

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting Minutes of the Meeting for Business First Day, November 12, 2006

Meeting for Business opened at 11:50 a.m. with silent worship. Larry Strain clerked the meeting. Forty-nine Friends were present which included a traveling Friend from 15th Street Monthly Meeting. Charlie Blanchard of Nominating Committee read reflections on the Advices & Queries regarding the Meeting for Worship.

Minutes of the October 8, 2006 meeting for business were approved with the following corrections:

- Correction to September minutes should read that the job description for the Database job has been updated.
- Correspondence & Clerk's Business: the letter of thanks for our participation in the legislative priorities process was from the Friends Committee on National Legislation.
- New Business, Nominating Committee: Elsa Glines and Susan Bailey have agreed to jointly clerk the Hospitality Committee.
- Reports, Sierra Friends Center: The sentence "Sierra Friends Center has a new head." should be removed.

Correspondence & Clerk's Business:

- The letters of condolence to the Amish community and the non-Amish family of the perpetrator were mailed.
- The meeting received a letter of thanks for our prayers from Betty Miller. She is a member of Apple Seed Monthly Meeting, and once was a member of Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting.
- The meeting received a letter of invitation from Berkeley Friends Meeting to share space with them at Berkeley Friends Meeting House. The letter was given to Site Committee.
- James Hosley has agreed to serve on Naming Committee.
- The Posada will not be performed this year. However, there will be an informal gathering for singing, playing, and a potluck, which is scheduled for Saturday, December 16, 2006, at 4:00 p.m. at Berkeley Friends Church.

Old Business

Peace, Earth Care, and Social Witness (Shelley Tanenbaum): A revised minute on Global Climate Change was presented. The meeting approved the revised minute on Global Climate Change with some further minor revisions, and the minute will be presented at Quarterly Meeting in January of 2007. ¹

The worship sharing regarding concerns of U.S. participation in torture and the Iraq War was well

¹ Please see Minute as attachment to the Minutes of the November 12, 2006 Meeting for Business.

attended and received. Ideas or comments regarding the worship sharing should be given to Shelley Tanenbaum.

Database Keeper (Richard Leath): There were no concerns or comments regarding the revised job description for the Database Keeper. The revised job description was approved.

Revised Officers job descriptions (Larry Strain): There were no concerns or comments regarding the revised job descriptions, which were approved. They will be posted with the web group and a hard copy will be placed in the binder.

Nominating Committee (Charlie Blanchard): Elsa Glines and Susan Bailey were approved as the new co-clerks of Hospitality Committee. Viv Barton was approved to serve on the Loaves and Fishes Committee.

Mutual Care (Joyce Samati and Lynne D'Angelo): There were no concerns voiced regarding the marriage of Betsy Morris and Raines Cohen. The meeting approved taking the marriage of Betsy Morris and Raines Cohen under its care. The arrangements committee is being formed. Those interested in helping with the marriage preparations should contact Lynne D'Angelo. The wedding will be held on December 9, 2006, and more details will be given to the meeting in the near future.

New Business

Treasurer (Ralph Murphy): By the end of October of 2006, the meeting had slightly overspent its budget for the year. The extra expenditure was for scholarship money for the FGC gathering. The meeting did receive money from Pacific Yearly Meeting for the "Holding Earth in the Light" gathering.

Finance Committee (Peter Trueblood): Even though the meeting slightly overspent its budget, the meeting is spending less money overall. The meeting's largest expenditure is rent, which is not expected to change drastically. The administrative cost will drop because we are finishing scanning Meeting records. The First Day School and Newsletter also spent below their budget. Although Friends were happy about the meeting's fiscal responsibility, several Friends pointed out that spending less than our budget isn't necessarily good for the meeting; it may be the Friends are not submitting their expenses or that committees aren't fulfilling their charge. The meeting might also think of ways to invest more of its money within or outside the meeting. Friends were reminded that there is a Site Contingency Fund, which is separate from general expenses. If the meeting chooses to rent space for our library, we would incur additional expenses.

Reports

Retreat Committee (Sherrin Loyd): The upcoming retreat will be intergenerational. In the morning there will be queries and in the afternoon there will be a fun project, which will include people of all ages. The committee encourages single people and families to attend the retreat.

Mutual Care (Joyce Samati): An ad hoc committee convened by Bob Burnett of Mutual Care, has been formed to discuss clearness committees in our meeting and how to divide the work of

clearness committee among the three committees.

Worship and Ministry (Kathy Barnhart): Following up on the last item, the ad hoc will be made up of members from Worship and Ministry, Mutual Care, and the Care of the Meeting Community.

Site Committee (Dick Strong): The Site Committee will meet with members of Berkeley Friends Meeting to discuss sharing space before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Facilities Committee (Marla Browning): The ad hoc committee set up to work with the Berkeley Technology Academy will be meeting soon to address how we can support the school.

Care of the Meeting Community (John McCarthy): Howard Curtis has resigned his membership. He has returned to the Orthodox Church and feels most comfortable within the traditions of that church. He sent a letter to Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting thanking us for our support over the years. The meeting accepts Howard Curtis's resignation of membership with regrets.

A clearness committee of Helen Haug, Rick Herbert, and John McCarthy has met with Eric Forste regarding his request for membership. John McCarthy read the report of the committee. The Care of the Meeting Community recommends acceptance of the report, which supported Eric Forste's membership application. This recommendation will season for one month.

Naming Committee (Rich Tittle): The following individuals form the Naming Committee: Rich Tittle, Betsy Morris, and James Hosley. The committee reports that the following individuals will continue to serve on the Nominating Committee: Pam Calvert, Susan Burr, Charlie Blanchard, and Richard Leath. Pam Calvert will continue to serve as Clerk, and Charlie Blanchard will continue to serve as Alternative Clerk. The Naming Committee recommends the following individuals for the Nominating Committee: Mary White and Dee Rossman. These names will season for one month. The Naming Committee is seeking a third new member for the committee.

Quarterly Meeting (Carl Anderson): The quarterly meeting was held in mid-October, 2006 at the Sierra Friends Center. A total of one hundred and fifty-eight people attended, which included twenty children and twenty teenagers. There were eight students from the Woolman semester. There was a report from the teenagers about their participation in a Quaker project in El Salvador, which was sponsored by Palo Alto Monthly Meeting. The next quarterly meeting will be held on January 20, 2007 at San Francisco Monthly Meetinghouse.

Announcements

The next meeting for business will be held on December 10, 2006 at 11:50 a.m. at the Berkeley Technology Academy.

If you are interested in bringing cooked meals to Marina Travis's family, please see Sherrin Loyd.

The meeting closed at 1:44 p.m. with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Strain, Clerk; Dharma Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk; Leonard Joy,

Alternate Clerk.

Attachment to the Minutes for the November 12, 2006 Meeting for Business.

Minute

We recognize that our current human impact on the planet is environmentally damaging, and that conflicts over resources are aggravating the conditions for war. We also recognize that when resources are scarce, it is the most vulnerable people and ecosystems that are at risk. Spiritually, we are compelled to care for both.

We call for Friends to examine and shift our individual impacts to the extent that each is able, so that Earth's resources are sustained or replenished. Such commitment will likely entail major adjustments in our purchases, our diets, transportation and livelihood.

While many individual Friends have progressed toward a sustainable lifestyle, we must now move to a corporate witness in our meeting, joining with and helping each other and also like-minded groups in supporting our common concerns.

We ask all to stay continually informed about this evolving planetary crisis and discern future actions that will become needed. We appeal to all Friends to make this a standing priority in our families, meetings, and communities. We recognize that the actions described below are only the first steps in what is needed; we will work towards a transformation at all levels of society to create a sustainable way of life.

Recommended Immediate Actions

- * Reduce our meeting-wide greenhouse-gas emissions at least 10% in the coming year by personally decreasing driving, flying, and home energy use and by utilizing efficient alternatives (for those who are able to do so). Maintain a list of suggested specific actions.

- * Labor with and learn from others to help us all examine and reduce our fossil fuel consumption.

Engage in collective discernment into how we might witness most powerfully for systemic impact. Regularly, worship together, study and discuss climate change and personal adjustments, allowing spirit to work amongst us.

- * Network among meetings and other groups to share resources and expertise.

- * Labor with those who shape public opinion and policy to promote Earth care and, if that fails, work to replace them. From local to state, national, and international levels, advocate for measures to protect Earth's resources, promote environmental justice, and reduce the occasion for war.

- * Work through personal participation and public policy to mitigate the impacts of resource wars and climate change on the most vulnerable people and ecosystems.