

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
May 13, 2018 Minutes

The Meeting opened at 11:55 am with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the Meeting. 32 Friends were present.

Betsy Morris shared responses from the Nominating Committee to the Advices and Queries on Harmony with Nature. The written report is attached to these minutes. Friends returned to worship for further reflections. In addition to carpooling, biking, and walking to meeting for worship, as suggested in the report, taking public transit can be added as an option.

The agenda was reviewed.

The minutes for the April 8, 2018 Meeting for Business were read and approved with the following correction. Margaret Moses Schneider's last name was incorrectly written as Strain.

The Clerk thanked Tom Yamaguchi for filling in for Stephen McNeil as recording clerk. The Clerk reported the following correspondence; a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Palo Alto Meeting will be held in June at Hidden Villa Ranch. The Clerk asked if someone would be able to be a contact person, including coordinating rides to the event. Lee Douglas volunteered and will contact Larry Perry for more information.

Old Business:

Membership Request of Pamela Ashton Mederos-Streetz

Rhea Farley reported for Care of the Meeting Committee. The committee has heard no concerns regarding the membership request from Pamela Ashton Mederos-Streetz. The membership request was approved. The welcoming committee will be Beth Wrightson (convener), Lee Douglas, and David Rutschman.

Nomination Slate for 2018-2019

Charlie Blanchard of Nominating Committee brought the slate of names that have been seasoning for one month. Concerns were brought to the committee about vacancies, which Nominating has been diligently filling. The slate of nominations was approved.

New Business:

Nominations

Charlie Blanchard of Nominating Committee brought the names of new nominations, which are underlined on the nominations sheet. Those names are to be seasoned for one month. The committee is hoping for more names to bring forward. There are some who have expressed interest in joining committees if they can start working in the fall.

The Clerk asked if it was acceptable for those whose names were brought today to begin their service now pending their approval at the June business meeting. The Meeting approved.

Reports:

Power, Privilege and Race Working Group

Susan Burr reported. This is the second report from the working group to business meeting. The first report was in July and covered the group's first 14 months. This report, which is attached, covers the next nine months. The stated purpose of the group is to:

- Open eyes and hearts to issues of power, privilege (including white privilege), and race, which are complex, entrenched, part of the air we breathe in U.S. society.

- Lay substantial groundwork in order to make our Meeting welcoming to all, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and identity, or class.
- Recognize structural racism and the ways it diminishes our lives, interferes with our relationships, and encumbers our spirits.
- Encourage Spirit-led internal transformation.

The working group has been involved in or attended the following events and activities:

- Labor Day weekend workshop (September 1-3), at Ben Lomond Quaker Center led by Vanessa Julye. (During that same weekend an attendee gave a message at Strawberry Creek meeting for worship that included racist comments.)
- A meeting for healing (October 15) led by Worship and Ministry in response to the racist message delivered at the September 3 meeting for worship.
- Adult education session (February 18), using four New York Times short films on race.
- Presentation at Berkeley Monthly Meeting by Corinna Gould (March 25) on the threat to Bay Area shellmounds
- Minute passed at the April business meeting on the preservation of the West Berkeley Shellmound. That minute has been distributed to Friends organizations and to Indian People Organizing for Change (IPOC) and read at a hearing on the shellmound during the April 24 Berkeley City Council meeting.
- A weekend Workshop (April 13-15) at Ben Lomond Quaker Center led by Paula Palmer on Quaker involvement in Indian boarding schools. The following Monday night (April 16) Paula spoke at Berkeley Monthly Meeting.

The future plans of the working group include a summer long book discussion, starting June 17, on *Set Free: A Journey Toward Solidarity Against Racism*. There will be more information in the newsletter and a flier will be available. Friends interested in attending may contact Susan Burr.

The working group is developing a job description and is seeking to add one or two more members.

In response to a Friend's questions, Susan said the working group is under the care of Care of the Meeting Committee. Members include Susan Burr as clerk, Laura Magnani, Deborah Marks, and Rachel Findley. Carl Anderson is the working group's buddy and has attended most meetings.

Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee

David Rutschman reported. Witness sharing at the April PESW meeting was provided by Stephen McNeil. Witness sharing at the May 27 meeting will be with Barbara Birch and on June 24 with Catya de Neegaard.

Committee members have joined other faith organizations to a monthly witness at the West Contra Costa County Detention Center. The actions are led by a different faith community each month, and PESW would like to see Strawberry Creek Meeting lead one in the future.

The Poor People's Campaign is being organized with a state kickoff meeting on Monday in Sacramento. PESW invites us to join the campaign, both as individuals and as a meeting. AFSC is participating in the event scheduled for this summer.

PESW is concerned about the declining participation in the Dime-A-Gallon fund, which may be the result of the end of the mini grants. The grants ended because the committee has no access to the web page in order to update the grant guidelines. Those guidelines are being reviewed by the committee. PESW asks that we talk about the future of the fund and reflect on how important this fund is to our action on climate.

Individuals responded to David's report with their own comments and questions. Sarah Hawthorne spoke for more participation in the Sanctuary Movement, including attending the Sanctuary Convening being held June

1 and 2 at the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California in Oakland. Leonard Joy announced a number of organizing events in advance of the September climate change conference in San Francisco.

Announcements:

College Park Quarterly Meeting is holding its Spring session May 18 to May 20 at Ben Lomond Quaker Center.

Laura Magnani announced AFSC is showing a film on restorative justice called Healing Justice on Friday, June 1 at 7 PM at Berkeley Friends Church, 1600 Sacramento Street.

The Clerk announced the annual Board meeting of Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends will be held after the end of this meeting for business.

Next Meeting for Business – June 10, 2018 at 11:50 a.m. at Berkeley Technology Academy

REMINDER: There will be no business meeting in July but there will be one in August.

The Meeting closed at about 12:55 p.m. with silent worship.

Submitted by: Ralph Murphy, Clerk, Rachel Findley, Alternate Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi, Acting Recording Clerk.