

## Agenda, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Thursday July 28, 2016

- **Sweat Lodge**

- Hannah explained the history of the Young Friends sweat lodge at Camp Onas – it's been a longstanding tradition of having the Quaker Sweat Lodge led by George Price for anyone to participate in who wants to.
- Henry explained last year – the Onas workshop about appropriation brought up questions as to whether or not we should be doing the Sweat Lodge at Camp Onas. Coincidentally, the sweat lodge didn't happen last year because Onas had to be shortened at the last minute.
  - A Friend asked what the sweat lodge was; it was explained that it involved going into the woods to build a hut in which people sweated in order to cleanse their body and mind.
  - At Onas, Young Friends entrusted Program committee with considering the next steps. Program Committee's eventual proposal, to write a letter to the Lenape Tribal Council (which is the local tribal nation at Onas) asking their permission to do the Sweat Lodge, was approved by the YF Business Meeting. Program Committee wrote that letter, which was then approved by Young Friends at this past Spring Gathering in March. The letter was sent in April. No reply has been received to date. As the minutes from Onas note, "If we receive no reply or find no local authority, we will hold a discernment session among the YF community to decide" about next steps.
- The question we are asking the community to consider and (if we're ready) make a decision on today: **Should we do the sweat lodge at Onas this year?**
- A Friend suggested that we wait until we get a response
- A Friend suggested that we go ahead, since we haven't received word to the contrary
- A Friend said that it would be okay if he hadn't altered it from the original native ceremony
- A Friend gave some context – it has been altered, it has had controversy in the past (FGC, etc.)
- A Friend suggested it would be okay as long as he gave credit to the people it's based on
- The clerk stated that the sense of the meeting was that people were in favor of continuing, as long as it was authentic
- Hannah stated that we have no control over how authentic it is
- A Friend stated that it should probably not proceed
- Another Friend stated that, since we haven't been told not to have the sweat lodge, it would be fine

- Kody pointed out that a different Quaker Group had been told by a different indigenous group not to have a sweat lodge
- A Friend suggested that perhaps we should invite Lenape to participate to help determine if it was acceptable
- Clerk asked if Friends approved of *not* continuing until a reply was received
- A Friend pointed out that it would be difficult to schedule the sweat lodge if we received a positive reply, so perhaps we should count on it and have a back up option.
- A Friend asked what the plan was, as the impression had been that the planned decision was to continue unless otherwise notified. This was clarified
- Tracy pointed out that George Price's work was approved by the person who trained him, but no Native groups have previously been contacted to ask for permission. Furthermore, there is not unity among Native peoples (or even Native people within a given tribe) about whether this is okay
- One Friend suggested that the risks of disapproval were more severe than the benefits of approval, and therefore we should not go ahead
- One Friend suggested that we go ahead with planning but stop if we don't get a reply
- One Friend suggested that we make two plans
  - Hannah responded that this was unfeasible
- A Friend pointed out that doing it this year, without permission and with knowledge of the lack of permission, this might be offensive enough to tip the balance against us, so we wouldn't be able to do it in the future, whereas if we don't do it this year and they say yes then we can do it in future years
- The clerk suggested that we move on for now and come back later

- **Bathrooms**

- Hannah explained the bathroom situation
  - Only three showers, none in men's room
  - There are tickers to make sort-of-gender-neutral bathrooms
  - Floor above has non-gendered bathroom
  - No men's bathroom on first floor
  - Has a women's bathroom which is in practice mixed-gender
  - Usually Hannah and Kody set up bathroom situation to work for everybody
- A Friend asked if there are only two bathrooms on the ground floor

- Hannah responded that Robert's room has an adjoining bathroom containing a shower, in addition to the other bathrooms
- A Friend suggested two possibilities: keeping the current system, or making bathrooms gender neutral
- A Friend pointed out that there are changing areas for each shower
- A Friend stated that it was personally okay if there were people of other genders as long as people were respectful of others' privacy and boundaries
- The clerk stated that the sense of the meeting was that gendered labels should be covered over and bathrooms made gender-neutral
- Hannah stated that it might not feel safe for people to express their discomfort with gender-neutral bathrooms at this point, and it might be good to provide some way for people to express that they would prefer gendered bathrooms
- Friends secretly expressed their comfort level. The clerk noted that some people felt uncomfortable
- One Friend suggested the status quo of signs/stickers
- One Friend suggested that there could be different times of day for different genders to shower, as showers are the only issue
- Two showers are sort of facing each other, so they would be gendered, but the other is separate and could potentially be non-gendered – toilets are in separate stalls so should not be an issue
- Some people still disliked the idea
- Poll taken again (no unity)
- Time-based was introduced and clarified
- Decided that this had lasted long enough and delegated to Hannah and Kody to come up with a plan that could be quickly decided tomorrow.

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Friday July 29, 2016

- **Continuation of bathroom situation**

- Clerk explained the bathroom situation and that we were previously unable to work it out.
- Kody explained factors taken into account with the new proposal, including:
  - need to have gender-neutral and gender-specific spaces, availability of above floor, making sure that injured people didn't have to climb stairs, number of hours in the day

- Kody and Hannah explained the system they came up with: split hours. On our floor, from 7 A.M. to 3 P.M., showers are for female identified people, and from 3 P.M to 11 P.M are for male identified people. Gender-neutral overnight.
  - A Friend asked if gender-neutral Friends would be able to use at any time – the answer was no. Those friends can access the gender neutral bathrooms upstairs.
  - A Friend said that she usually showered at night, and asked if that was male-only at that point – the answer was yes.
  - A Friend asked if the toilet-only bathroom is going to switch between genders – the answer was yes.
  - Clarification was given that there is a single-person shower upstairs, so people of all genders would have the possibility to shower at any time
  - Friends approved.

#### Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Sunday July 30, 2016

- The clerks were approved.
- The Epistle was read, and Friends were asked if they approved.
- Some concerns were brought up regarding word choice and tense; the Epistle Committee edited the Epistle to fix them.
- Friends approved the Epistle.