

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
May 12, 2019 Minutes

The meeting opened at noon with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the meeting. 34 Friends were present. Charlie Blanchard gave the response of Nominating Committee to the Advices and Queries on Spiritual Life. The Meeting returned to silent worship to reflect on the response.

The Clerk introduced Stephen McNeil, who was substituting for Rachel Findley as Alternate Clerk.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the April 14, 2019 Meeting for Business. The minutes were approved with the following changes to the summary of the process used by the Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee in drafting its proposed minute. The following sentence is deleted: "The subcommittee decided to find a way to take the Mennonites' work and use Quaker process to end racism in our meeting." The following sentences replace the deleted sentence: "The draft minute has two main sources. Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee's impetus stems from *Set Free*. The impetus of Quaker Action Worship Group, coauthors of the draft minute, stems from the writings of Vanessa Julye."

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The Clerk read a letter requesting membership by Kat Stenstedt. The Clerk has forwarded the letter to the Care of the Meeting Committee.

Old Business

Slate of Nominations for 2019-2020 (Nominating Committee, Charlie Blanchard)

Charlie Blanchard presented the revised slate of nominations, which is attached. Of the names that were presented at the May meeting for business, Nominating Committee had received no concerns. The slate of those names was approved.

Charlie noted changes in the revised slate. Ragni Larsen-Orta's name, which is underlined, is being nominated as clerk of Communications Committee. She has just been approved as a Communications Committee member. Dusty Sykes's name, which is also underlined, is a new nomination for Mutual Care. The Clerk asked the Meeting to approve that these two Friends may begin their service while their names are being seasoned. The Meeting approved.

Nominating is still considering more nominations. Charlie announced that Richard Leath is willing to continue to serve as Treasurer until a replacement has been found. Richard will not serve as Finance Co-clerk until a new Treasurer is approved. In response to a question on the process of training a potential new Treasurer, Charlie replied that, if someone feels moved to be trained, that person may speak to Nominating Committee. Nominating may decide to create a position of Assistant Treasurer, who may be able to serve when the Treasurer position becomes vacant.

Charlie said he will be stepping down as Nominating Clerk in June when he takes the position of Alternate Clerk. He expects that a new clerk will be found among the current members of Nominating Committee. The clerk needs to be a member of Strawberry Creek Meeting, and two current committee members are qualified.

Francie Nurske said she is willing to become Clerk of Events Committee. She suggested that the list of events under the direction of the committee might include Friendly Sevens.

Asterisks on the Nominations Slate indicate that a person is continuing in a position from last year. Charlie pointed out two corrections: Amy Dewey is continuing as a member Communications Committee and is now being nominated as web coordinator and Judith Schumacher-Jennings is continuing as a co-clerk of Mutual Care.

In response to a question asked at the April business meeting, Charlie said that meeting membership is not required to serve on committees, just recommended. Clerking positions that include positions on the Board of Directors require that those Friends are members of Strawberry Creek. Care of the Meeting members do need to be members of the Religious Society of Friends, though not necessarily members of Strawberry Creek, since that committee handles membership requests.

Charlie noted that some Friends listed as ex officio members of Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness are also regular members of the committee.

New Business

Minute on Site Contingency Fund (Finance Committee, Larry Strain)

Larry Strain introduced the minute, which is attached. The purpose of the fund is no longer to finance a down payment for the meeting's purchase or acquisition of real property, but to meet a financial need that is essential to the life of the meeting beyond an ordinary operating expense or to respond to a specific leading by Spirit. Donations to the fund will be refunded on request. Those who had made pledges to the fund are now released from any obligation. This minute will season for one month. Friends with questions or concerns should contact the Finance Committee.

Reports

Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr)

Susan reported on the minute that was introduced at the April business meeting. About 20 Friends attended the April 21 listening session on the minute. PPR will continue to talk with individuals.

Quaker Action Worship Group will be developing queries.

Over the summer, PPR will be presenting a three-part discussion on the book *Mindful of Race* by Ruth King. Copies can be purchased at \$20 per copy. Friends needing help to pay for the book may contact Susan.

Care of the Meeting Committee (Shelley Tannenbaum)

Shelley thanked those who assisted in planning and organizing the spring retreat. 31 adults and 12 children attended the retreat, which ran a deficit of \$2600. Since \$2300 had been set aside

to cover a shortfall, the actual deficit is \$300. Shelley will consult with Finance Committee on how to cover the deficit. We may need to increase the annual subsidy.

A Friend asked that Worship and Ministry print the retreat worship sharing queries in the newsletter.

The spring 2020 retreat is scheduled for Friday, May 1 to Sunday, May 3.

Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group (Beth Rodman)

Beth reported that James Hosley has joined the working group to spearhead fabrication of the new banner. \$600 has been approved, and Beth expects the final cost to be no more than that. The new banner should be able to occupy the current amount of closest space. The working group wants to keep the message as simple as possible. Friends asked that the message state clearly that everyone is welcome. Beth replied that a rainbow flag might be set up next to the banner. As with the current banner, the new banner will be only displayed on days when it is not raining.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Paul McCold, Shelley Tanenbaum)

Paul McCold volunteered to be the point person for FWCC, one of the Quaker organizations that receive annual contributions from the meeting. Paul gave a brief description of the origins and work of FWCC, which has a consultation status with the United Nations. FWCC is a parent organization of the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO).

Shelley Tanenbaum, as General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness, recently attended FWCC's Section of the Americas meeting in Kansas City in March. Shelley was on a panel of Quakers in Earthcare that included two evangelical Friends. Despite theological differences, Shelley said they shared a passion about the environment and commitment to environmental justice.

Announcements

Next Meeting for Business, June 9, 2019 at 11:50 a.m. at Berkeley Technology Academy
College Park Quarterly Meeting Spring session, May 17 to May 19, 2019, Ben Lomond Quaker Center

CROP Hunger Walk, May 19, 2019

Avotcja Jiltonilro announced that her band will be playing next Saturday, May 18, at the Malcolm X Jazz Festival in Oakland's San Antonio Park.

Ralph Murphy thanked the Meeting for being allowed to serve as Clerk and thanked Stephen McNeil, Tom Yamaguchi and Rachel Findley for their support at the front table.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:45 pm.

Submitted by: Ralph Murphy, Clerk, Stephen McNeil, Acting Alternate Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk.