

Ames Friends Meeting for Business

1/24/21 (via Zoom)

Attendees: Deb Fink, A.M. Fink, David Hansen, Charlie Johnson, Susan Zeigler, Jean Hansen, Steven Cannon, Debi Meyers, Ebby Luvago, Lee Tesdell, Becky Musselman, Victoria Albright, David Wilcox, Ted Solomon

Minutes

Minutes from the December 27, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved.

FCNL

- FCNL is hosting a workshop on how to be an effective advocate for peace and justice while staying at home. The workshop will be held February 11th at 5:00 p.m. CST via Zoom. Those interested should contact Sarah Freeman-Wulpert at FCNL. Individuals do not need to be a Friend to attend. At the end of the workshop, participants can sign-up to be part of the new Western Iowan FCNL Advocacy Team or they can attend the training and decide later if they want to join the team.
- No update regarding the FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend.

Treasurer's report

- The Treasurer's report for January 2021 was emailed prior to the meeting.
- Money for the Yearly Meeting has been sent out.
- The 2020 annual contribution summaries have been mailed to individual Ames Friends donors.
- A request for financial support has been received from the Friends meetinghouse in Moscow. Information on Russia is available in the Library. Anyone interested in contributing to the meetinghouse in Russia should contact Becky.

Scattergood

- Notice was received from Scattergood that there has been an allegation made of inappropriate adult-to-student contact at the school back in the '80's. Leadership at the school is interested in hearing if anyone else had experienced inappropriate contact. John Zimmerman, Head of School, has contacted other schools to see how they handled similar situations. To date, no one else has come forward since the notice was sent. Charlie expressed appreciation that the school was out in front about the allegation.
- The School Committee met last Saturday. Classes have been virtual. The school has delayed bringing students back to campus until February. There is optimism about the new administrator. He has lots of new ideas and will be looking at what to do to keep the school viable in the future. There is hope that there may be changes in immigration laws at the federal level which could increase the number of international students.

ASIP (Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partnership)

- Collegiate United Methodist Church (CUMC) has been exploring the feasibility of using their apartment to house a sponsored immigrant. This would be a person who has an individual financial sponsor and would receive housing through CUMC and support services through participating congregations. This sponsored immigrant would be free to move about and

participate in the community. Additional information about this initiative will be provided at the next meeting.

Other business

- An issue was raised about the need to update the Ames Friends list of officers as reported to the Iowa Secretary of State. Dan Treadway, A.M. Fink, and Charlie Johnson are currently listed as the officers. After discussion, the decision was made to remove Dan, and add Steven, Lee, and Becky. Steven will follow-up with Charlie.
- Discussion was held about the benefit of purchasing a device that would enhance the audio during meetings. The consensus was that such a device would be useful. Charlie will purchase it and send the receipt to Becky for reimbursement.
- Discussion was held regarding establishing a PayPal account so contributions could be received electronically. Some types of services such as PayPal take a certain percent of the donations while others do not. No consensus was reached on how to proceed at this time so the issue will remain open for now.
- A suggestion was made to increase the amount of silent time during meeting. In the past, there was a full hour of silence on days when there was no scheduled activity following meeting (i.e., meeting for business or potluck.) The suggestion was referred to the Ministry and Counsel Committee.

Note taker – Debi Meyers