

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
April 12, 2020 Minutes

Business meeting opened at 11:40 a.m. with silent worship and was conducted via the Zoom video conferencing platform due to the current coronavirus pandemic. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 51 Friends were present. Kathy Barnhart read the responses of Worship and Ministry Committee to the advices and queries on Spiritual Life.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda which was posted to the meeting's web group, groups.io.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the March 8, 2020 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the correction that Francie Nurkse's name was misspelled in the Events Committee report.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The Clerk reported the meeting is not being charged rent during the time we are not using the B-Tech facilities.

The Clerk read the Certificate of Transfer letter for Tom Rothschild from Brooklyn Monthly Meeting.

The Clerk read a letter from Lisa Hubbell, requesting her release from membership at Strawberry Creek. Lisa has been attending First Mennonite Church of San Francisco. She will continue to attend quarterly and yearly meeting sessions. She wishes to remain listed in the directory and continue to participate on the meeting's web group. Friends spoke in affection for Lisa and her decision to be released from membership, as well her finding her faith community in First Mennonite Church. Lisa's letter was forwarded to the Care of the Meeting Committee.

Old Business

State of the Meeting Report (Stephen McNeil)

Stephen read the revised State of the Meeting report, which has been seasoning for one month. A Friend asked to change "black art and activism" to "African American art and activism." Another Friend asked if the writing committee considered the ongoing ministry by a number of Friends on homelessness and for relief work in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. Stephen replied that the writing committee did consider those. He noted that the minute on homelessness was approved by the Meeting last year. Work on homelessness and Puerto Rico is ongoing. The Meeting agreed to add the sentence "We are called to economic justice around the unsheltered, immigration, and relief to Puerto Rico." The report was approved with those two revisions and will be forwarded to CPQM's Ministry and Oversight Committee.

Tom Rothschild Membership Transfer (Shelley Tanenbaum)

Shelley Tanenbaum read the report on Tom Rothchild's membership transfer. Shelley convened the membership clearness committee that included Stephen McNeil and Ralph Murphy. The committee recommends the approval of the transfer request. The request will season for one month. Friends with questions and concerns may contact the Care of the Meeting Committee.

New Business

Nominating Committee (James Hosley)

James presented the nominating slate which can be downloaded from the meeting's web group, groups.io, and will be printed in the meeting directory. The name of Deborah Marks was inadvertently left off the list of nominees for Mutual Care Committee. The names of all nominees on the slate, including Deborah Marks, will season for one month.

Meeting Directory (Peter Lin)

Peter Lin will send emails to Friends, asking for updates and corrections to their listings in the meeting directory. Friends without email addresses will receive letters via US postal mail.

Reports

PYM Representative Committee (Nancy Wilkinson, PYM Representative)

Nancy read her report from the PYM Representative Committee Meeting. That report is attached to these minutes. Since that meeting held during the weekend of March 13 and 14, the decision was made to cancel the annual session at Walker Creek Ranch. Efforts are being made to hold the session online. Nancy will have more information, including how registration will be conducted. Suggestions from Friends are welcome.

Nancy noted some major decisions made at Rep Com.

PYM has decided to establish registration fees on the "Pay as Led" model.

PYM has agreed to spend \$10,901 to acquire and set up a contact management database. "This will allow for development of an accessible yearly meeting directory which will facilitate the work of the yearly meeting and committees, and improve communications among Friends." For more detailed information, Friends should look for the Rep Com session notes on PYM's web site, including the reports from Finance and Communications committees.

Though not in her report, Nancy noted that Friends have asked her about the release of Javaughn Fernanders from the position of Youth Programs Coordinator. Nancy said that Javaughn has a support committee that has been working with her since leaving that position.

Laura Magnani announced that Rebekah Percy is the interim Youth Programs Coordinator.

Worship and Ministry (Laura Magnani)

Worship and Ministry Committee has met in the last week to discuss issues with moving the meeting for worship online. Web coordinator Amy Dewey participated in the meeting. They have created a Tech subcommittee, they are also calling the Zoom Subcommittee, which includes Amy Dewey and other Friends with technical skills.

Security issues with Zoom are being considered. A limit has been placed on who can share documents.

Etiquette issues are being addressed. Friends are asked not to use the chat function during worship, except for seeking assistance with technology issues. Announcements that include hyperlinks should be sent to the IO Group. Friends who move about their rooms during worship are asked to turn off their cameras. Friends should remain muted until they are ready to speak. Other meetings outside of the meeting for worship can be arranged with Amy. Events and meetings scheduled after the rise of meeting can be held in breakout rooms, including committee meetings on Committee Sundays.

The Quaker Action Worship Group has had its own group meetings on Zoom since last summer. Committees who want to schedule a meeting using Strawberry Creek's Zoom account should contact Amy Dewey.

Finance (Larry Strain)

Finance Committee has met in the last week and discussed the need for a credit card to pay for domain name registration. James Hosley and Sarah Hawthorne have a credit card they use to pay for the meeting telephone. Finance Committee has decided that all business that requires payment by credit card will be transferred to the credit card being managed by James and Sarah.

Finance Committee discussed the proposals from Events Committee on the cancellation of the spring retreat. Events Committee is asking the meeting to compensate Ben Lomond Quaker Center and Tod Nysether, the cook who has been hired for the retreat, for their loss of income due to the cancellation. That issue will be addressed with the presentation of the Events Committee Report.

Without access to the meeting room, the red donation box is now at the house of Treasurer Richard Leath. Donations may be sent directly to his address, 1136 The Alameda, Berkeley, CA 94707.

Treasurer's Report (Richard Leath)

Treasurer Richard Leath presented the report for the first quarter of 2020. The large early deficit is the result of Richard paying the PYM assessment in the first quarter.

The Sharing Fund Reserve is in good shape for helping anyone in need. Since this year's FGC gathering and PYM annual session at Walker Creek Ranch have been canceled, money set aside for scholarships can be directed to individuals who are unemployed or have other financial stresses due to the pandemic.

Spring Retreat, Events Committee (Francie Nurkse)

Francie Nurkse read the Events Committee report. The 2020 Spring Retreat at Ben Lomond Quaker Center is canceled. The committee has reserved the weekend of April 30 to May 2, 2021 for the next spring retreat.

Events Committee recommends that the deposit of \$1,870.40 already paid to Quaker Center be considered a donation to BLQC. In addition, the committee asks that \$1,000 be spent to compensate the retreat cook, Tod Nysether. With these donations, the meeting will be \$570 short of what has been budgeted. Even though the contract with BLQC states the deposit is nonrefundable for cancellations less than one month in advance of the event, Quaker Center is willing to release the meeting from that obligation. Quaker Center also allows groups to apply the deposit toward a future event. Groups may decide to contribute the deposit as a tax deductible donation.

Jay Cash spoke as the Volunteer Clerk of the Outreach and Development Committee for Quaker Center. He said BLQC will be sending out letters to monthly meetings on their financial status. Quaker Center currently has enough reserves to operate for a few months. There have been no layoffs at this time.

Some Friends expressed concern that this decision was being made before considering the needs of others in the community who are being impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Others felt the meeting should follow through on the commitments it has made to Quaker Center and to Tod who has served as the retreat cook for decades.

The meeting agreed to donate \$1,000 to Tod Nysether. Two Friends stood aside on that decision. One Friend asked us to consider others in need, not just those who are known in our community.

The meeting agreed to donate the deposit already made to Quaker Center. Three Friends stood aside on that decision.

One Friend asked the meeting to set up a working group to consider the financial needs of the wider community.

First Day Children's Program (Joyce Samati/Josh Gallup)

Joyce and Josh gave the committee report. There has been a 10 a.m. Children's program via Zoom. Nathan Moon has been the host. First Day School has been considering the testimony on Community. Privacy concerns regarding the online children's program have been raised and are being addressed by the Zoom Subcommittee.

The next Meeting for Business will be held via Zoom on May 10 at 11:50 a.m. and will be followed by the annual Board of Directors Meeting.

College Park Quarterly Meeting will be having its Spring Session online during the weekend of May 15-17. CPQM Representative Tom Yamaguchi will have more information.

Susan Burr announced that next Sunday the Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee will have an adult education session at rise of meeting on the topic of "Unpacking Quaker Culture." PPR will examine many of our spoken and unspoken practices and how they may inhibit Spirit, or enhance Spirit as we work to create a more multi-cultural Friends Meeting. The session will be conducted on Zoom in a breakout room.

Betsy Morris asked the Meeting to consider those who are currently unable to make a living from selling the Street Spirit newspaper that is published by Youth Spirit Artworks.

Lee Douglas reported that Al Thompson, who is currently in a nursing home, wants the meeting to know that he is thinking about us even though he is unable to attend the meeting for worship.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 2:55 p.m.

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