

QUESTIONS

1. What vision does this committee/group/meeting have for the future of the site of IYM near McNabb? (Perhaps, or perhaps not from the expertise/point of view/mission of the group)

Practical uses of site

- McNabb will be used as a retreat center by Quaker and local not-for-profits.
- It will generate cash to maintain and develop the property.
- It will continue to be an effective location for the annual session
- It is hospitable to groups, comfortable for those with special needs
- It will be a place to come together throughout the year.

Spiritual uses of site

- It continues to be a spiritual "family home" we return to
- It reflects our testimony witness as much as possible
- Its history and location are a story of our heritage; preservation is important, as is augmenting a meaningful campus for our spiritual heirs

Both spiritual and practical

- Perhaps someday (like in 50 years) to become a midwest version of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting with paid and volunteer staff for different aspects of the Religious Society of Friends from a perspective that would compliment PYM.
- It will be a place where Friends will want to return for their weddings
- It will have some way to honor/memorialize those who found the site important to them in their life time. I myself am looking for a way to have a "Green Burial".

2. What concerns come up?

Legal

- Legal ramifications of making money, dealing with insurance for hosting groups.
- Greater security concerns as the property is enhanced (= perception of something there worth stealing)

Financial Capacity of YM

- The need for a full or part time on-site host/maintenance person.
- Ensuring that the property is maintained as necessary and that the resources to do that are budgeted and spent properly
- Expenses of becoming fully accessible for all special needs
- Maintaining and expanding the property when our membership may be shrinking.
- Skewing of high gas prices limiting its use
- Tension between the costs of comfort versus the financial limitations of some

Coordinating and prioritizing allocation of resources

- Allocating resources to manage scheduling of any events.
- Sporadic use makes it difficult to justify maintenance or upgrade costs
- Maintaining the careful balance between the needs of the yearly meeting and those of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting so that is it mutually beneficial.
- Clear set of boundaries between the share of costs and responsibility for Clear Creek Monthly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting with regard to property and buildings.
- maintaining the history of the site and respecting the wishes of all of the meeting as a whole

3. What features, facilities are important?

- Accommodations for those with disabilities.
- Up-to-code facilities.
- Above grade kitchen that can be comfortable for workers to use and produce food safely
- Cooling and heating available for seasonal extremes
- Higher capacity showerhouse where you're not afraid to touch the walls or floor
- More roofed sleeping (perhaps even a roofed pavilion where we could camp underneath
- I'm getting weary of having my tent blown over and soaked)
- More spaces for small groups to gather
- Expanded campground and perhaps more cabins for families and people unable to sleep on the ground on both sides of the street, electrified cabins for people with things like sleep apnea
- Dining room where we can enjoy fellowship when eating (this may have been addressed with the idea of the larger dining tent)
- Indoor bathrooms to serve the meetinghouse area; would largely be addressed with a dining hall.
- Paths/walkways/golf cart lanes between the Meetinghouse and Clear Creek House
- A secure way for people to store possessions during residence on the site. Perhaps we could find a bank of school lockers. This would allow people to sleep under the dining tent/pavilion or other floor space at night and store their possessions during the day.

4. What ideas are important?

- Community involvement.
- Partnership with Clear Creek Friends and (to repeat) McNabb locals
- Interpretation of the importance of the property to the monthly meetings that support it financially but might not use it
- Realistic look at the financial abilities of our membership.
- Committee membership as an important fellowship in our spiritual journeys (especially when Bruce brings chocolate to our meetings).
- Youth fellowship that supports our youth as they face contrary values in some high school settings.
- Development of our own Faith & Practice as we develop a sense of self.
- Loving our past but not dwelling on it; looking forward to our future

5. What barriers are in the way?

Geographical barriers

- It is not centrally located so will not be easily accessible to everyone.
- There is no public transportation to the property.
- Human energy to do the work in a group from a wide geographic area

Cost

- Hard to accept the potential cost of future maintenance of 12 acres of buildings
 - especially if there are different opinions as to how they will be used

Need for clear vision/sense of meeting

- There is a lack of a real sense of the meeting when we make decisions. Barriers created by personal agendas.
- No clear picture of what everybody wants and if everyone is involved
- No clear picture of what will make most people happy and be the most effective

- Sometimes nobody feels authorized to make a change, such as seeing that the upper sashes are open to let heat out of the Meetinghouse during sessions
- Sometimes somebody **does** feel authorized to make changes without understanding the situation.

Other

- Tension between outside users, the Yearly Meeting and Clear Creek over sense of place and operations/"turf"
- The aging of the group vis-a-vis boomers and those of us who are drop outs.

6. How can the Quaker Testimonies of Peace, Equality, Integrity, Community, Simplicity and Service be represented and guide us?

- Make sure that all efforts on the part of M&A and Development and PI are truly led by Spirit.

- Make sure all decisions are by committee, not by one person.
- Make sure the yearly meeting is involved in the decisions involving visions.

Understanding what Quaker process is in terms of our testimonies.

- Find balance or intersections among them: sustainable materials if not simply made or obtained? Encouraging attendance (community), without accommodating special needs?
- Affirmation of who we are as Friends and what is our witness to the world.
- We have a simple, beautiful place and can commit to high quality (=less maintenance over the long haul), lasting decisions about the facilities.
- Part of our property should continue to be maintained as prairie.
- By making the property useable year-round it will be less extravagant than having it busy for only a week or so out of the year.