

Jacksonville Monthly Meeting

Meeting for Worship for with a Concern for Business: Minutes

March 10, 2013

Elaine Martin, Clerk

Attendees: Elaine Martin, Al Geiger, Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Juan Reza, Brooke Stephens, Doug Halpin, Mike Shell.

1. Worship

2. Reading

The presuppositions of the corporate meeting for worship have, from the very beginning, profoundly affected the method of decision-making in the meeting for business. In both, there is faith in the Guide. There is faith in a continuous revelation that is always open to produce fresh disclosures. And there is respect and affection for each other that cuts through all diversity and that helps to kindle a faith that, with patience and openness, the group can expect to come to clearness and to resolve the problems that come before it.

—Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1997

3. Queries: *Qualities at the Heart of a Friends Decision-making Process*, by Arthur Larrabee ([Attachment 1](#)). Friends' comments follow.

- Decision by consensus is gaining popularity worldwide. Although it is hard for those who haven't heard of it to convert to the idea, it is a wonderful process.
- This is a matter of trusting the Meeting and trusting that the process will work. Let go and trust.

3. Minutes of January 13, 2013 – Approved.

4. Treasurer's Report – Draft Budget ([Attachment 2](#)) was discussed. Decisions are pending presences of Treasurer at future meeting for business.

- The two columns on page 1 of the draft budget show alternative approaches to estimating expenses: (a) averaging the 2011 and 2012 numbers, or (b) using the 2012 numbers (which represent a 33% increase over 2011).
- Meeting space rent is a new expense, \$1,040/year for the use of Brooke Stephen's home, as compared with \$450/year at Bolles.
- SEYM 2012 apportionment was \$1,757, of which JAX Meeting paid \$1,200. There will be a threshing session at annual gathering over the amount of SEYM donations to outside organizations.
- Concern was expressed that Friends' participation in Meeting carries financial responsibility, and that Meeting needs to be more mindful in attending to this matter.
 - Friends will place the donation box near the entrance during each meeting.
 - The topic will be added to a future agenda.

5. Meeting Location – At the 1/13/13 meeting for business, Friends minuted use of Brooke's home on a trial basis. Friends reviewed positive and negative concerns during the present meeting.

- Accessibility is a prime concern. The clerk reported that she, Bonnie and Ken Hall, and Doug Halpin determined that the Hall's 6-foot wheelchair ramp does not meet ADA standards, which call for a 1-to-12 slope.

- Minuted (2013.4): Friends agreed to build a wooden ramp into Brooke's home that meets ADA requirements.
- Doug Halpin agreed to build the ramp.
- The clerk will confer with the Hall's about paying the cost (estimated at \$120).
- Friends confirmed the clerk's sense of the Meeting assessment that "concerns of the Meeting [about this location] can be overcome."

6. First Day School

- Bess Wilson has laid down her involvement in FDC because of a change in family obligations.
- Linda Wilson will do FDC for both first and third weeks of the month, beginning with sessions on George Fox and on the Irish Quakers.

7. FCNL policy statement revision

- Last year the Meeting contributed to the process of establishing FCNL legislative priorities.
- Friends did not feel led to group participation in this new task.
- Mike Shell will send Friends a reminder about online resources for making individual contributions to the policy statement revision.

Meeting closed with silence.

Submitted by
Mike Shell
Recording Clerk
3/26/2013

Qualities at the Heart of a Friends Decision-making Process

If a sense of the meeting process depends on an ability to perceive spiritual energy and direction, what qualities can each person bring that will support this process?

1. Intention. Is your intention to be open to a spiritual process, involving spiritual energy and spiritual guidance? Do you give thought to your intention, and its potential effect on the meeting?
2. Expectation. Do you have an expectation that the Spirit will be present for you and for the meeting? Do you expect that the meeting will be led into right decisions for it?
3. Attitude. Do you bring a positive attitude to the meeting? Do you participate with a non-judgmental attitude? Is your energy open, or is it closed? Do you welcome the differences that you share with others as well as the similarities? Are you patient with others as well as being patient with the process?
4. Affect. Do you bring an open and welcoming affect? Do you ask questions or do you make statements? Are you willing to be vulnerable and to acknowledge "not knowing?" Do you value authenticity and transparency? Do others perceive you as open-hearted?
5. Letting Go of Attachments. Are you willing to examine your attachments and work toward dissolving them? How do your attachments interfere with your ability to hear others and the Spirit? How do your attachments burden the meeting? Are you willing to let go of things that really don't matter?
6. Willingness to Listen. Are you willing to listen to others and to the Spirit? Do you take the opportunity to reflect on what others have said? Is the quality of your listening meaningful, or is it a pretense?
7. Teachability. Are you teachable? Are you willing to trust the Light given to others? Do you recognize the truth in what others have said? Are you willing to change your mind?
8. Discipline. Do you embrace the discipline of the meeting? Being on time? Speaking infrequently? Accepting the authority of others? Are you accepting that it may not be helpful for you to share everything that seems important to you.

What other qualities would you include?

Attachment 2

Budget - 2013

Income

	2011	2188		
	2012	2908		
Total		5096		
Divided by 2		2548	2600	2900

Expenses

SEYM	1200	1400		
Meeting space rent	940	940		
Insurance	140	140		
Friends Journal Listing	45	45		
SEYM-Attendance Support	0	0		
FCPJ	100	100		
Friends Journal Subscription	150	150		
Interfaith Council of Jax	100	100		
Quaker Life Listing	20	20		
Total	2695	2895	2695	2895

Expenses versus Income

-95	5
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The \$-95 column assumes our contributions as an average of 2011 and 2012 and no change in SEYM assessemnt.

The \$5 column assumes our contributions stay the same between 2012 and 2013 and we increase SEYM assessment by \$200.

