

North Pacific Yearly Meeting
Steering Committee
Multnomah Meetinghouse, Portland OR
2004, 10th month-9
Minutes

SC 2004-10-01

Opening

a.

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in silent worship. Clerk Beth Hunt welcomed all.

Present were Beth Hunt (Eugene), clerk; Janet Jump (Bridge City), associate clerk, Dorsey Green (University), presiding clerk, Pablo Stanfield (University) recording clerk, Chris Willard (Tacoma), treasurer, and Sue Ellen White (Whidbey Island), secretary; and meeting representatives: (Agate Passage) none, (Bellingham) Turtle Robb, Lorina Hall, (Billings) none, (Boise Valley) Anne Dusseau (Finance&Legal Comm.), Merepeace, (Bridge City) Timothy Travis (Comm Discipline), Lisa Devaney, (Corvallis) Lorena Reynolds, Nancy Yarnall (FWCC staff), (Eastside) Debbie Townsend, Linda Ellsworth (M&O Comm.), (Eugene) Ethen Perkins, , (Port Townsend) Deborah G. Lewis (also Outreach Comm.), (Heartland) Heather Jackson, (Jr.. Friends) Felix Ostrom, Carl Uhte-Strobehn, (Missoula) Joann Kidder, (Multnomah) Carol Uhte, Rae Lawrence, (Olympia) Deric Young, (Pt. Townsend) Deborah Gottlieb Lewis, (Pullman-Moscow) Dave Coahran, (Salem) none, (Salmon Bay) Susanne Kromberg, (Sandpoint) none, (South Mountain) Kathleen Donham, (Tacoma) Chris Willard, (University) Dorene Cornwell, Charlene Smith, (Walla Walla Prep.) none, (Young Friends) Meghann Willard, (Olympia); as well as Steve Wilson (University) and Marjorie Mikesell (Eugene), nominating committee, Ann Stever (University), WGYF committee; and Jan Kjerne (Multnomah), and Janet Jump (Bridge City), guests.

b.

Minutes

We reviewed a minute from the summer meeting that did not accurately reflect what was proposed and approved at that time. The Recording Clerk read the revised minute:

2004-07-11

NPYM Young Friends.

Friends approved using the Nominating Committee to name YF clerks by the process proposed. We approved Vena Rainwater as co-clerk for 04-05; we await another co-clerk from Nominating Committee. Friends approved the correction.

2004-10-02

Treasurer's report

- a. The Treasurer presented the final 03-04 Fiscal Report as distributed beforehand [attached]. Due to reduced expenditures (especially by the Secretary in distributing SC documents electronically), our year-end balance was over \$5500 above income, instead of the budgeted \$7500 deficit.

The year-end balance sheet shows a number of new earmarked funds which the Treasurer is distributing as he receives notification of where they are to be sent. Our operating fund (general fund) is \$14,584.⁸⁵. Chris reviewed some of the notes and explicated them.

The Treasurer also gave us a preliminary report on AS budget. It appears that asking Planning Committee to make AS pay its expenses may have contributed to AS running a deficit this year, although there are still many accounts (children's financial aid, refunds and uncollected charges. A final AS report will be forthcoming when the accounts are closed.

SC approved these reports, with great thanks to the Treasurer for clarity and effort.

2004-10-03

Nominating Committee

- a. Steve Wilson, clerk, presented the latest nominations for the YM officers [attached with notes]. The new Committee on the Discipline, now with a clerk, is now constituted, although we are awaiting names from MGoF Quarter. We hope to add MGoF representation as soon as volunteers feel led.

Friends approved the nominees. The Committee thanked Nominating Committee for their good work, several members being present.

2004-10-04

Webkeeper

- a. Dave Fabik brought revised CD copies of the YM Directory to replace the CD's that did not work. They can be exchanged or bought for \$2⁵⁰. He asked that those who get them try them soon and let him know your needs to make it function for your computer. (Webkeeper@npym.org) Every Meeting and WG receives a copy of the Directory for reference and reps may purchase a copy if they wish. It is not posted on the Web-site for privacy concerns.

2004-10-05

Visioning

- a. Finance & Legal Committee clerk Anne Dusseau asked us to focus on the process of budgeting by beginning to look at the direction the YM will go as represented by our expenditures. She reminded us that the majority of Friends pay almost no attention to our expenses and many of our activities until the question of cost and member assessments comes up. She outlined a process whereby we would discuss with different groups our support and concern for four general categories (fellowship, youth activities, affiliations, structure) of budget items. Lynn Travis of the committee talked about how those functions fit into the structure of the YM. She reviewed our origins and in broad strokes the kinds of activities that involved the YM as we evolved in our 32 years. She offered us some documents of our history and activities (which the Secretary will send out as .pdf files with the next set of documents).

b.

Members of Finance & Legal formed four groups and we spent until lunch in small group discussions. In a worship sharing format, each group gathered responses to queries [attached]. At the end of the time we re-gathered for a summation and focus.

We broke for lunch to reconvene at 1:20 pm.

2004-10-06

Clerks' business

a. We returned to worship in silence. The Recording Clerk read the actions and decisions of the morning. It was noted that there was a missing element:

SC representatives agreed to return to our Meetings with the visioning process as experienced for further discernment, committing to reporting the results of their seasoning to Chris Willard by 1/01/2005. Minutes were accepted with this addition.

b. Chris Willard reported that the *ad hoc* Young Friends scholarship committee (regarding the fund donated by Multnomah MM) including Kathryn Willard, Vena Rainwater, Jane Ewart, Lynn Travis, Walt Javins and Ethen Perkins, has met by phone conference and e-mail. Chris has formed a working proposal of a procedure for them to consider. It is being considered by Jr. Friends and the other groups involved. They will consult again and bring back a proposal for our consideration. They asked for any concerns and suggestions.

c. Timothy Travis reported the first steps he envisions for the Committee on the Discipline. He hopes to post our F&P on our Web-site to make it open for consultation and a place for posting future changes for consideration. The next step is to find all the minuted changes in our faith and practices and post them for comparison with the printed version.

Friends approved posting an electronic copy of NPYM's Faith and Practice on our Web-site.

The Treasurer noted that there is as yet no line item for this committee. He asked for permission to take necessary funds for the committee's operation from the SC operations.

The Committee approved.

d. We have received a request from FGC for permission to receive our mailing list to mail brochures about the 2005 Annual Gathering to our YM. **Friends approved this use of the mailing list.**

e. The staff Secretary has submitted her resignation, effective 12/15 [see attached letter]. Clerk thanked Sue Ellen White for her efforts and for successfully making the office functions Web-compatible this year; she presented her with a plant as a thank-you gift. A search committee for a new secretary has been formed led by the former associate clerk, Eugene Norcross-Renner.

2004-10-07

Clerking Workshop

a. Deborah Lewis, workshop coordinator, reported that we have filled the registration for the workshop to be held the end of this month. There is a waiting list of 10; we have included for persons from 30 organizations and groups in our YM and 5 from NWYM. Hospitality has been arranged with metropolitan Seattle Friends. She has visited the space at North Seattle Friends Church. They are not charging us rent. Deborah projects that the workshop will break even or make a little over costs. She proposed giving any profit to the hosting Friends Church as an honorarium or their use.

SC approved this use for any excess funds.

Clerk thanked Deborah and Margaret Coahran for their commitment and hard work.

2004-10-08

Staff Secretary Position

a.

Clerk read a report from Eugene Norcross-Renner about the process of filling the secretary position..

Questions arose about employing a new staff person without an updated job description or clarification of policy issues raised by Sue Ellen. How can those changes be negotiated based on these recommendations while there are real, functional changes in the job description as it has evolved, yet we have not formally approved an actual position description. There was concern to proceed rapidly with hiring as the position is essential. There are many factors that must be considered, ranging from salary and benefits, through performance review, equipment and support, challenges that may lead to failure, and combining tasks (e.g.: directory tasks). A concern was raised about the need for another person on personnel committee. It was proposed to delay hiring; that in the interim personnel committee update the job description for YM secretary and get approval from an *ad hoc* committee empowered to review and confirm the new job description. Nancy Yarnall, Pablo Stanfield and Carol Uhte agreed to serve as this *ad hoc* committee.

Friends approved the plan for revising the Yearly Meeting Secretary position and authorized the ad hoc committee to approve the amended job description.

2004-10-09

Junior Friends YM

a.

Carl Uhte-Strobehn reported on the latest decisions of the JFYM steering committee:

They will set up a group site on Yahoo.com

Wade Black will be the editor of *Yo! Friends!* (their newsletter).

Jr. Friends camp will take place after AS in '05.

They have established an Honor Board to work with the Honor System and Code of Conduct that they have been implementing.

They are drafting their own *Faith and Practice*.

They will hold ski trip planning on 1/8/05. The 05 trip will be to McCall ID.

It was clarified that Jr. Friends reps are to represent their viewpoint in other NPYM activities.

2004-10-09

Annual Session 2006

a.

Dorsey Clerk, presiding clerk, took over the chair. She gave us time to review the report from Margaret Sorrel concerning the AS's discernment of the essentials for YM, and Dorsey's proposal of how to proceed. Dorsey reminded us of good process and asked for questions of clarification. FGC has a policy prohibiting minors on campus prior to the official start of their Gathering. Friends were clear that Jr. Friends and younger would be NPYM's responsibility if we convened before the FGC Gathering.

It was proposed that we accept the growing support of a shortened session before FGC in '06. The SC clerk should quickly ask the FGC Planning committee to work with us in making this happen.

Friends agreed to eliminate consideration of meeting during FGC or at the end of the Gathering.

b.

Financial considerations of a shorter session were raised: fixed charges are overhead; an abbreviated session may be small leading to going into the red and using reserve funds.

Friends approved holding a shorter annual session just prior to the Annual Gathering of FGC in 2006.

c.

Concern about the relationship with FGC. We tried to understand why there is strong opposition among some Friends even to receiving information about, getting swallowed up in, or being too involved in FGC and other groups formed in the East by schisms. There are many concerns

Friends agreed to recommend that AS Planning Committee be urged to plan for a maximum two-day AS just preceding FGC '06.

Other concerns centered on finding joy in the leading to do this. Not only must we do the essentials, but we must do something special that excites us. We took time to brainstorm and list some of our personal preferences of things that make our YM and AS special. We found many diverse feelings present and considered some creative proposals that made us revisit prior decisions. After some time in silent worship new light was shared and we reconfirmed our intention. There are drawbacks to any plan and some individuals are not comfortable, even grieving, that no better options have appeared.

Friends approved holding AS '06 at PLU immediately preceding FGC, empowering Planning committee to consider the points raised in our discussion and make decisions as best led by the Light. We direct the SC Clerk to notify FGC of our intention and request their cooperation in setting the calendar, opening the bookstore during our session and accepting our responsibility for our Jr. Friends until the opening of the Annual Gathering. Friends thanked Dorsey Green for her excellent clerking in dealing with a difficult discussion.

2004-10-10

World Gathering of Young Friends

Ann Stever, clerk of the NPYM WGYF support/selection committee reported their progress. They sent out requests for applications urging YF to apply and received a number of extraordinary applications for our two official representatives. She commented that the quality of persons mean that we (the YM) are doing something right. The selection process, albeit difficult and burdened by problems was Spirit-led. She reviewed the process and the criteria they followed. Their discernment led them to offer Kathy Hyzy and Meghann Willard and Adrienne Pasta and Matthew Graville as alternates.

SC approved Kathy Hyzy (alternate Matthew Graville) and Meghann Willard (alternate Adrienne Pasta) as our representatives to the World Gathering of Young Friends in Lancaster UK, VIII 2006.

b.

Ann announced there are still many openings for at-large participants and asked for applicants to get their requests in by XII month. She also distributed a fund-raising letter for assisting a Developing World YM attendee. They recommend that we give our third funding to the general aid fund rather than try to "twin" with a particular YM.

Reps were asked to report to their Meetings about this opportunity and to prepare the way for raising funds to meet the estimated \$7500 costs.

Friends congratulated our delegates to WGYF and thanked the ad hoc committee for their work.

2004-10-11

Closing

a. Logistical announcements were made. Meghann Willard read her thank-you note to NPYM for support in attending FGC's Gathering this past summer.

b. The affairs being concluded, Friends returned to silent worship, giving thanks for Friends' reaching deep for the Spirit in discernment, to close at 4:30 p.m. We will meet again, God willing, 29 I-month 2005.

D. Pablo Stanfield, recording clerk

Beth Hunt, Steering Committee clerk