

YF BUSINESS MEETING SWATARA 2019

1. Intro to business meeting & practice
2. YF Clerks for next year
 - a. Discernment asked Julia Carrigan and Estelle Hegenbarth to leave the room, as they were nominated to be Clerks next year.
 - b. Friends approved both nominations, Julia and Estelle returned.
3. YF Adult Clerk for next year
 - a. Discernment nominated Emma Leibman to be Adult Clerk for next year, who has said yes.
 - b. Friends approved.
4. Young Friends on YPAC
 - a. Robert gave a synopsis of YPAC (Youth Programs Advisory Committee):
 - b. Two high school age positions nominations to pass on to Quaker Life Council
 - c. Rachel Dole, Benjamin Waterhouse, Catherine Tobin volunteered to be passed on to QLC
5. Communication w Baltimore Yearly Meeting Young Friends
 - a. Presiding clerk gave background on history of PYM/BYM communications
 - i. Friends approved connecting more with BYM
 - ii. A friend suggested that YF could go to their similar events and BYF could come to some of our events
 - iii. A Friend shared that a letter would be more personal and better than an email
 - iv. A friend shared the similarities between BYM and PYM
 - v. Suggested a video call if in person meeting isn't possible
 1. Suggested a video call as a later step once we get a little more familiar
 2. Video calls can be difficult to communicate w/technical difficulties, etc
 3. Video call could be one committee to one of their committees
 - vi. Shared that emails are easier and faster to respond to and may be easier to establish a rapport

1. Also easier to share emails with a group rather than letters
- vii. Suggested an event similar to a one-day gathering where we could just meet and get to know each other- this could be in an already established gathering, an excursion, or simply a one-day event.
- viii. Suggested a committee dedicated to BYM outreach
- ix. Melinda shared that youth staff is planning dates for next year— suggested sharing plans with BYM so no one is caught off guard too late in the process. This would make it easier to collaborate & figure out timing: trips to Washington DC, New York service program trips, ideas that have been percolating that would give YF ways to connect with youth programs in other meetings
1. A friend shared that they liked a lot of the ideas Melinda shared and agreed that forming a specific committee for outreach would be a good opportunity for a smaller video call planning a calendar together. They also supported the idea of a combined gathering/one day gathering but brought up that a gathering that is farther away could be more difficult for Friends to come to individually, but that it would be easier if we all went together for a specific cause like a protest.
 - a. Friends approved of this idea
 2. A friend liked the idea of forming a committee but noted that the rest of the community should be involved in this development as well, because if we are all going to be attending a certain event we should all be excited and involved in it
- x. The clerk asked if friends wanted to form a subcommittee for inter-yearly-meeting-outreach
1. Genevieve Bevenour, Catherine Tobin, Ella Frey, Lily Aparin-Buck, Avin Newswanger volunteered to be on this subcommittee.
 2. The body charged the committee with eventually organizing a video call which is open to the community, scheduling dates/ times to meet (clerks, FPs, youth staff should be involved to make sure it gets done)
 3. Melinda shared how gatherings get planned and noted that staff looks at dates and plans around things that don't move like Peace Fair, and then program committee plans themes. This could be an additional gathering or something else that the committee decides on via a doodle poll/zoom call.
 4. The body approved naming the committee the "(PYMYF) Outreach Committee"

6. Communication between YF and YF Staff between gatherings

- a. Aeryn shared that Lori and she brought up the idea of making a Transition Committee to ease the discomfort of staff changes and make communication between gatherings easier. This would also make Eval a little clearer and make it easier for staff to implement changes that friends bring up during eval. She discussed ideas of debrief calls, etc
- b. A friend shared that they understand that staff wants our concerns to be heard, but that the communication between clerks and staff maybe could be just between them.
- c. The presiding clerk asked the body If they would prefer to have more agency and shared more about what communication between gatherings looks like
- d. A friend shared that zoom calls can be very helpful re: transitions and basic communication but that there might not be much need for them
- e. Melinda shared a concern about how YF get news as in whether or not YF are getting the news that Melinda is sending out
 - i. In answer to this concern, friends agreed that email is most efficient when it works and the email actually gets to them as opposed to other forms of social media.
 - ii. A friend shared the option of GroupMe, an app that allows for sharing information and news in a specific chat. Friends liked this idea as well.
 - iii. All things considered, friends agreed that email is a pretty low-maintenance way to get information out and that problems with receiving emails can be ironed out individually.
 - iv. A friend suggested adding an optional email line to a guideline or medical form which Melinda checked to clarify if there is one there already, which there is.
 1. Melinda added that we could add a line requesting permission use a participant email for youth program notices.

7. Minute of appreciation for Lori Sinitzky

- a. Friends approved writing a minute and decided to write this at a later time
- b. Friends approved brainstorming ideas as a large group and writing the minute as a small group
 - i. Brainstormed ideas included: things we appreciate about Lori's work:
 - ii. Always willing to talk to you if you needed
 - iii. Really excited to join community and be a part of it

- iv. Very approachable, easy to go to her with questions and concerns
 - v. Tried her best to be a part of community activities even though she was sick
 - 1. Selfless
 - vi. Easy to laugh with, brought a lot of joy
 - vii. Really dedicated to improving our community and doing the best work she could
 - viii. Very warm, welcoming, wonderful presence to be around
- c. friends volunteered to turn these thoughts into one or two paragraphs to go into the minutes: Jacob Hoopes, Ari Mancuso, Ella Frey

Lori's Minute of Appreciation:

The Young Friends would like to minute our appreciation for Lori Sinitzky for her continued commitment to this community. We would like to express our gratitude for her role in cultivating the positive spiritual energy of our gatherings throughout the past several months. Her drive to improve our experience has been continually shown by her endless dedication to our health, happiness, and well-being. During the 2019 Swatara Gathering, Young Friends were led to share their thankfulness for Lori's impactful presence, noting such attributes as: her enthusiasm when joining the PYM Youth Program Staff as Young Friends Facilitator; her willingness and ability to welcome new and transitioning Young Friends into the community, albeit being new herself; her comforting warmth and generous spirit in dealing with the challenges of her work; her respect for Young Friends traditions and readiness to adapt them to the changing needs of the group; and her selflessness in support of the community, even through difficult circumstances, while also acknowledging her limitations and taking steps to ensure the well-being of herself and her family.

We thank Lori for the time and energy she has spent with us, and hold her in the light during the next chapters of her life.

Thank you, Lori!! ~From the Young Friends XOXO