

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting

Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, March 11, 2012

Minutes

The meeting opened at noon with silent worship. Charles Blanchard clerked the meeting. Thirty-one Friends were present. Phyllis Malandra read the reflections of the Loaves and Fishes Committee on the Advices and Queries on Peace. The agenda was reviewed and approved with a few changes.

The minutes of the February 12, 2012 Meeting for Business were read and approved with two corrections: in the Reports section, both Joyce Samati and Susan Burr reported for the Site Committee and in the Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee report, Tom reported that the Dime-A-Gallon Fund has granted \$500 to Oakland's Solar Mosaic, a project of the Ella Baker Center to fund placing solar panels on the roof of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's kitchen.

Old Business:

Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) Representative Job Description Revision (Thomas Yamaguchi) Tom reported that at the last Representative Committee (RepCom) meeting, they had approved having the terms for the Representative and Observer be two years instead of three, and that they could be staggered. There is no expectation that the Observer automatically becomes the Representative. The Nominating Committee clerk and Tom will make changes in the Strawberry Creek job description for Representative/Observer so that it is consistent with the new PYM job description. That revised job description will be posted on the Meeting's website and be brought back to the Meeting for final approval.

New Business:

PYM Interest Group (Thomas Yamaguchi) Tom reported that at the RepCom meeting it was announced that interest group suggestions for Yearly Meeting are due in by April 30th. Susan Strong has out a new book *Move Our Message: How to Get America's Ear* and would like to have an interest group at Yearly Meeting. Tom suggested that having the Meeting minute its support would help the decision making on which interest groups are finally selected, given the limited number of slots. A draft minute was presented, and Meeting asked Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee to expand the minute to refer to Susan's two essays in the Eco-Bulletin and the timeliness of doing this in an election year.

Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee (Susan Strong) Susan distributed the Committee's current draft feedback on 2012 FCNL Legislative Priorities. The draft will be circulated on the Meeting's listserve and come back for approval at the April business meeting. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the Committee's work.

State of the Meeting Report (Jed Appelman, Margaret Sorrel, and Renee Watkins) Renee Watkins distributed both a short version (for College Park Quarterly and Pacific Yearly Meetings) and a longer version for the Meeting on the State of the Meeting. Margaret read the short version and Renee read the full version; both will be acted on at the next business meeting. Contact Renee, Jed, or Margaret via email with any feedback.

Reports:

PYM Representative Committee Report (Thomas Yamaguchi). Tom read a report on the March 12-14, 2012 RepCom meeting that will be posted on the Meeting's website. There is \$7,000 in scholarship funds available to encourage attendance at this year's meeting at Walker Creek Ranch in Marin August 13-18. Friends should first ask their Meeting for support. The PYM Youth Coordinator work experiment will be evaluated after September 2013. The Discipline Committee reported that they are moving towards accepting that PYM has an earthcare testimony, but they are not there yet. They are accepting requests for revisions in the Advices and Queries.

Finance Committee Report (Richard Leath) Richard reported for the Committee that they had decided to go with Friends Fiduciary Corporation as brokers for any stock donations to the Meeting. They are also considering using FFC for the Meeting's investments.

Site Committee (Joyce Samati) Joyce reported that they are looking at the Kehilla Synagogue site, which is a bit further south from the Meeting's "core" and about 1.6 miles from the nearest BART station. Several events were announced at the Synagogue as occasions on which the Meeting attenders could visit the site and these will be posted. Philippa Baron is the Committee's contact during Joyce's travel out of the country. A Friend noted that it was not that bad to be further away from the other two Meetings in Berkeley.

Care of the Meeting Committee (Ted Obbard) Ted reported that the Clerks' Workshop was held and that those present found helpful the presentation on Deborah Haynes' "A Practical Mystic's Guide to Clerking." The Child Safety Committee, a joint committee comprised of the clerks of the Care of the Meeting, First Day School, and the Meeting has been reviewing our practice of having a "Second Pair of Eyes" during meeting for business and after other Meeting activities. Margaret Schneider is convening a working group for the Spring Retreat (contact her if interested in helping) and Gina Hayward is doing childcare.

Announcements

Tom Yamaguchi reminded us that the Spring locavore potluck is before the next meeting for business which will begin at noon. He reminded Friends that the CROP Walk on April 29th benefits the Berkeley Food Pantry and sign ups are happening now.

Clifford Hamm called attention to the extra copies of the March 2012 *Western Friend* that are on the back table. The reason why we received the extra copies was that we were being remunerated for having “authored” a published article on what “holding in the Light” meant to us.

Nursery and Attendance sign-up sheets which again had been circulated were collected.

The next Business Meeting will be held on April 8, 2012 at noon after the locavore potluck at the Berkeley Technology Academy.

The meeting closed at 2:05 p.m. with silent worship.

Submitted by: Charles Blanchard, clerk, Larry Strain, Alternate Clerk; and Stephen McNeil, Recording Clerk