

April 21, 1960

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Mr. Mc Clure Mc Combs, Program Director
American Friends Service Committee
300 West Congress Parkway
Chicago 7, Illinois

Re: Oneida Recreation Program

Dear Mac:

When you telephoned me yesterday, I told you that the meeting yesterday evening was postponed because of mud which made it impossible for many participants to get out. At 9:00 last evening I received a telephone call from Oneida saying that "everyone is here except you." It would take too long to explain how this situation came about and to clear my good name, but briefly I got to the meeting and it was good. Mrs. Moore had apparently not been notified of the postponement and she walked through two miles of mud to get to a place where she could get a ride. I mention this only as an indication of the intensity of interest on the part of some people in the Oneida community. Unfortunately, there were some who should have been there but undoubtedly had been notified by Mrs. De Coteau that the meeting was postponed and therefore did not appear. Nevertheless, there were about eight young people, about seven adults, including Mr. Vanden Eng, town clerk, in addition to Mrs. Osborne of the Red Cross and four students from Lawrence College and myself.

Mrs. Moore had Paxton's letter indicating that a written request for a recreation ^{Director} would be in order before the Friends would feel that they should definitely seek a person to fill the position. While it was hard to get opinions freely expressed at first, there was no opposition to requesting a recreation director and considerable enthusiasm. The only uncertainty was what group has the authority to make such a request. Some felt that the group meeting last night itself could do so and the matter was left that Mrs. Moore would talk with tribal leaders and others who should be consulted and if she feels there is general agreement, she will write the letter in the name of the Oneida Area Community Committee rather than in the name of the tribe. It ~~will~~ be simpler to write it from the tribe, but they feel it would be sounder to make the request from the Oneida Area Community Committee. I indicated that it might be somewhat more wholly democratic to wait until the large meeting could consider the matter and authorize the request, but time is limited if it is hoped to obtain a qualified person for this coming summer. In view of this, I anticipate that Mrs. Moore will probably feel that she can write the letter within a week or so.

The question arose again, how would the service and equipment be paid for. I suggested that many people felt that the project would be more successful and valuable if there was a demonstration of financial effort on the part of the people in the community. I believe this was generally accepted. The young people working with the Appleton students set to work planning a dance to be held at the Town Hall May 21 or possibly May 20 if arrangements can be made. I think the students were inclined to want to buy the decorations and the music and the hall and leave the profits for the Community Committee but I think they are understanding too that these things may be shared, but cannot successfully taken over by an outside group.

I thought it might help you to know immediately that the climate appears favorable and that an effort is already under way to assume some financial responsibility, though it may be limited to funds for the purchase of supplies and equipment.

I think you should also know that our Saturday meeting left some problems although I am certain that the benefits far outweighed them. I asked Mrs. Moore directly about any possible repercussions from the meeting. She indicated that some of the Milwaukee Oneida who had come to attend a tribal meeting were definitely upset by the misunderstanding. Mrs. Moore believes that the plans to have a tribal meeting on that day must have been discussed in Milwaukee at a time when she and Mrs. De Coteau were out of the room and therefore they were unaware of the plan. Mr. Archiquette, however, carefully informed the Oneidas in Milwaukee of the meeting, but there was no communication between him and the tribal leaders at Oneida on the matter. Secondly, I understand that Mrs. Danforth, tribal secretary, became puzzled during the day about who the Friends are and what they really are trying to do. Unknown to me, Mr. Riley of the Indian Bureau, met with the tribal leaders last week and he was asked about the Friends. Apparently he assured them that the Friends had a history of sincere and dedicated service and that there was no question of their interest in constructive work with this community.

The major purpose of this meeting was to plan the next general meeting of the Oneida Area Community Committee and to consider ways of setting up a constitution and of obtaining nominations for a new chairman. It is very difficult to move forward in this kind of organization without me or someone else outside the community making most of the suggestions to which everyone seems to agree or makes no comment. However, a committee was selected to consider nominations and to outline a proposed constitution for consideration at the next general meeting.

Back on the recreation director: We did not discuss any more in detail the kind of person, whether married or single, male or female, nor the kind of recreation the young people want, because these questions are really unanswerable by the community at this time.

I shall try to clear the general idea of a Friends recreation director for the community with the L-R club agent in Appleton and with the Green Bay Recreation Department, which has had some consultative interest in the past. OK

One final possibility which I should explore if I can possibly find a chance to do it:

One of the ladies on the recreation committee mentioned a recreation worker in Green Bay who has not been working for a few years because of small children. She is Mrs. Robert (Gertrude) DeLoritt, 2428 South Webster Avenue, Green Bay. I do not know her qualifications nor her interest, nor whether she would want to work full time and for what salary. If the Friends obtain a recreation director, will they pay a full salary or will this be a volunteer service? If there is a possibility of paying a salary, then Mrs. DeLoritt might be considered as a candidate. If not, we might still approach her as a possible volunteer but perhaps still working through the Friends Service Committee. I hesitate to approach her until I know how this might be fitted in to the Service Committee program. If she requires a salary, I am sure there would be no way to meet it this particular summer from Oneida Community funds.

I am sorry this is a bit hasty and disorganized, but I shall be out of town the rest of the week and except for Sunday and Monday morning, I shall be in Madison all of next week.

In spite of mud and communication problems, there seems to be progress.

Sincerely,

Walter Taylor
Community Services Consultant

DIVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WT:emp

cc: Paxton Hart
Chester Graham