

History of Albuquerque Friends Meeting Activities Regarding an Improved Building

Timeline

2003 - Minute to expand meeting house. Bought land to North and East.

2003 - Removed housing on East lot.

2004 - Building planning committee gathered input on needs, made collage of ideas.

2004 - Minute on the program (the long list of possible building uses). See below.

2004-06 - Building planning committee prepared site plan (parking lot to north), landscape plan, survey, drainage plan, and floorplan of an L-shaped building on East lot.

2004-06? - Fundraising committee organized pot lucks, surveyed members. Some donations were made, and \$207,000 was pledged or loaned.

2006 - Minute to temporarily lay down the process, and hold listening sessions.

2007? - City approved replatting of seven parcels into one parcel with church zoning, and approved site plan with conditions (4 feet of land to be added to alley, requirement to pave alley).

2007? - Minute to proceed with phase 1 of the site plan, the parking and landscape, budgeting \$20k. (This was never completed due to the unanticipated cost of alley paving.)

2008-09 - Building futures (aka. building options) committee expanded the range of ideas to pursue, including several other sites and other ways to use the current site.

2009 - Fundraising options committee researched funding level that could be anticipated from membership. This was between \$100,000 and \$170,000, over a 5 year period. (This was less than the amount pledged in 2004, perhaps due to economic conditions.)

2009 - Minute to remain at our current location.

2009 - Building planning committee (a new one) currently working on (1) recommending a sequence of maintenance and capital projects, and (2) reducing the cost of complying with the city-approved site plan or changing it to be more affordable.

Program, Approved March 2004

This is an all-inclusive wish list, so approving this program does NOT mean that all the functions listed here will ever be built!

Meeting for worship (and business), and First-day school

- entry space with coat rack or coat room, kid-height coat hooks, name tags
- sound insulation between entryway and meetingroom
- reception / milling-about space for 25
- space for 75-125 people in meeting; heating and cooling equipment should be quieter and more effective
- assistive listening system (details need to be worked out)
- second smaller worship space for use at the same time as the big space
- piano in worship space
- piano in children's space
- kitchen use by kids during worship
- four (or maybe only three) indoor spaces for classes during meeting, each one with good soundproofing, reasonable access to outdoors and the meeting room, and natural light
 - * *babies/toddlers 250 sf – changing table, sink, next to bathroom, no visual connection to worship room*
 - * *preschool age 250 sf – with supply closet (shared with three upper age groups)*
 - * *multipurpose room 500 sf – This would be dividable into two equal sized rooms for elementary age and midschool if necessary, or used as a large room. We expect this room to have a lot of other uses besides firstday school.*
 - * *At least one children's space that is exclusively for children, so they can leave projects out during the week.*
 - * *(Also suggested that the kids rooms can be of unequal size)*

Social time and play time

- music – piano and songbooks, possibly a piano located in a living room area
- coffee/tea service, mugs adjacent to meeting or social room
- couches and living room feeling in central place – should be intimate feeling, not too big (woodstove?)
- outside play space: fully enclosed space with visual connection to social hall; play equipment?
- outdoor active space for dancing, etc.

- basketball half court (may be unnecessary because there is a court at Wells Park)
- place to watch movies

Work of the meeting's committees

includes ctte meetings, adult ed, ...

- comfortable small meeting space(s) for groups of up to 15
- bulletin board and mailboxes – as listed below
- keyless entry (member entry code changed infrequently)

Potlucks and food prep

- kitchen sized to cook for 100 people, but more often 50
- serving counter, also space to put your potluck item as you come in
- space for 100 people to eat sitting down somewhere in the building
- additional space to eat outside
- ability to sell products prepared in kitchen
- plates, silverware, cups for 100 (not disposable), with convenient system for washing, including a dishwasher
- trash cans (also see site maintenance section)
- easy system for cleaning the eating area
- cooking accessible to children during meeting or at other times (stools or low counter)
- compared to current kitchen:
 - ◇ floor area doesn't need to be bigger
 - ◇ double fridge space
 - ◇ double counter space
 - ◇ add dry food storage

Information exchange

- library shelves, with self check-out system (Sizing: Sarah M says we could use all the space in the current library that is used for other things, which is roughly a 50% larger library; we suggest doubling the size)
- periodicals display – not blocked by chairs as they often are now
- table and bulletin board space for posted information, handouts, guest book, etc. (table space and bulletin boards would be doubled from their current size)
- mailboxes, about twice the total size of the current set of boxes, with more tall vertical ones and more overall mailboxes
- white board
- personal notices board (for rent, etc.) (important!)

- a bulletin board space for each standing committee and several others for ad hoc committees
- a bulletin board for AFSC
- phone and answering machine, or answering service, or wireless phone, or redirectable phone number
- a table for displaying books and other small items for sale
- internet access
- audio/video component cart with locked closet space

Weddings, dances, and other celebrations

Primarily as a rental service.

- dance floor
- keyless entry (special event entry code changed for each event)
- easy cleanup system

Office work including AFSC

- private AFSC offices for two people – 250 sf, separately locked
- another office space for a future nonprofit tenant – 250 sf, separately locked (the tenant may be a project of the meeting)
- meeting office – 180 sf, separately locked, including a safe
- space for AFSC to hold large meetings and work on projects (cleaned up at the end of the day)
- equipment nook – 100 sf, lockable. This would be a wide closet with ventilation adequate for copiers and other shared office equipment. It would be on one side of a multipurpose room that adjoins all the offices (and this room could also be a first-day school room, etc.)
- keyless entry (member entry code changed infrequently)

Overnights and retreats

- beds for 4 people in one room – This is envisioned for adults to use with teen retreats (very campy), not as a substitute for real hospitality.
- separate closed off bedroom for 1-2, possibly with private bath (can charge for its use)
- floor space for dozens (but limited by one shower)
- access to kitchen, bath
- accessible shower (possibly in addition to the existing shower)

Drop-in visiting/respite

includes Friends dropping by for respite and the community that just happens, as well as the way we interact with the neighborhood.

- space for 4-8 to sit in quiet shade outside, with abundant plant life, water feature, barefoot ok
- porch swing
- outdoor furniture
- keyless entry (member entry code changed infrequently)
- quiet meditation space (but this would not be a dedicated room, so it would not be available all the time)
- couches and living room feeling in central place
- NO dropping in on the caretaker
- street-facing shaded benches
- ?? need to really think about how much we want the neighborhood dropping by

Teen group uses

- space for teen group to use, not necessarily during meeting (they may want to *own* the space by painting it or arranging it in a certain way, so it is not easy to use the same space for other things) – 12 people
- space for large game like a pool table
- sound insulation
- access to teen space by teens outside of meeting times

Spiritual practices other than meeting

- peace garden (*same as the items under drop-in topic?*)
- labyrinth, footpaths
- outdoor space to accommodate people in a circle

Nonprofit meetings, presentations, workshops

Primarily as a rental service, including mediations.

- space for 75 to sit either in circles or in rows
- stage, podium, easel or whiteboard, and related supplies
- provision for amplified sound system
- ability to use computer projector and slide projector with screen (outlets) – but meeting will not have the equipment
- 3 simultaneous breakout rooms with seating for 10 each (more?)
- coffee/tea service with easy cleanup
- keyless entry (special event entry code changed for each event)

Resident friend apartment

- small 2 bedroom apartment for resident friend, with its own kitchen and bath
- parking adjacent to apartment

Parking, and maintenance and security of buildings and grounds

Also see items listed under storage.

- parking with permeable paving
- dumpster and trash collection
- recycling system near kitchen
- trash and recycle bins throughout building
- outdoor lighting
- composting

Garden

Also see items listed under “spiritual practices other than meeting” and “drop-in visiting/respice”

- 200 sf semishaded garden space for food production with winterized spigots (TBD whether this will be a “community garden”, a garden for children, or for salads after meeting)
- solar greenhouse or atrium; possibly tropical trees indoors
- other planting areas
- a water feature of some kind
- irrigation

Storage

- Chair and table storage adjacent to meeting/social rooms – 100 sf

- first-day school closet – 50 sf
- storage for pass-through contribution, where the duration of storage is typically less than one week – 25 sf
- storage for food coop items (use is similar to pass-through contributions)
- outdoor shed for tools, ladders, banners, recycling – 80 sf
- Paper supplies and cleaning – 75 sf (not necessarily in the same space)

Miscellaneous (feeling, names, sustainability)

While some of these are not strictly building functions, they were ideas that came out at the programming meeting.

- "Quaker Center" as a vision, not a name
- "retreat" feeling that it inviting in some part of the space
- names: "reading room", "committee room"
- a "memory wall" or other place to memorialize the deceased
- self-educating structures; a place that teaches how it is sustainable
- dedicate the utility savings to P&SC causes
- art gallery

Fundraising Committee Report, August, 2008

from Sara Keeney and Minor Morgan

Past history

Building Expansion discussions began in 2002. Several threshing sessions were held and meeting saw unity to move forward with initial steps, creating a program of all needs we would ideally like to meet with a new building. Fundraising committee began organizing in the Fall of 2003. A mailing went out to all in the directory describing building expansion plans and letting people know there would be a phone campaign in November. The expansion was described as addressing children's needs in our meeting, expanding community outreach and as a Quaker Center for the region. Volunteers took training and a week-long telephone campaign reached [redacted] people in November. A system was started for automatic bank deduction of donations. A timeline of steps and decision points in the building process was posted. Business Meeting agreed that we would not go ahead with definite building plans until 60% of the target amount had been raised. Approximately \$200,000 was pledged as based on one-time gifts or monthly increases counted over a one year period and including loans from members. In the first year most of the pledges did come through. The committee did little follow up with any donors after 2004.

In the spring of 2005, on the recommendation of the Fundraising Committee, Meeting hired Pat Simmons to help develop case statement, brochure and do some grant research. Pat spoke personally to a number of long-time meeting members and attenders. In the fall of 2005 Pat and Julia Fitzsimmons attended a national training for Quaker fundraising. In addition to useful new learning, they met members of FGC Development Board and decided to invite the board to meet in Albuquerque for their annual meeting and to consult with us on our fundraising and expansion project. The FGC Development Board Meeting took place Feb 2006—ending with a recommendation to halt the process and focus on building relationships. In April of 2006 meeting declared a pause in the process to focus on relationship building in the Meeting. The treasurer contacted people who had made large pledges to tell them about the pause. During fall of 2007 three listening sessions were held, and Friends began tentative steps such as identifying options for expansion or change to improve accessibility, safety for the children and neighborhood relationships in 2008.

During the 2003-4 campaign, annual and monthly donations pledged for one year came to approximately \$24,000. Most of these donations went into the operating budget for greater flexibility, as recommended by Ted Church. There were three families that pledged \$10,000 (\$2,500 in four gifts) over a four year period.

The decisions about building expansion steps and about taking a pause in the process were made in the spirit of seeking unity. Meeting experienced difficulty in the aftermath of decisions and some members withdrew due to discomfort with process and decisions. In 2007 there was informal agreement that meeting had strengthened relationships, along with the question of need to discuss past difficulties openly. The fundraising committee felt themselves at the heart of these difficulties, with some members currently willing to continue in a new form.

Lessons learned and recommendations

- We recommend that with this report the current Fundraising Committee be laid down.
- Any fundraising committee can only act with strong direction and desire from the Meeting—"Where your heart is, there your treasure will be." Differences among members about Meeting decisions and clarity of unity about expansion are part of the work of Business Meeting, not up to a Fundraising Committee to resolve.
- People have strong feelings about money and about decisions about money. Workshops, adult study groups along the lines of, "Your Money and Your Faith: Quaker Perspectives on Living a Spiritual Life in a Material World" or "History and Practice of Quaker Giving Traditions" would be helpful. A commitment from all to having confidential but open conversations about money would be helpful. We might want to look at how money as a tool can serve our purposes and longings about the world.
- Some research to compare operating budgets of other faith and Quaker communities would be helpful.
- Conduct further group examination of who we are as an Albuquerque Quaker community, our values, desired direction (leadings), current and historic contribution.
- Members of the prior fundraising group have many ideas but lack a unified sense of direction of how to proceed and direction is needed from Meeting. More members for any new committee are essential.