

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Seventh Month 14, 2024

Present in the Meetinghouse: Pat Johnson, Clerk, Sandra Parker, Backup Recording Clerk, Margaret Farmer, Steve Livingston, Rylin Hansan, Mike Eddy, Nick Mimken, Bobby Carter, Robin Wells, Barbara Esther, Ellie Cox & Rusty Maynard.

Present via Zoom: Beth Eddy, Ellie Cox, Edie Patrick and Gita Larson.

The Meeting opened with Silent Worship.

The Clerk shared a reading out of the silence.

On the Brink of Everything

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old by Parker Palmer

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Solitude does not necessarily mean living apart from others; rather, it means never living apart from one's self. It is not about the absence of other people— it is about being fully present to ourselves, whether or not we are with others.

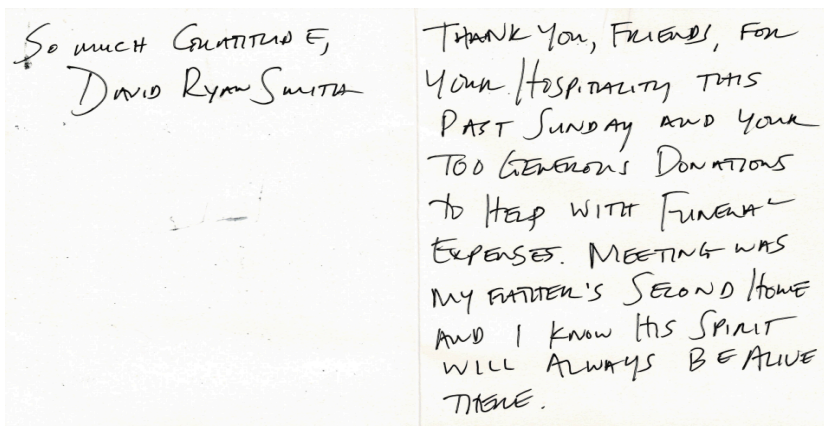
Draft Agenda

Minute #1: Friends accepted the agenda..

Sixth Month Business Meeting Minutes Draft

Minute #2: The Meeting approved the Sixth Month Business Meeting Minutes.

Announcements: Pat Johnson

A photograph of a handwritten note on lined paper. The note is written in cursive and is divided into two columns by a vertical line. The left column contains the text "So much gratitude," followed by "David Ryan Smith" on the next line. The right column contains a longer message: "THANK YOU, FRIENDS, FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY THIS PAST SUNDAY AND YOUR TOO GENEROUS DONATIONS TO HELP WITH FUNERAL EXPENSES. MEETING WAS MY FATHER'S SECOND HOME AND I KNOW HIS SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS BE ALIVE THERE."

A Memorial to celebrate the life of Bob Smith will be held on July 25th at 11:00 am at the Weaverville Community Center, 60 Lakeshore Drive, Weaverville, NC 28787

We hope to schedule the welcome party for Debra Rice in August.

We have tentative plans for a work day on July 20, 9am-12 pm to get the garden and kitchen under control.

Report - Barbara Esther

Report on Yearly Meeting Sessions and Retreat 2024 of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

July 15, 2024

Barbara Esther, interim representative from Asheville Friends Meeting to SAYMA

Friends gathered in Berea, Kentucky on Thursday, June 20th, 2024 as summer commenced and a full moon graced the evening sky. We had an opportunity to begin contemplating the work ahead of us on Racial Conflict Resolution in advance through two zoom meetings with Dr. S Boland; and on each of three days Thursday through Saturday we participated in hybrid sessions on the topic. Ukumbwe Sauti assisted her in the work sessions entitled *Threshing*, *Sacred Listening*, *Brave Dialogue* and *Plan for Success*, *Sacred Steps*. The sessions were handled with care and follow-up, when required, for Friends to begin to heal and become more aware of how racial harm is felt.

Sandwiched around the sessions on Friday through Sunday were meetings for worship followed by meetings for business and worship sharing each morning and workshops each afternoon. Opening worship and evening sing-a-longs bridged the transition to the evening plenaries as follows: a slide-illustrated presentation with Joyce Aljouny, General Secretary of AFSC (American Friends Service

Committee) on the work of that organization regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; Illuminating the path of our Guide to Our Faith and Practice (impromptu skits with Southern Appalachian Young Friends, SAYF and the ad-hoc F&P revision committee); and a dance with a live band.

We ate three times a day in the spacious dining hall on the lower level of the Alumni Center in which many of our activities were held. Those meals sustained us with a variety of options, and as an opportunity to chat, get to know new Friends, and renew our f/Friendships of many years.

Of particular note to monthly meetings is the advice from the ad-hoc assessment committee to raise the assessment from monthly meetings to \$85 per active adult member or attender in the coming year, to \$93 in 2026 and to \$100 in 2027; OR 10% of the meeting's annual income, whichever is the larger amount. This recommendation was based on the inflation rate. We have not raised the assessment in many years. The assessment is \$75 this year and in several years prior to 2023. (SAYMA's fiscal year is October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.)

Also of interest and importance to monthly meetings is the minute brought to a business session from Young Adult Friends (YAFs) on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. We are asked to consider the minute and use it, post it, and pass on the minute in various venues including Friends Committee on National Legislation(FCNL). It will be attached to the YM minutes when they are posted.

Nominations brought forward by the Nominating Committee were approved upon the second reading, including that of our new clerk of SAYMA, Jennifer Dickie, Atlanta Friends Meeting. One nomination, brought by Sharon Star Smith on behalf of the Uplifting Racial Justice Committee, to have Star represent the yearly meeting in Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), was not approved. Several Friends expressed that they were not easy having her represent us in that official position. She will, nevertheless, attend the world gathering of FWCC in South Africa, as a delegate next month. Funds were donated to support her going to South Africa outside of the SAYMA budget. Several other delegates from SAYMA meetings will attend. No official representative of SAYMA will attend because of time conflicts (Geeta McGahey, Celo) or resignation (Adrian Mehr, Memphis). We are allowed to have up to three representatives to FWCC as a yearly meeting, usually for a three year term. Friends interested in being a representative can communicate with the SAYMA Nominating Committee.

In addition to transitioning to a new SAYMA clerk, we welcomed a new treasurer, Daryl Bergquist, Birmingham Friends Meeting; assistant clerk, Margaret Farmer, Asheville Friends Meeting; as well as a new employee, Rob Collins, Birmingham Friends Meeting, as Administrative Assistant.

We are grateful to the many people who served on SAYMA committees or in positions of responsibility. It is a broad and fruitful experience to come together as a conglomerate of monthly meetings and worship groups in the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Pat Johnson's Comments

The Berea campus is beautiful with many hills and artwork and its history is inspiring. It was great to gather with Friends from all over the Southeast in person rather than virtually as I've done a few times. Thank you Barbara for your thorough report on the Yearly Meeting.

Committees:

Peace & Earth: Steve Livingston:

Steve reported on a misunderstanding of the rate structure for Meeting subscribing to Sol Systems' Sustainable Choice (Renewable Energy Credits). He will offer a forum in advance of the August business meeting and bring a proposal to the next business meeting.

Nominating: Mike Eddy.

The Nominating Committee asks for your approval of Nick Mimken to serve once again on House and Grounds.

We also present for your approval Debra Rice as our SAYMA Representative, starting in Ninth month.

Minute #3: Meeting approved Nick Mimken as a member of House & Grounds and Debra Rice as our SAYMA Representative.

House and Grounds: Nick Mimken & Robin Wells

Doug Lane has received two quotes for painting our fascia/soffits. Both are companies owned by people of color. One, Eric Bautista's, company is the one who painted the outside of our Meetinghouse a few years ago. The other, Rogelio Gomez of Alpha Pro Painting, is a painter that Doug knows well and likes. Bautista quoted \$2,800 and Gomez quoted \$1,700. The job must be primed first. House and Grounds's recommendation is to go with the lower quote of Gomez (Alpha Pro) at \$1,700.

A concern was raised about whether the fascia board is treated or untreated lumber. We may want to treat it differently depending on the answer. H&G, along with Doug Lane, will talk with the concerned Friend about how we will proceed. Doug will consult with Alpha Pro about standard procedures for preserving the fascia. H&G will bring their findings to the August Business Meeting.

Communication: Mike Eddy

Mike spoke about the possibility of the cost of our internet service going up in the near future. We have not heard anything yet. Mike just wanted us to be prepared.

Miscellaneous:

Gift of an air conditioner: Robin Wells

Our neighbor, Linda Welsh, offered us a window unit for our upstairs. We have decided to open windows on Friday to air out the upstairs. Robin will thank Linda for her gracious offer and we will get back to her.

Memorial Facility Payment: – Robin Wells

The facility rental for Bob Smith's memorial has increased to approximately \$500. Robin asked if Meeting would pay for the facility rental. The money will come out of a reserve fund and M&C will come back with a recommendation as to which fund.

Minute #4: Meeting approved paying approximately \$500.00 from a reserve fund recommended by M&C for the facility rental of Bob Smith's Memorial service.

The Meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the Eleventh Day, Eighth Month, 2024.