

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Asheville Friends Meeting

10th Month 10, 2021

DRAFT

Present: Bob Lackey, Clerk; Beth Eddy, Recording Clerk

Present via Zoom: Morgan Murray, Mike Eddy, Margaret Normile, Patricia Johnson, Rylin Hansen, Robin Wells, Jim Cavener, Sarah Jane Thomas, Ellie Cox, Margaret Farmer, Barbara Ester, Kitti Reynolds, Jim Barham, Ellen Carr, Satchel Loftis.

Meeting opened with Silent Worship

The Clerk shared a reading out of silence.

How do Quakers collect money and how is it spent?

There is no offering or passing of a tray during worship. Quakers believe that attending to the Inner Light will direct each individual to appropriately share resources with the Meeting. This principle relies on the moving of the Spirit of God and not the promptings of other persons.

About once a month, or as they are able, attenders and members privately give money to the Meeting treasurer. Funds contributed to the Wooster Meeting are automatically added to the general operating fund. Any special distributions for non-budgeted purposes are discussed and decided at Meeting for Business.

Each month the treasurer reports to the meeting about how money is being dispensed. Once a year the budget is agreed upon at Meeting for Business.

Currently our meeting supports a variety of projects both in our local community and abroad. Individuals also support activities with which they are especially concerned. We do not value expending money on ornate buildings or fixtures; simplicity is our guide. No member receives any money for services rendered.

– Wooster Friends Meeting, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, (retrieved Oct 2016)

woosterfriends.org/faq, 2016

Minute #1: The ninth month business meeting minutes were approved with the following corrections: Request to use the phonetic spelling of Rylin’s name not the formal spelling ; clarify that the vegan group will be only using the lawn and porch when they feel it is safe to meet; all other groups are not meeting at our facility at this time; the RE classrooms have received only a base coat of paint and we are waiting for the children to select the final wall color (there is hope that the members will finish painting of the RE room at that time after we move indoor); some punctuation corrections were noted; plus add that Katherine Kowal has stepped down from the M&C committee.

Announcements:

Spiritual Enrichment program is scheduled for the second hour on the next First Day (10/17/21). A presentation and discussion about our Quaker Meeting with Attention to Business is planned.

Non-Committee Agenda Item: Jim Cavener

Asheville Friends Meeting's Grounds Holds a potential Treasured Tree:

The forty-eight year old Asheville/Buncombe County environmental protection agency, **GreenWorks**, has a program called Treasured Trees which is devoted to recognizing, protecting and preserving our living heritage and promoting the importance of the local urban canopy.

One aspect of this enterprise is to bring public awareness to imposing, historical, valuable and beautiful trees, some of which are hundreds of years old, and irreplaceable in our lifetimes and far beyond. By the designation of

these special, monumental specimens we can encourage stewardship of our urban forest.

In the lot to the west of the spacious lawn before our Meeting House -- on land which the Meeting has owned for decades -- stands a most magnificent White Oak (*Quercus alba*) which may well be over 200 years old. and should be recognized as a means of raising awareness of the diversity, sensitivity and importance of our urban tree legacy. And to protect this specimen from indiscriminate removal or irreparable damage during any future possible development of the land around it.

Two members of the GreenWorks Treasured Tree Protection Task Force were present for Martha Hansen's Memorial Meeting and agreed that this monumental oak would qualify for such designation, which at no cost to us would result in our receiving a certificate of recognition and a metal plaque which identifies its species, approximate age and to be affixed to the base of the tree without damaging its health or longevity.

Jim Cavener has volunteered to be liaison with this group, having previously nominated such and seen through to fruition such designation with a massive oak adjacent to his home in Kenilworth. Jim asks the meeting to approve such a procedure and allow him to notify the GreenWorks Treasure Tree Task Force to give consideration of same.

A Friend asked if GreenWorks have doctors to care for the trees. Another Friend stated that they only designate the trees as a treasured tree and it is the responsibility of the tree's owner to care for the tree and get a tree doc if necessary.

Minute #2: Approved that we move forward with Green Works to determine if our tree is eligible and if so, be designated as a treasured tree.

Committees:

Finance: Ellen Carr is the treasurer; and Satchel Loftis is now the assistant treasurer. See attachment for their report.

Satchel will be in Asheville on this coming Tuesday and will be staying with Ellen to finalize the transition of the treasures responsibility.

A Friend reminded us that when we did the 2021 budget we were facing a shortfall and many committees took a reduction to their requested budget. This is now impacting their ability to give honorariums to speakers. Satchel suggested that special funds could be collected from Friends who could designate on the check the monies are for a specific purpose. We have done this in the past for various purposes outside our normal expenses. These funds go through the AFM general fund and are designated for a special purpose.

Thinking outloud, Satchel gave some other possible ways and means for creating special needs funding which would live outside the budget. He and Ellen will present ideas at future BM.

Satchel reported good news: our income is currently at 75%of our budget AND we are at 75% of the year! We have received over \$18,000 income and our expenses have been \$7,500 giving us a surplus of ~\$600

We are on track with our cleaning, landscaping, childcare and utilities expense budgets, plus we have made the full year SAYMA contribution. What remains to be distributed are our outreach donations (they usually go out in the last quarter of each year). We have ~\$5,000 outreach in our budget, if we receive similar income this 4th quarter as last year, we may have some excess funds at end of year.

The letter sent out in August reminding Friends of our budgetary needs appears to have boosted our income. A similar letter will be sent next month reminding Friends of AFM budgetary needs.

Satchel went through the attached report. He noted that to date we have gone over budget in the Maintenance and H&G lines by \$875. These expenditures (the spider and termite control) will come out of the reserve funds. The MH improvements (stairs and platform) expenses come out of the MH improvement fund. The transfer from these funds have occurred and are reflected in the budget.

Peace and Earth: Margaret Normile

Peace and Earth wants the business meeting to address the issue of their funds. Peace and Earth gave it's budgeted funds to R & E at the time of

making the 2021 budget which has resulted in P&E not having the money to pay an honorarium or scholarship funding to people who we ask to enlighten us and the Meeting in general. We still are led to continue with this work. They may have other activities with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians which are yet to be determined. They (P&E) want to know how they will fund either the honorarium/scholarships or any yet to be determined future needs? Margaret noted that we had approved the Land Acknowledgment where we stated we would make resources available to help support research on issues such as the boarding schools, or reconciliation and scholarships. Where do we get the funds?

Satchel suggested that Friends could make a contribution to AFM and note that these funds are to support the P&E projects. He pointed out that we have 2 categories of funds: 1) for committee expenses and 2) one for outreach donations. We didn't think about other possibilities when we made the budget. We may wish to set up special line items for: speakers, scholarships for WCU students, or for Indigenous support funding in our future budget.

He had previously suggested a special funding request going through the AFM general funds, see the finance report discussion earlier.

House and Grounds: Sarah Jane Thomas

We had been promised by a Duke subcontractor that within 60days (later changed to 90 days) the tree would be removed. Those dates have passed and nothing as to removal has happened to date. The subcontractors told us that they did not do the work since they are extremely busy. It was suggested that she call Duke and let them know the work has yet to be completed.

She reported that the children have chosen a light yellow for their room. The window installation has been completed.

Ministry & Counsel Robin Wells

Robin Led a Discussion About proposed COVID metrics to use for when we will move indoors.

When to Move Back Inside for Worship

At some point when we agree it is safe, we will move our meeting for worship back into our Meetinghouse. It could be this fall or it could be sometime next year. Ministry & Counsel is proposing that we set some standards for when we will move into the building. We would like to use the CDC's Buncombe County COVID Data, which is published weekly. Two metrics that would help us determine safety are the transmission rate and the positivity percentage.

We propose that we consider moving back inside when the transmission rate is low and the positivity rate is below 5% (a metric that the CDC uses to determine low transmission risk). (M&C previously proposed a 3% positivity rate for moving inside, but further investigation revealed the CVC's determination of 5% as low transmission.) Currently, the transmission rate is still considered high in Buncombe County and the positivity rate is 6.7% (as of 10/5/21).

She asked if we Can we unite around these COVID metrics for returning to indoor meeting for worship? Masks would be required and we would like to use air purifiers in the rooms being used. We would continue to provide an integrated Zoom connection for those who don't feel safe meeting indoors for worship.

Minute #3: Approved that we use these CDC measurements to determine when it is safe to open the MeetingHouse inside for worship services.

Air Purifiers

Air purifiers would go a long way to improve the air quality in the Meetinghouse, (which wasn't good before the COVID pandemic.) While they cannot completely remove the risk of having COVID particles in the air, high quality HEPA purifiers could help significantly. The type of filtration and the fan power makes a big difference. Air purifiers are rated by square feet of the

room being cleaned. The basic rate is determined for an 8 ft ceiling and can easily be recalculated for higher ceilings like ours in the Meetingroom, so we can be sure to buy one that is rated for that room size.

We have measured the rooms we use most in the Meetinghouse, so can begin purchasing purifiers if the Meeting would like to proceed with this. They are currently available in the market right now, but availability may drop significantly as temperatures drop and people move back inside for their gatherings.

We do not have air purifiers built into our budget, but a few people have come forward to say they would contribute toward their purchase. We do want to be sure that high quality HEPA purifiers are purchased and that they are appropriate for each room to be filtered. The cost of a purifier for the Meeting room would range between \$275 and \$900, depending on the filtration we desire. The upstairs rooms are between 180 and 240 square feet, so their purifiers would be significantly less (between \$100-\$200). Keep in mind that this could be done in phases, where we get a purifier for the Meetingroom and two rooms upstairs now and decide if we need more later.

Responding to a question of effectiveness, Robin noted that yes, the Virus particles are smaller than the HEPA filters can capture, BUT the virus clings onto other particles which HEPA filters capture and remove making the HEPA filter 95% effective. Robin told us that there is also a company in Switzerland that makes a substantial (heavy duty) filtration system which may be more than we need plus is more costly.

How would we like to proceed as they are available now in stores. Someone brought up the idea of the homemade box purifier (90% effective) and it was suggested that maybe we could use both. Another Friend asked about the circulation of our furnace system and the impact on the filtration standalone systems. Others stated that if we do get purifiers all doors and windows NEED to be closed and the purifiers sit on the floor. These stand alone purifiers are not linked into our furnace system. They operate on an all air change out per hour basis rating. Other Friends stated that room purifiers would make a difference for odors (mold and dust) as well as virus particles. We have about 800 sq feet downstairs in the meeting room so could use either 2 medium or 1 larger size purifier.

Minute #4: Approved a subcommittee be formed to address these concerns and determine what is best for our MeetingHouse. Committee members: Margaret Farmer, Robin Wells, Barbara Ester, Kitti Reynolds

Minute #5: Approved that we have purifiers in place and operational in MH before we start to meet inside.

The meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our next business meeting in the 11th month of 2021.

ATTACHMENT

Asheville Friends Meeting
2021 Operating Activity
As of September 30, 2021

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	Actual / Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Operating Activity				
Income				
Contribution Income - Unrestricted	17,948.95	23,800.00	75%	(5,851.05)
Rental Income	105.00	-	---	105.00
Interest Income - Unrestricted	42.09	133.00	32%	(90.91)
Total Income before Transfers	18,096.04	23,933.00	76%	(5,836.96)
Total Income & Transfers from Other Funds	\$ 18,096.04	\$ 23,933.00	76%	\$ (5,836.96)
Expense				
Transfers TO Other Funds**				
Meetinghouse Improvement Transfer	1,426.00	1,426.00	100%	-
College-Age Support Transfer**	-	17.00	0%	(17.00)
M&C Needs Fund Transfer**	377.00	377.00	100%	-
Scholarship Fund Transfer**	110.00	110.00	100%	-
Total Transfers TO Other Funds**	1,913.00	1,930.00	99%	(17.00)
	11%			
Meeting House				
House and Grounds				
Cleaning	800.00	1,200.00	67%	(400.00)
Maintenance (+Landscaping)	2,975.00	2,100.00	142%	875.00
Meetinghouse Improvements	-	-	---	-
Total House and Grounds	3,775.00	3,300.00	114%	475.00
Insurance	3,950.00	3,800.00	104%	150.00
6390 · Utilities				
Electric	265.44	450.00	59%	
Gas	343.44	450.00	76%	
6410 · Water & Sewer	600.25	900.00	67%	
Total Utilities	1,209.13	1,800.00	67%	(590.87)
Total Meeting House	8,934.13	8,900.00	100%	34.13
	51%			

** These items are transfers to/from other funds, not cash out/in.

Asheville Friends Meeting
2021 Operating Activity
As of September 30, 2021

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	Actual / Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Meeting Support				
Care and Nuture Committee	-	110.00	0%	(110.00)
Communications Committee (website)	-	69.00	0%	(69.00)
Total Finance Committee	138.99	311.00	45%	(172.01)
Hospitality Committee	-	137.00	0%	(137.00)
Library Committee	-	82.00	0%	(82.00)
Ministry and Counsel Ctte	-	27.00	0%	(27.00)
Peace and Earth Ctte	-	59.00	0%	(59.00)
Total Racial Justice Committee	-	274.00		(274.00)
Total Religious Education Ctte	1,500.00	2,019.00	74%	(519.00)
Spiritual Enrichment Ctte	-	55.00	0%	(55.00)
Total Meeting Support	1,638.99	3,143.00	52%	(1,504.01)
	9%			
Outreach & SAYMA				
General Outreach	-	1,645.00	0%	(1,645.00)
Racial Justice Outreach	-	1,645.00	0%	(1,645.00)
Quaker Outreach	-	1,645.00	0%	(1,645.00)
SAYMA Assessment	5,025.00	5,025.00	100%	-
Total Outreach	5,025.00	9,960.00	50%	(4,935.00)
	29%			
Total Expenses & Transfers TO Other Funds	\$ 17,511.12	\$ 23,933.00	73%	\$ (6,421.88)
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 584.92	\$ -		\$ 584.92

Year-to-year Comparison

Income		Actual, as of 9/30	Budget	
Unrestricted	2020 - Current Year	18,096.04	23,800.00	76%
	2019 - Prior Year	17,006.39	24,018.85	71%
		Actual for 2020		

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