

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, January 13, 2013
Minutes

Meeting opened at 12:05 p.m. with silent worship. Charlie Blanchard clerked the Meeting. Thirty-one Friends were present. Responses to the Advices and Queries on Harmony with Creation, provided by the communications committee, were read by James Hosley. The agenda was reviewed and approved, after noting those with announcements to be made. The December 9, 2012 Meeting for Business minutes were read and approved as written.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business: The clerk invited Friends to pick up a copy of Ben Lomond Quaker Center's (BLQC) 2013 program schedule, now available. Anyone wishing to use the Meeting's pass to attend a BLQC program may contact Larry Strain, of the Care of Meeting (COM) committee. RepCom, the Representative Committee Meeting for Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM), will be held March 1-2, 2013 in Santa Cruz. Strawberry Creek's current PYM representative is Tom Yamaguchi, and Stephen McNeil our PYM observer. A packet of information about this year's Friends General Conference (FGC) gathering, to be held June 30-July 6, 2013 in Colorado, was given to COM. Friends may confer with this committee concerning scholarship assistance available, both from FGC and Strawberry Creek Meeting (SCM). Friends House Moscow has provided extra copies of its news and staff report.

Old Business:

Nominating committee: (Angela Imhoff) Angela reported that no concerns have been raised about the nomination of Sarah Hawthorne to serve as co-clerk of Care of Meeting committee through May 31, 2013. Meeting approved her nomination.

New Business:

Nominating committee: (Angela Imhoff) Angela shared a request from Sally Hindman to step down from the facilities committee. Also, Wilbur Hoff, a former BLQC board member, is no longer serving as Meeting's BLQC representative. Anyone who would like to help the facilities committee as an assistant or committee member, or who is wishing to serve as BLQC representative, is encouraged to contact the nominating committee. Meeting accepted this report, with appreciation for the service of Friends Sally and Wilbur.

Reports:

Care of Meeting Committee: (Sarah Hawthorne) Sarah reported on several facets of the committee's work: * she stated that the All Clerks' Meeting on February 16th will focus on 'deepening connections'. COM members will contact their committee clerk buddies to gather information helpful to share. * The Twelfth Month Gathering in December was felt to be very successful, with over a hundred participants nurturing bonds within our community while enjoying food, fellowship, and spirited activities. The Albany Community Center worked well, so may be chosen again for this event in 2013. * Meeting's spring retreat will be on the weekend of May 3-5, 2013 at BLQC. Margaret Schneider, in partnership with Shelley Tanenbaum, will convene an ad hoc committee to put on the retreat; Tod Nysether has confirmed his availability to be the cook. * Meeting's ad hoc Quaker Center Accessibility committee met recently, and plans to make a site visit in the

next two months. This committee includes Larry Strain, convener, Jill Lessing, Jed Appelman, Sherrin Loyd, and Robin Standish. * Membership clearness committees have been formed for Laura Miller, Angela Imhoff, and Anne Blackburn. COM decided that a membership committee was not needed for Mary White's transfer of membership from Boulder Friends Meeting in Colorado back to Strawberry Creek Meeting, since she was a member here prior to her transfer of membership to Boulder. Care of Meeting Committee had asked Mary if she felt a need for a clearness committee; she did not. In light of Mary's previous membership in SCM, COM was at ease with not convening a clearness committee again on her return. Mary expressed ease with this understanding. * COM considered the question of whether our Meeting's directory may be made available electronically and shared with appropriate Quaker organizations. As a member Meeting of College Park Quarterly Meeting the committee feels that it is important to do so, to foster good communication among Friends. When communications committee begins updating the SCM directory in April, COM suggests that those who do not want their contact information included in the electronic distribution of the directory have the opportunity to opt out. Contact information for those opting out of the electronic version will be included only in SCM's printed directory. Meeting is now seasoning this recommendation; those with concerns are urged to contact COM before the committee next meets on February 4th.

* Sarah Hawthorne and Laura Magnani provided an update on an individual who first requested spiritual support in 2008, while then incarcerated. Since he has recently been released after having both served time in prison and been treated in the state hospital following his conviction for sex offenses, COM felt it appropriate to share a report now. This man is not seeking to worship with our Meeting on First Days, but has twice accepted Oakland Worship Group's open welcome to worship with them. Several people in Meeting have been and continue to be spiritual supports for him. These include: Laura Magnani, Leonard Joy, Rhea Farley, and Carl Magruder, as well as Pacific School of Religion (PSR) intern Rob Davis. They have formed an accompaniment committee to surround him with both support and accountability. One Friend, noting that many of us have been touched by sexual violence in some way, encouraged us to be tender to what may be moving in us and our community as we enter this arena. Another expressed hope for healing, comfort, and even, in time, forgiveness. The Meeting is not being asked to do anything now, and this man is not asking to attend Strawberry Creek Meeting.

Charlie Blanchard, clerk, asked Nancy Wilkinson, alternate clerk, to temporarily serve as clerk while he spoke as an individual. Charlie stated that when this request came to us in June 2008, he was co-clerking Care of Meeting committee with Leonard Joy. While Charlie felt then that a Quaker Meeting should be open to everyone, he became aware that when it is, it becomes closed to others. As COM co-clerk Charlie then contacted the Oakland worship group, under the care of Strawberry Creek Meeting, to ask if they would be able to welcome this individual to worship with them. The worship group affirmed their welcome initially and has several times since, as well. Laura Magnani observed that this man is very clear that he wishes to renounce the past; he looks forward to his rehabilitation. He is continuing to explore his spiritual path. Several present today noted that this situation is very different from Meeting's previous experience with another individual. After Friends shared a few moments of worship, Charlie resumed clerking the Meeting.

Worship and Ministry Committee (W&M) (Elizabeth Strain) Elizabeth read memorial minutes for Caroline Anker Duhem and Sandra Elaine Lewis. (See attached.) We treasured memories of our dear Friends, as we gathered in worship. These minutes will be sent to Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Treasurer (Richard Leath) Richard reported on the final figures for the 2012 General Fund's income and expenses. Although at the December Meeting for Business the Meeting's income for 2012 was about \$16,000 less than expenditures, by December 31 the net income was \$738.95 above expenses. Cash balances are generating minimal interest currently; finance committee welcomes ideas about potential investments. One being considered is Friends Fiduciary. A Friend expressed thanks for support received from Meeting during this year.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) (Susan Strong) Susan reported that FCNL has requested feedback to help revise its 2003 Statement of Policy, needed due to many dramatic changes in the world. We are being asked to consider about a dozen new queries about policy, and then to respond to the ones of most concern to us. All are encouraged to attend the January 27th or February 24th peace, earthcare and social witness committee meeting to help address this task, or to host an evening gathering during the week to consider any of the topics. If you cannot participate in one of these events, please give Susan your personal feedback about the choices of topics and your response to them.

Announcements:

- * The State of the Meeting Listening Meeting will be held after Meeting on February 3. Laura Magnani (COM), Susan Strong (W&M) and a third person named by the clerk will be writing the State of the Meeting report this year.
- * The Clerks' Meeting will be on Sat., Feb. 16 from 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- * Marjorie Fox and Dorothy Henderson will have a conversation here on Sun., Feb. 17.
- * Cindy Trueblood announced that a celebration in honor of Dorothy Henderson will be held on Sat., Feb. 2 at the Sierra Friends Center.
- * Miftah Leath stated that Meeting will begin providing childcare during after-Meeting meetings on first Sundays, in response to requests for such.
- * Rhea Farley reminded Friends to take home their dishes from today's locavore potluck.
- * Rachel Findley noted that rides are needed for 2 people to Quarterly Meeting on Jan. 19.

The next Meeting for Business will be on Feb. 10, '13 at the Berkeley Technology Academy.

Meeting closed at 1:45 p.m. with silent worship.

Submitted by Charlie Blanchard, clerk, Nancy Wilkinson, alternate clerk, and Joyce Samati, recording clerk

