

Notes from Shoemaker Grant Meeting Zoom Meeting– 25 July 2024

Participants:

Tyler Blaetz, Julian Brandenberger, Barbara Campbell, Karen Gee, Herb Haigh, Dawn Hirsch, Laura Lanza, Tom Keels, Dale Stockbower, Greg Stockbower, Joe Uknalis, Pam Yaller

Mary Ellen McNish summarized the trauma UDMM and Byberry have been through. For UDMM, Avis and the subsequent PYM stance against the Meeting; for Byberry, negative Philadelphia Inquirer articles re the burial grounds, with a Carlisle boarding school native American being interred, and the neglect of the burial grounds subsequent to having granted them to the city. In 2018 Byberry considered laying the Meeting down (5 acres, 4 historical buildings), but PYM declined to accept. So Byberry decided to grow. Using Shoemaker funding they hired a part-time coordinator, Susan, who did wonderful work during 2020 and 2021, until there were issues around covid vaccination and vendors. Susan's departure was another spiritual trauma for UDMM and Byberry, followed by negative feedback from AQM. Byberry then hired Hannah Wallace, followed by Mike Doyle. Further Shoemaker grants provided \$20,000 for AQM, who opted to hire Laura Lanza as communications coordinator, and \$30,000 for UDMM, to work on a strategic plan for growth.

Mary Ellen has researched School of the Spirit training, a Quaker organization that helps Meetings deepen spiritual connection. **This is not for outreach, but for strengthening spirituality within the Meeting. She feels the 'Faithful Meetings' program, could be useful to UDMM and Byberry Meetings and asks for UDMM feedback as to interest.** As listed, she feels the expectations of 10 hrs/mo over 6 months is onerous, but before approaching them to see if tailoring could be done she would like UDMM feedback. (Website is “schoolofthespirit.org”). UDMM agreed to research and reply to Mary Ellen. Mary Ellen felt that this could be the next step in UD strategic plan.

Karen Gee then asked for someone to replace her. After discussion with Karen, the woman that Jennifer Jones has suggested is not interested. Mike Doyle should be asked if he has suggestions. Lanza said that Byberry decided to increase links to the community, but UDMM needs to identify who we are and our focus - perhaps historical focus and connection to local schools. She felt that UD website does not reflect the Meeting's story or vitality. She offered AQM help, perhaps to bid the job. Both Julian and Sam felt they may have connections to people who might be interested in a part-time job.

Before trying to hire anyone it was agreed that a job description is required (duties, expected hours, pay) and a supervisor identified. Also, we need to identify if our current Shoemaker grant can be used for plan implementation or only for planning purposes.

Barb pointed out that our Meetinghouse is not necessarily inviting, in that it needs cleaning – windows, carpets, etc. We should schedule routine cleaning days, a volunteer list, or hire someone.

Summary:

1. Need replacement for Karen's activities.
2. Explore School of the Spirit and reply to Mary Ellen re UDMM interest.
3. Procure output of last meeting with Jen Karsten (Dale)
4. Consider getting a montly cleaning person
5. Discuss with Mary Ellen whether Shoemaker grant money cannot be used for history project or website support (Barb)

Next Meeting: TBD, but hopefully in August