

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Seventh Month, Seventh Day, 2024 (7/7/24)

Present were: Ellen McBride (acting clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Martha Baer, Larry McNeely, Ann Riggs, Margaret Holmes, Kim Finch, Nancy Jo Steetle, Margaret Holmes, Minette Clarke-Swindell, Patty Robinson, Jack Hogsten, Barb Thomas, Diane Shandor, Martha Lurz, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Sylvia Oliva, Nona McNatt, Betty Sue Salvia, Aros Vlachos, Marjorie Kehoe, Ben Killgore (operating OWL), Dot Walizer, Ani Warneka, and Bonnie Peregoy.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship and screen-sharing of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice queries on young people. After a brief technical sound delay, we began with reminders of Meeting for Business protocol, virtual and in person. And we also reviewed our antiracist queries.

For Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee (MPC), co-clerk Martha Baer reported that Jenny Isaacs has requested that her membership be transferred from Doylestown Meeting to Annapolis Friends Meeting. We have received a letter of transfer from the Doylestown Meeting. Friends joyfully approved and welcomed Jenny.

MPC also advised that we will continue the AFM tradition of providing a one year subscription to Friends Journal or Quaker Life magazine for new members. The most recent new members are Alison Barrett, Ani Warneka, and Jenny Isaacs.

Martha also announced for MPC that Fahima Gaheez has requested to become a member and a clearness committee is being assembled.

As acting Clerk, Ellen McBride invited Friends to make a decision about whether to hold a MfB in August. During our usual MfB time several AFM committee clerks will be attending BYM Annual Session and will not be available; others are on vacation. Traditionally, AFM often has skipped the MfB in August, except when there is pressing business. Friends approved staking the month off for MfB in August.

Ellen also announced that our next Committee Clerks' Meeting will be held on First Day, July 14 at 9:15 am. All are invited, whether serving as Committee Clerks or not; in any event, it is hoped that each Committee will send at least one representative. The meeting will be in-person and via Zoom. The theme of the meeting is Collaboration and Seasoning across Committees. Other planned agenda items include:

- Martha B. will share information from our most recent Spiritual State of the Meeting report and action needs. The Committees are encouraged to review the information and action items that remain to be pursued.
- Also, the Gifts and Leadings Committee (formerly known as the Nominating Committee) will invite Friends' input as nominating season is approaching. Committees are encouraged to start thinking about committee needs and other Friends who might be a good fit for your committee.

We also discussed that a potluck brunch might be offered in connection with this Committee Clerks' meeting. Another Friend also suggested that "normal" potluck after meeting for worship on the first First Day of August might be offered, even though MfB will not be held.

As to our July Treasurer's Report, Ellen relayed that this report has been delayed and will be sent via the AFM_Announcements email in the near future.

For Peace and Social Concerns (PSC), co-clerk Margaret Holmes reported that PSC and Stewardship & Finance (S&F) both recommend to MfB the approval for full \$646 cost to be paid from the Committee Contingency Fund for a postcard mailing project. This amount would cover the cost (stamps, cards, labels, etc.) for Friends preparing and mailing 1,000 postcards as part of the nonpartisan Center for Common Ground / "Reclaim Our Vote" project, as recommended by the national Quaker Call-To-Action group. Friends approved this Committee Contingency fund payment. The dates for the postcarding will be posted soon on AFM Announce.

For the Green Group, Marjorie Kehoe also announced that yet another postcarding campaign for environmental concerns also is planned with more details to be provided soon. (Our Treasurer reminded Friends, if there are costs for such projects, that expenditures under \$500 may go via S&F without coming through MfB.)

Also for PSC, Margaret reported, after extensive consideration, that the Committee is requesting approval to purchase and display a rainbow-LGBTQ banner for the fence which will be approximately the same size as our BLM banner and other signs. Friends approved this plan so as to make clear that AFM is a welcoming community.

In discussion, Friends noted that we, sometimes, have "borrowed" banners from the fence to carry in parades and to display at community festivals. PSC will post an announcement that such borrowing can be arranged with, hopefully, 72 hours notice, so that the banner can carefully be removed and left in the office for the committees/Friends borrowing them, then returned to the office for reinstallation.

Margaret also reported for P&SC about the Peace Walkers visit from 7/1/through 7/5. In this project, cosponsored by the Veterans for Peace (VfP) and many other Friends, AFM welcomed a group of peace activists who had traveled 700+ miles from Maine to D.C. over 60+ days; with some coordination by PSC, many Friends hosted 14 Peace Walkers in our homes and we provided potluck and a venue screening for over 30 participants of an inspirational movie ("Women Cross the DMZ") about another group of peace walkers who traveled from North Korea to South Korea in 2019. Notably, the VfP made a donation of \$250 to AFM from the generous contributions that they received in the Annapolis area which more than covered their costs. We thanked Friends who helped coordinate and host for this project.

Finally, Margaret reminded us that P&SC will host a Listening Session on 9/15/24, at 9:15 a.m. (in lieu of our regular committee meeting slot) regarding AFM financial priorities and fundraising strategies.

Another Friend offered a helpful and comprehensive list of many upcoming summer and fall AFM calendar events. These include:

- July 14 Committee Clerks' Meeting
- July 28 To plan a brunch
- August 11 Worship Sharing
- August 25 Anti-Racism and Native Americans part 1
- September 8 Sacred Dance and Chant
- September 15 Listening session on our AFM financial priorities and fundraising policy—P&SC (at Committee Meeting time)
- September 22 Anti-Racism and Native Americans part 2
- September 29 Brunch by Nominating (Gifts and Leadings) Committee
- October 13 Committee Clerks' Meeting

Friends should consult the AFM calendar online for additional details and for links to participate virtually at <https://rental.annapolisfriends.org/calendar/>

For Meetinghouse and Land, co-clerk Kim Finch reported:

- that the Green Group now has its own mailbox in the AFM office.
- that our second Learning and Listen for Building Fund session was held on June 13; a third Learning and Listen for Building Fund session will include special attention to Friends' concerns about accessibility plans, both interim and long term. This next listening session probably will be in September on a weeknight to be determined.
- that, as to electrical concerns, we will begin work on the solar panels as soon as a repair person is scheduled. This may have increased costs as part of the original system was installed by a Friend without a County electrical permit; however, it is predicted that the renovated system will pay for itself. Later electrical work will restore some of our EV chargers that currently are dysfunctional; in the meantime, EV charger signs will be removed from all but the two working stations. (One Friend raised questions about solar tax credits, which MHL will respond to outside of MfB.)
- That, relating to nominating, MHL would welcome an apprentice or other assistant for Barb Thomas in her amazing work as AFM's Building Use Coordinator (BUC). MHL also is recruiting "second circle" supporters to work on AFM Meeting House. (Our MHL co-clerks, Kim Finch and Jeanne Ward, each will be traveling in August and September, but one will be available "on duty" through the summer.)
- Our next AFM workday (always the second Saturday) will be held on 7/13, from 9-11:30 a.m. Friends will be invited to enjoy indoor air conditioning and shady projects if it is hot. - Our new AFM chair rack's arrival is predicted for sometime this fall.
- Replacing our AFM Dubois Road street sign also is planned for the near future once a new reflective arrow is acquired to make a current extra sign point in the proper direction.

Another Friend asked for a status report about replacing the MPR cork floor. Currently, Kim reported, this remains on MHL's "to-do list"; but it has been pushed down a bit in priorities due to the more

pressing electrical concerns.

Friends thanked MHL for all this extensive work!

For Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC), Ann Riggs announced that the Friends World Committee on Consultation World Plenary will take place from August 5 to 12 in Johannesburg, South Africa and, for the first time ever, the event will be partly online and hybrid. Ann noted that FWCC is a “network enhancing” organization that seeks to build a worldwide community of Quakers. Beyond our U.S. traditional Quaker areas, she noted that very diverse traditions of Quaker worship exist in Africa (where about half of modern Quakers live), Latin America (where about another live -and, she noted, there are 18 new Spanish speaking Quaker groups in Virginia!); North American and European Quakers make up the remainder.

AFM Friends can individually sign up to attend the FWCC Plenary in person or can participate online, although with time zone differences, programs will occur in Annapolis-time between the wee hours of the morning and the late afternoon. Additionally, Annapolis Friends Meeting will be a registered “hub”--that is, a place where Friends can gather together in-person to share, speak with Friends electronically around the world, and experience the World Plenary virtually.

A calendar of FWCC programs is available, including unprogrammed and programmed worship each day, at this webpage - <https://fwcc.world/wpm/> Themes & programs will include “Care for Creation,” “Navigating the (environmental) Storm,” “Ubuntu-response to injustices,” and many others. Notably, many of these programs will be in English; some will be presented in other languages. Friends also can participate electronically from our homes with a small registration fee. More information will be coming and posted, as the event approaches, on the AFM_Announcements@googlegroups.com group email.

For Outreach Committee, Bonnie Peregoy reported-

-That the Committee hopes to fill the some of its openings to ensure that the Committee has enough members to do its work, although “Second Circle”(non-committee members) volunteer efforts also are welcomed;

-That upcoming Outreach events will include the Kunta Kinte Festival, this year to take place on Sat., September 14th, at the USNA stadium. Planning and tent-staffing volunteers are invited.

-That another “Family Fun Day” celebration of nature will be held at AFM on Sat., October 5, similar to the previous one in June. The Committee hopes this may become an annual event with long term development of more family connections throughout the community. (Another Friend noted that, the next day-October 6– is “World Quaker Day”and suggested that perhaps this might be featured or mentioned on the Family Fun Day.

Reserving the last batch of minutes for approval at our next MfB, we concluded with centering silence.

-These minutes respectfully submitted - P. Caroom, Recording Clerk