

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
March 8, 2020 Minutes

The meeting opened at noon with silent worship. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 29 Friends were present. Susan Black read the responses of Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee to the advices and queries on Harmony with Creation. Friends provided more responses out of the silence.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the February 9, 2020 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following corrections. The minute on uprooting racism will include the full title of the minute along with the text. Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness reported it is considering using Dime-a-Gallon funds for installing solar panels on individual homes. No final decision has been made.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The Clerk said she has no correspondence or business for this month.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

FCNL Legislative Priorities (Stephen McNeil)

Stephen McNeil presented the draft of Strawberry Creek's suggestions for FCNL's legislative priorities for the 117th Congress. FCNL wants to receive our suggested priorities before the next business meeting, which leaves no time for seasoning.

One Friend raised a concern about the fourth listed priority: "Witness and advocate on Native American concerns. Honor the treaties." Since the treaties have been violated by the taking of Native American land, he said "honoring treaties" is a "feel good" statement that lacks integrity. Another Friend who worked on Native American issues at New York Yearly Meeting offered a clarification: Honoring treaties does not mean taking away land from current owners to return to Native Americans. Stephen agreed and said that honoring treaties means carrying out the spirit and intention of the treaties. It is a way to address past grievances of native peoples.

The meeting approved the list of seven legislative priorities.

State of the Meeting Report (Stephen McNeil)

Stephen read the draft of the State of the Meeting report. The Clerk asked that Friends give general responses now and save more specific comments to give to the writing committee later. The writing committee is Janet Piggins, Stephen McNeil, and Kat Stenstedt.

One Friend expressed concern with the first sentence, "We live in troubled times." It implies that previous times have not been troubling. Alternative phrasing was suggested that we are more aware of the troubles of these times.

There was discussion about making the anti-racism minute more prominent in the report and it was suggested that the section that reads “We call upon ourselves as Friends to illuminate, uproot, and dismantle white privilege because it is used to maintain white dominance” could be in boldface type. It was also suggested that the report show the links between racism and other issues, such as climate change.

The report mentions the recent practice by some Friends of sharing their personal pronouns when saying their names at the close of meeting. Some have expressed concern for the practice. While the intent is to express solidarity with people who identify as nonbinary, some may find the practice offensive. Stephen agreed that the meeting should give that issue more attention.

The report mentions the Site Contingency Fund, but it does not provide information about the fund for Friends who are not familiar with its history. A brief description of the fund should be included.

CPQM’s Ministry and Oversight Committee has requested that they receive our report before the end of April. The writing committee will bring the revised document back to the April meeting for business.

Reports

Nominating Committee (James Hosley)

James Hosley reported that the committee has communicated with most members and attenders in the meeting. They are still looking for members for two committees, Loaves and Fishes and Facilities.

Spring Retreat, Events Committee (Francie Nurkse)

Francie Nurkse reported plans for the spring retreat are going forward for the weekend of May 1 to May 3 at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. She is being assisted by Shelley Tanenbaum and Carolyn Edwards. With current concerns for the spreading of COVID-19, there is a possibility that the retreat might be canceled or that Friends might decide not to attend. Francie is hopeful that the retreat will go forward as scheduled.

Recent retreats have had no theme. Events Committee is looking for suggestions and is offering that this retreat be considered an exercise in community building. She expects worship sharing in the morning and interest groups in the afternoon.

Francie asked for suggestions on fees for the retreat. Last year’s retreat brought in \$4375 with \$7827 in expenses. With \$2,300 budgeted from the general fund for any shortfall, the total shortfall was \$972. Francie asked if the meeting wanted to increase the fees above last year’s \$170 per adult, and expressed concern that the increase cost could reduce attendance. The meeting agreed to continue to use the “Pay as Led” model with a suggested fee of \$170 per adult. Those who can afford it are asked to pay more. Children are free, and the cost includes meals.

Care of the Meeting Committee Report (Shelley Tanenbaum and Stephen McNeil)

Stephen McNeil reported that the committee has updated its job description. Changes include coordination with Communications Committee and the Recorder on maintaining the meeting’s archives. It includes the recently formed Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group and the

Bridging the Gap Committee. It drops the committee's events function which has been transferred to the Events Committee. It provides for specific liaisons for Berkeley Friends Meeting and B-Tech, including holding keys for the Berkeley Meetinghouse.

The committee is providing \$500 to Alma Moon to attend a service trip to El Salvador this summer. Alma is also using money from the Bob Vogel Fund and is raising money from other sources.

Shelley Tanenbaum announced the updating guidelines on membership, the first update in 15 years. The original document was mostly taken from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. The new version uses more of our language, Shelley said. She will post the full document to the meeting's web group.

Announcements (Note: many events have been postponed, moved online, or canceled. Check our calendar.)

Next Meeting for Business, April 12 at 11:50 a.m. Berkeley Technology Academy

Quaker Heritage Day, March 28, Berkeley Friends Church

CROP Hunger Walk, March 29 at 1:00 pm, Saint Mary Magdalen Church

Spring Retreat, May 1-3, Ben Lomond Quaker Center

David Rutschman announced that he and Leonard Joy will be discussing "Global Warming and Global Society" on April 5, 9:00 am at B-Tech. He hopes to have the program continue on every first Sunday of the month after that.

Shelley Tanenbaum announced the Silent Auction benefiting FCLCA will be on March 29 at the rise of meeting.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:55 pm.

Submitted by: Elizabeth Moses Strain, Clerk, Charlie Blanchard, Alternate Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk