

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, July 8, 2012
Minutes

The Meeting opened at 11:55 a.m. with silent worship. Nancy Wilkinson, alternate clerk, clerked the Meeting. Twenty-four Friends were present. Rhea Farley shared the Facilities Committee's reflections on the Advices and Queries on Spiritual Life. The agenda was reviewed and approved, after noting a few changes of those who would be giving committee reports.

The minutes of the June 10, 2012 Meeting for Business were read and approved with these changes:

- (1) The Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee (PEASW) requested that Meeting for Business consider supporting the passage of the Savings, Accountability, and Full Enforcement for California Act (SAFE California Act); this minute has been posted to the Meeting's google site.
- (2) The showing of the video documentary "The Island President" at Berkeley Friends' Church on June 15 was sponsored by the Peace, Environment, and Christian Concerns Committee of Berkeley Friends Church, as well as Strawberry Creek's Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business:

The clerk reported having received two thank you letters for donations made by Strawberry Creek to organizations Meeting has approved for annual support. (Following the Meeting, these were identified as being from Ben Lomond Quaker Center and Friends House.)

Old Business:

Care of the Meeting Committee: (Larry Strain) Larry reported that the Finance Committee has reviewed and is in support of Care of the Meeting Committee's recommendation that Meeting purchase a Ben Lomond Quaker Center (BLQC) Annual Pass. The use of this pass will be administered by the Care of the Meeting Committee on a first-come, first-served basis. Any Friends requesting use of the pass for a second time will be considered after first-time requesters. In response to a Friend's request, Care of the Meeting Committee will write up the Meeting's policy for use of the pass. Beth Wrightson, on behalf of Finance Committee, recommended that the pass's use be reviewed twelve months after its inception. Meeting approved purchase of the BLQC Annual Pass. Friends requested that Quaker Center events be publicized, as well as the availability of this pass.

Nominating Committee: The Clerk reported that no concerns were brought to the nominating committee concerning the nominations of Julie Russell to serve on the Facilities Committee and Rick Herbert to serve as AFSC Representative. Both nominations were approved.

Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee (PEASW): (Tom Yamaguchi) On behalf of the PEASW committee, Tom presented a revised wording of the minute proposed in support of the passage of the Savings, Accountability, and Full Enforcement for California Act (SAFE California Act), which will appear on the California general election ballot in November 2012. The minute noted the Meeting's concerns with the proposition as worded, and also recognized the vital importance of amending our state

constitution to end the death penalty. Meeting found unity in supporting the SAFE California Act. The Clerk was directed to submit a statement of endorsement on behalf of Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting to SAFE California, 237 Kearny St. #334, San Francisco, Ca., 94108. This endorsement gives SAFE California permission to use Strawberry Creek's name throughout the campaign, including a listing on the campaign website, www.safecalifornia.org. The approved minute is posted on the Meeting's website and will be sent as a cover letter with our endorsement.

New Business:

Care of the Meeting Committee (Larry Strain) Larry reported that Care of the Meeting Committee recommends that Meeting accept Manuel "Mano" Marks' request that he be released from membership in Strawberry Creek Meeting. This request was accepted as recommended, with appreciation for Manuel's active participation in Meeting in previous years.

Reports:

First Day School (FDS) (Marla Browning and Josh Gallup) Marla reported that 41 children and teens have participated in First Day School during the year just ended, with 33 having attended one-third of the time or more. Josh noted several highlights of this year, and reflections on the experiences of those in each age group. The teens' Sunday schedule includes: silent worship, worship sharing, the discussion of current topics, a game, a song, and closing. Topics discussed by the teens have included disability awareness, nonviolence, gender awareness, and Quaker history. The lively nursery has a core of regular attenders with several teen and preteen helpers. Currently no 7-10 year olds are attending FDS consistently. Having many drop-in families, it has been challenging for teachers to provide a meaningful curriculum without regular attendance. First Day School would like to open communication with the parents attending regularly who have children in this age group. The First Day School Committee offers this query for Meeting's consideration: How does the Meeting foster commitment of its families?

Finance Committee (Beth Wrightson) Beth noted that the Finance Committee will soon be considering the Meeting's budget for 2013. She asked committee clerks to review their current budget line, and also to submit all outstanding receipts to the treasurer promptly. Beth presented a revised budget proposed by the finance committee that included two changes: 1) New line item #7130 – \$1,000 (Quaker Center Annual Pass) & 2) line item #7790 Childcare (non-1st Day School) \$1,000 (an increase by \$500 to provide for a 2nd care provider). Meeting approved this revised budget for 2012.

Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee (PEASW) (Tom Yamaguchi) Tom reported that the PEASW committee has approved three grant requests for the Dime-A-Gallon fund: \$400 for Youth Spirit Artworks and two \$500 grants for the Sierra Friends Center: one to support the Bike Library and the second to provide materials needed for Woolman Semester students' fall 2012 Sustainability Projects. A subcommittee of PEASW is working on improving the Dime-A-Gallon website. On August 5 after Meeting PEASW will sponsor a presentation by Miguel Costop about the Guatemala Program. Miguel will be joined by Donna Smith (Redwood Forest Meeting), co-clerk of the Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program. Donna will also bring Guatemalan crafts, which will be available for sale to support this program. The showing of "The Island President" at Berkeley Friends Church was well-attended by

Friends from all three Berkeley Friends' Meetings. The next committee meeting will be held on committee meeting Sunday, July 22. All are invited to attend.

Worship and Ministry Committee (Elizabeth Strain) Elizabeth reported that the committee has developed a revised version of the Advices and Queries on "Personal Relationships", in response to concerns raised about the appropriateness of reading the current version aloud in Meeting for Worship, as is our practice. The portion of the text as altered for this use will be included in the next Meeting newsletter. This change is intended as an "interim fix" until the next revision of Faith and Practice. The Worship & Ministry Committee has notified Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) of this change.

Announcements:

The Memorial Meeting for Caroline Duhem will be held on Sat., July 28 at 3 p.m. at Berkeley Meeting. The Marriage of Beth Wrightson and Kelly Allgaier will be on Sat., September 8, 2012 at 1 p.m. at the Skyline Community Church in Oakland.

Pacific Yearly Meeting (Tom Yamaguchi) PYM will be from August 13 – 18, 2012 at Walker Creek Ranch, with John Calvi, the guest speaker.

Carl Anderson stated that Steve Birdlebough will be assisting with transportation arrangements for PYM. Friends offering rides or hospitality are encouraged to contact Steve.

The next Meeting for Business will be on September 9, 2012 at 11:50 a.m. at the Berkeley Technology Academy.

The presiding Clerk thanked Larry Strain for serving as acting alternate clerk, during this Meeting for Business.

The meeting closed at 1:05 p.m. with silent worship.

Submitted by Nancy Wilkinson, acting clerk, Larry Strain, acting alternate clerk, and Joyce Samati, recording clerk