilities – the budget is based on the average cost over the years – the amount may increase or decrease on a year to year basis, but not by much.
 - The Racial Justice and Outreach Committees have predictable amounts.

Satchel then turned to the Funds themselves. The Funds are in two accounts in the Self-Help Credit Union – the General Fund includes the Operating Fund and all the Restricted Funds except the Building Fund. This last comprises the 2nd bank account.

The Operating fund is used for the usual operating expenses and is predictable from year to year.

A Restricted Fund is a fund put aside for restricted use. The Meeting for Business decides that a chunk of money be put aside for a particular purpose and a Restricted Fund is created and named. Such Funds, for example, include the Scholarship Funds, Retreat Funds and the Ministry and Council Needs Fund.

Satchel then turned to the various kinds of donations people can make to the Meeting.

1. Unrestricted donations – this category covers 99% of the income we receive. (The name appears self-explanatory.)
2. Restricted contribution – When monies are given for a specific purpose, they must be used for that purpose. This would include having temporarily restricted funds with the use for a specific need, but with the idea that these funds would be distributed.
3. Endowed Funds – Interest from these types of funds can be for general or restricted use (depending on the endowment). The principal cannot be touched. We do not have this type of fund at this time.

Although questions leading to clarification were asked (and answered), three Funds were addressed in more detail.

1. Regarding Alice Brown's restricted gift, Friends could not recall what it was restricted to. There to agreement that the history should be looked up.
2. The Religious Education Fund is currently being used for the Junior Business Meeting. The Youth raised the money, which as supposed to go for a good cause.
3. Meeting House Improvement Fund's balance is currently zero since the recent and necessary improvements emptied it. Additionally, some of the improvements also came out of the General funds. No one could recall specifically when and how the Meeting House Improvement Fund came into being.

Committees should make note of their expenditures and be prepared to turn in all receipts needing reimbursement to Satchel by the end of 12th month.

Committees will need to submit a proposed 2020 budget to Satchel by the end of November.

We still need to discuss how we are going to fund the upkeep of our building. If we take money from the operating fund and place it in the building fund, then we also need to discuss how much and how often. We have upcoming expenses: one of the furnaces will most likely stop working soon. We need to replace the windows to improve the safety of the building.

Satchel was asked to send this Quarter's financial report for attachment to the Minutes. [*see attachments at end of Minutes*]

Committee Reports

Nominating-Kitti Reynolds

The Nominating Committee would like to ask Meeting's approval of the following nominations:

Patti Hughes for the Religious Education Committee.

Minute #2: The Meeting approved the nomination of Patti Hughes to the Religious Education Committee.

Rylin Hansen for the Racial Justice Committee.

Minute #3: The Meeting approved the nomination of Rylin Hansen to the Racial Justice Committee.

Landon Ward for the Ministry and Counsel Committee.

Minute #4: The Meeting approved the nomination of Landon Ward to the Ministry and Council Committee. Although he is not a member of the Religious Society of Friends (the usual requirement for this committee), the Meeting agreed to make an exception in this case.

For the Long-Range Planning and Visioning Committee: Satchel Loftis-Treasurer; Patti Hughes-representing Ministry & Counsel; Annika Peacock-representing Hospitality; Nikolai Wise-representing Communication; Barbara Esther-representing Spiritual Enrichment; and Bob Smith-representing Racial Justice.

Minute #5: The Meeting approved the nominations of the above Friends to the Long-Range Planning and Visioning Committee.

Peace and Earth - Mike Eddy

Last month, the Peace and Earth Committee presented a draft of a letter about an important film that is being released this fall. They asked that we approve this letter not just from the Peace and Earth Committee, but from the whole meeting. We discussed it and gave recommendations to members of the Committee. They took it back to the committee, made revisions, and are re-submitting the letter for Meeting's approval. The letter will be sent to area newspapers to be included as a "letter to the editor." It may also be shared with SAYMA friends.

This fall an important film, *The Report*, will be released in theaters and later on Amazon. The report is the US Senate Committee Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program. The movie stars Adam Driver as Daniel Jones, Annette Bening as Dianne Feinstein and Jon Hamm as Denis McDonough. Scott Z. Burns is writer/director.

The plot follows Staffer Daniel J. Jones and the Senate Intelligence Committee as they investigate accusations of torture by the CIA following September 11 attacks. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, CIA agents began using extreme interrogation tactics on those they thought were behind it. The movie had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on January 26, 2019. It is scheduled to be theatrically released in the United States on November 15, 2019. It will be released on Amazon Video two weeks later, November 29.

Why allow torture if it is against US moral values? Why continue to torture if proven ineffective? Why cover up the torture program if education would prevent future such programs? We urge Americans to watch *The Report* movie and wrestle with these important questions.

Why should we in North Carolina be sure to watch? Because the CIA flights took off from North Carolina. Because the airline that owned the planes was based in North Carolina. Because the airline is still doing business in North Carolina serving "... an unmet market need for dependable and discreet airlift." <http://www.aero-ltd.biz>

Only a short summary of the Senate Report has been released to the public. The full report was highly classified and only released to 7

people. The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a FOIA lawsuit for a full copy. Will the public ever know what actually happened?

See the movie and learn for yourself what *The Report* is about.

Robin Wells, Clerk,
Asheville Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

A couple of changes to the wording were suggested;

1. Use of the term “enhanced interrogation” instead of extreme interrogation;
2. Insert: There have been high-level attempts to remove even these seven copies.

Minute #6: After approving the letter with changes, the Meeting thanked Mike Eddy and the Committee for all its hard work.

Racial Justice Committee Report – Bob Smith

1. Mission Statement: This mission statement was offered to the meeting some time ago, but was not agreed to due to some people’s discomfort with the term, “white supremacy.” We would like for the meeting to approve the mission statement.

The mission of the Racial Justice Committee is to address individual, cultural, and institutional white supremacy/racism within Asheville Friends Meeting, the town of Asheville, and SAYMA.

Minute #7: The Meeting approved the mission statement of the Racial Justice Committee.

2. Members: We will ask the nominating committee to seek some additional folks to join in.

3. Book discussions: We will purchase 10 copies of *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo.

They will be available for people in the meeting to read during the fall, unless they want to purchase their own.

4.**Meetings**: We plan to meet after 2nd hour discussion on the first Sunday (pending schedules and space available at mtg house).

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We closed with a period of silent worship to meet again as ways opens in 11th month, 2019.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Asheville Friends Meeting 2019 Operating Activity](#)

[Asheville Friends Meeting Fund Balances](#)