

Minutes: Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

20 August 2023

Present: Joanna Flynn (clerk), Peggy Tibbets, Annie Barrus, Gib Barrus, Jennie Boyd Bull, Chip Poston, Anne Maren Hogan, Barb Wulff, Catherine Reid, Rachel Weir, Geeta McGahey, Bob McGahey, Judy Scheckel, Lisa Rose (recording).

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

M&C Report, *Gib Barrus*

This month's query: When we face loss, how do we hear the voice of the Divine?

- Membership of M&C: Catherine Peck, who has been serving as the committee's clerk, has resigned. Clerking is currently being shared by the members of the committee. Annie Barrus is serving as the recorder.
- **We approved moving Meeting for Business to September 24th at 1:15 due to the scheduling needs of the Clerks.**
- Released Friend Adrian Mehr was scheduled to visit CFM, but due to a lack of designated funds in the yearly meeting's Released Friends Fund, he will not be visiting us as planned.
- Bob plans to step down from yearly Meeting's M&N committee, so we will be in need of someone to step into this position.
- We are still in conversation about the Children's Blessing. Because of scheduling conflicts, it's been suggested that we wait until winter to hold this event.
- We will start listing the members of M&C in the weekly update each week so that everyone will know who we are.

First Day School, *Gib Barrus*

The program for school-aged children will begin after Labor Day. The focus will be civil rights.

Ideas for activities:

- Show a film version of the Mark Twain short story, *The Private History of a Campaign That Failed*.
- Create a painted labyrinth on the slab of the old meetinghouse.
- Make a Mailbox of Kindness, install it somewhere on the meeting grounds, and invite Friends to share messages of kindness there.
- Have the children learn American sign language for some of the songs we sing and do a performance.

New sand was delivered this week, funded by Azra, from the group who used the playground this summer.

In order to have adequate coverage on the playground until there are prepared lessons, we will arrange to have a third volunteer in First Day School for the remainder of the summer.

First Day School building. Concern has been expressed about having adequate heat when it's cold, and also about the presence of mold in the building. Gib will speak with Buildings and Grounds about these concerns.

- We request that the committee consider:
 - 1) How to make sure the committee and Friends providing childcare are made aware of any issues related to child custody.
 - 2) How to handle changing expectations on the playground between First Days and the rest of the week when kids in the community use it.

Buildings and Grounds Committee, Catherine Reid

There are two twin white oaks that lean toward Margithaus. Twin trees are more prone to falling than others. The committee is focused on the one that is most likely to land on the building if it were to fall, as there could be significant damage to the building and its occupant. Money spent on this would come from the Capital Improvement fund.

- Isak Pertee provided an estimated of \$2500 to remove one twin tree. He would bring a tall crane and lift it out, leaving the wood and a mulch pile.
- Another option Isak suggested would be to cable the trunks together. This would be less expensive, but not a guarantee that the tree wouldn't fall. This would cost \$625 for a high cable, \$250 for low bolts, and \$500 to remove one limb that's leaning toward the building.
- A question was raised about what would be done with the wood. Would someone perhaps be willing to remove the tree in exchange for the wood? We are told that tree folks will rarely do this for one tree.
- The committee will get an estimate from another tree company before moving forward.
- Pablo Cope and Felix Stith may both be able to offer opinions, and are concerned with using trees that are removed from the community.
- This will need to go to CCI before action is taken.
- Appreciation was expressed for the work and expertise of the committee.

Our caretaker has lived with fuel fumes coming from the crawl space under her apartment, where the lawnmower and fuel are kept, for a long time. An 8'x12' tool shed has been suggested, and as it's cheaper to buy than to build, we would like to move forward with buying one soon. The estimate is \$3500. We would put it on a level spot along the path to First Day School, with the door facing Margithaus.

Heat for First Day School. It has been suggested that a mini-split could be a good solution for heating and dehumidifying this space. There may not be enough electricity to support one, though we think the updated wires may now be adequate. Some believe that the electric radiators are warm enough. The smell of kerosene in the building is strong, though the kerosene heater is no longer being used. We are working on emptying the tank and will remove it soon. A concern was expressed about the mold in the building and a question was raised about whether it's worth investing in improvements to the building when mold is present. Others have suggested that the paper and other items that are stored in the building may be at the root of the

mold problem. The Children's Garden Preschool will once again meet outdoors, so they will not be using the building.

Our fall workday will be November 11th, with the 18th as the rain date.

Margithaus Committee, *Peggy Tibbets*

A report from the committee was read (attached). Children's Garden Preschool will be held Aug 22-Dec 12. Spring Jan 16-May 31st.

The playground now gets a lot of use beyond preschool and First Day School. The committee will work with Buildings and Grounds on policies for the maintenance of the playground in light of the increased use by the community during the week, and for snow removal during the winter months.

Nominating, *Gib Barrus*

We approved Jennie Boyd Bull to serve on the Ministry and Care committee.

We will ask for approval for the following new childcare volunteers at next month's Meeting for Business: Barb Perrin, Richard Martin, Oliver McCade (teen childcare helper), and Julia Hudson (active in SAYF, former Camp Celo counselor and will be helping Mari in the preschool). Any concerns should be brought to a member of the Nominating Committee before then.

Joanna will step down as co-clerk this December after serving for 2 years, and would like to continue to serve on Ministry and Care. **We approve Joanna Flynn as a member of M&C when she steps down as co-clerk.** She is currently a member of M&C as a co-clerk, and clerks have continued to serve on M&C in the past.

We approved Lydia Wexler as our SAYMA representative.

Current open positions include:

- Death and Grief Liaison / End of Life Committee
- Resource person for conscientious objection
- SAYMA Nominating
- SAYMA Ministry and Nurture
- 2 openings on Ministry and Care

In light of our need for a co-clerk and new members on M&C, we will hold a called meeting for Nominating's Strawberry Creek Process on September 10th at 1:15 PM.

SAYMA Report, *Jennie Boyd Bull*

The sign up deadline has been extended for Cohort 2 of the Racial Conflict Transformation program, from 8/20 to 8/31. This program "is a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions and transformative experiences aimed at addressing and deconstructing racial

conflict, and expanding our institutional capacity to hold space for uncomfortable conversations about race and racism among Friends.”

Three requests for apologies related to racial justice have been brought to the yearly meeting:

- The controversy around finance
- Whether the URJ was self appointed
- Whether the Paul Cuffee Worship Group needed to be under the care of a monthly meeting.

Jennie suggests that Celo Friends could support the yearly meeting’s effort to move past conflict by sending a minute in support of these apologies. It would be helpful to have a minute before SAYMA Ministry & Nurture meets on October 13-15. Lydia will compose a draft, and there will be a called meeting to consider it on October 8th at 1:15 pm.

World Quaker Day: October 1st- Geeta McGahey

Geeta brought a proposal (attached) for a day of activities including AMS students, an announcement in the Celo List, and an article for the Yancey Times Journal. The theme of events is Living in the Spirit of Ubutu, *I Am Because You Are*. **We approve Geeta’s work to organize these activities and support her in moving forward with the proposal.**

Membership Information Session - Joanna Flynn

Anne and Joanna will hold an information session on membership on September 3rd during potluck. Basic information about Quakersim will be shared. All are welcome.

Items moved to next month’s agenda

Due to a lack of time, the following items were not discussed as planned:

- Auditory system in the meetinghouse
- Safe Meeting Policy
- Ad hoc committee regarding CFM rentals

These minutes were approved in the face of the Meeting.

We closed with a period of worshipful silence.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Rose