

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business,
May 14, 2017 Minutes**

The Meeting opened at 11:55 a.m. with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the Meeting. Thirty-one Friends were present. Charlie Blanchard shared responses from the Nominating Committee to the Advices and Queries on Reaching Out. Friends returned to worship to reflect on these and several further responses were made.

The minutes for the April 9, 2017 Meeting for Business were approved as read.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business:

We received a thank you note from the Berkeley Food Pantry for the Meeting's annual support. Thomas Yamaguchi (point person), Tom Bird, and Zoe Kohler will be part of the Berkeley Meeting /Strawberry Creek Meeting working group to discuss ways to better coordinate our efforts between Meetings. Friends may talk with one of these members with ideas or concerns.

Old Business:

State of the Meeting Report: Rhea Farley read the report for the Writing Committee consisting of Rachel Findley, Peter Lin, and Rhea Farley.

With a minor correction, the Meeting approved the report with appreciation for the work of the Writing Committee. (Copy attached)

Care of the Meeting Committee: Nancy Wilkinson reported that no concerns had been expressed regarding the Care of the Meeting Committee job description. The job description was modified to conform with a template at the request of the Clerk of Communications.

The Meeting approved the Care of the Meeting job description.

Nominating Committee: Alternate Clerk Henri Ducharme distributed the 2017-2018 slate with eight new names highlighted in yellow. Those nominations that had seasoned over the last month were approved for service.

New Business

Nominating Slate for 2017-2018: Alternate Clerk Henri Ducharme noted that the Nominating Committee had difficulty finding members for Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee last year and this year, but that both times people stepped forward to serve. There is still a position left to be filled on that committee. A Friend asked whether or not this struggle represented a structural weakness. The clerk noted that this question is before the Care of the Meeting Committee. We still need a Sierra Friends Center representative. We asked that the Site Committee name be removed from the slate list. These new nominations will season for a month.

Friends stated appreciation for past findings from the Nominating Committee work. Henri said such a report is forthcoming. Henri and the Committee were thanked for their work.

Care of the Meeting Committee (Membership Requests): Jed Appelman read a report from the David Rutschman membership transfer committee (Jed Appelman, Larry Strain, and Philippa Baron). They reached unity in recommending the transfer request from 57th Street Monthly Meeting (Western Yearly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting). The Care of the Meeting Committee has united in that recommendation.

Carl Anderson read a report from the Nathan Moon membership committee (Carl Anderson, Joyce Samati, and Beth Rodman). They reached unity in recommending the membership request. The Care of the Meeting Committee has united in that recommendation.

Rhea Farley read a report from the Amy Dewy membership committee (Rhea Farley, James Hosley, and

Renee Watkins). They reached unity in recommending the membership. The Care of the Meeting Committee has united in that recommendation.

These membership requests will season for a month.

Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee: Susan Strong presented the request for the Meeting's endorsement of hosting the "39 Questions for White People," a requirement of the artist for this interactive installation. It was presented at the last Pacific Yearly Meeting session. After two showings in the Meeting room, there will be a worship-sharing session after Meeting. This will be presented probably in the Fall.

The Meeting approved hosting the "39 Questions for White People".

Reports:

Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee: Susan Strong presented a report on the past year's activities of the Committee. They included: hosting forums on Islam 101, the witness at Standing Rock, the carbon footprint of buildings, and the future of the Dime-a-Gallon fund. The Committee also encouraged Meeting participation in the Women's and Climate Marches, a meeting on Sanctuary Meetings, the Cease Fire Walks in Oakland, and future work with the Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA). The Committee wrote and approved a manual for running the Committee. It decided to cease Dime-a-Gallon mini-grants and wait to grow a more sizeable fund that might have a larger impact.

Retreat Report: Nancy Wilkinson reported that there were three core committee members with five volunteers that brought various pieces to the Retreat program. Nancy thanked Lydia Bryans and Jay Cash for their logistical help. 35 adults and 14 children attended. A Friend noted that this was a wonderful time to get to better know the children. Activities included Quaker Bible reading, a discussion on the Book of Job, Ukrainian egg decorating, and worship-sharing reflections on Quaker quotes. More evaluations were turned in this year, which showed engagement. Next year's Retreat at Quaker Center Ben Lomond will be May 4-6, with the cook Todd already recruited.

The Meeting closed at 1:40 p.m. with silent worship.

The next Meeting for Business will be held on June 11, 2017 at 11:50 a.m. at the Berkeley Technology Academy.

Submitted by: Ralph Murphy, Clerk, Alternate Clerk Rachel Findley, and Stephen McNeil, Recording Clerk