

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
May 10, 2020 Minutes

Business meeting opened at 11:45 am with silent worship and was conducted via Zoom. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 44 Friends were present. Lee Douglas read the responses of Nominating Committee to the advices and queries on Meeting for Worship. The Clerk reviewed the agenda which was posted to the meeting's web group, groups.io. The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the April 10, 2020 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following correction. Jay Cash is the Volunteer Clerk of the Outreach and Development Committee for Quaker Center. One Friend asked if it would be good process to name the Friends who said they were standing aside. Another Friend replied that Friends standing aside are not named in the minutes unless they ask to be named.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The Clerk gave an update on the request made at the last business meeting that a working group be created to respond to the needs of the wider community during the pandemic. Care of the Meeting discussed the issue at their last meeting and decided to refer the concern to Worship and Ministry Committee, PPR Subcommittee, Finance Committee, and Mutual Care Committee. Those committees will examine the request and report back to business meeting. One Friend asked that Care of the Meeting and Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness be added to the list of committees. The Clerk replied that other committees in the meeting are welcome to offer input as they may be led. The Clerk reminded the meeting of the list of local organizations that receive \$150 annual donations through Finance Committee. A Friend asked Finance Committee to repost the list of organizations receiving annual donations. Another Friend noted that there are other local funds being set up to assist those in the wider community with financial relief.

Strawberry Creek Meeting has received a thank you card for our \$150 donation to the Berkeley Food Pantry. The Clerk asked for a moment of prayer for the Pantry and the people they serve.

Tod Nysether thanked the meeting for our \$1,000 check to compensate for his loss of business due to the cancelation of the spring retreat. Tod's letter states that he has lost all of his summer cooking jobs. Tod hopes to cook for the meeting retreat next year. The Clerk asked for a moment of silence for both Quaker Center and Tod.

The Clerk received a message from Sharon Gates, Assistant to the PYM Clerk, reporting on the work of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. The committee has drafted a revision of the section on death and grieving. PYM is asking meetings to provide feedback on the revision before June 30. Laura Magnani and Carl Magruder are the co clerks of the Revision Committee. Laura announced that Care of the Meeting, Mutual Care and Worship and Ministry committees will sponsor a listening session on the revision on May 31. PYM asks that we respond as a meeting. Responses from individuals would be too difficult for the Revision Committee.

Old Business

Nominations (James Hosley, Nominating)

The 2020-2021 nominations slate has been seasoning for one month. Nominating Committee has heard no concerns on any of the nominations. The meeting approved the slate of nominees.

Tom Rothschild Membership Transfer (Shelley Tanenbaum, Care of the Meeting)

Tom Rothschild and Susan Burr moved into a Zoom breakout room while Tom's transfer request was being discussed. It is the practice of Strawberry Creek to not consider membership requests while the person seeking membership is present. In the past, a Friend has escorted the person seeking membership out of the room while that request is being considered.

Shelley Tanenbaum reported that Care of the Meeting has not heard any concerns regarding the membership transfer request. The transfer was approved. A welcome committee is composed of Stephen McNeil (convener), Michelle Bellows, and Tom Yamaguchi. Stephen will ask Tom Rothschild how he would like to be welcomed, either an online meeting now or an in person meeting when permissible later.

Laying down Lisa Hubbell's membership (Stephen McNeil, Care of the Meeting)

Care of the Meeting Committee is in unity on accepting Lisa Hubbell's request to lay down her membership in Strawberry Creek. The committee is writing a reply letter to Lisa. The meeting approved Lisa's request. The Clerk asked for a moment of silence for Lisa. Friends may still see Lisa at quarterly and yearly meeting sessions. Her name will be listed in the directory as a Scattered Berry.

New Business

There was no new business.

Reports

Communications (Ragni Larsen-Orta)

Ragni reported on the current activities of Communications Committee. Her report is attached. Sarah Hawthorne has been attending committee meetings as the incoming newsletter editor. Job descriptions are being updated online. Committees are being asked to review their job descriptions and provide changes before November.

The meeting has three databases for email contacts: members of the meeting's groups.io web group, subscribers to the electronic version of the Newsletter, and the meeting directory. Amy Dewey is the contact for groups.io. Peter Lin is the contact for the electronic Newsletter and meeting Directory.

A Friend asked if Communications Committee could reduce the size of its job description which is the longest of the existing committees. Another Friend suggested having a short job description supplemented by a job manual or handbook.

Finance (Larry Strain)

Finance Committee met to discuss the meeting's current financial situation. The committee needs to gather more information before it can submit a revised 2020 budget. Due to not meeting in person, expenses are currently down by \$2,000 to \$2,500 per month. The Committee anticipates that financial uncertainty and the loss of individual incomes may affect donations resulting in less income. The committee also discussed the organizations and activities the meeting supports and noted that this is a reflection of our Quaker values. 19 organizations receive annual donations of \$150. The meeting budget also supports Quaker organizations and events with a Quaker Events Support fund, a Quaker Center Annual Pass, and a Traveling Ministries fund. The Dime-A-Gallon fund is supported by donations from individuals and not from the meeting budget. The meeting maintains a Sharing Fund and has approximately \$18,000 in the Sharing Fund Reserve.

Ben Lomond Quaker Center (Jay Cash)

As a member of the Quaker Center Board, Jay Cash reported on the board meeting held yesterday. The board is committed to transparency, and financial books are open for public review.

All programs at Quaker Center have been canceled until the end of the year. The Year End Retreat has not been canceled yet. Current losses amount to \$18,000 per month. A staff of six has been reduced to four. Further staff reductions would be harmful, since those positions are difficult to replace.

BLQC has \$159,000 in its capital fund that it can use against the expected losses of \$89,000 to \$109,000 for the remainder of the year. A government loan is funding staff positions for the next eight weeks. A fundraising letter is being sent to monthly meetings.

A Friend asked about the status of the monthly meetings' yearly passes. Jay replied that a decision has not been made. The board may decide to extend the passes by six months. The board will meet again on June 27, and Jay will have more information to report. A Friend suggested that Quaker Center could hold online programs to generate income as Pendle Hill has done.

A Friend noted that there are other Quaker organizations that are experiencing financial difficulties and will probably need our assistance in the future.

Mutual Care (Nancy Wilkinson)

Mutual Care is checking in with Friends listed in the directory and identifying those needing assistance, including grocery delivery and transportation to medical appointments. People with financial needs can request money from the sharing fund. Nancy noted that the cities of Berkeley and Oakland also have funds for emergency assistance for individuals, including food purchasing. Mutual Care encourages members to reach out to each other.

Announcements

The next Meeting for Business will be held via Zoom on June 14 at 11:50 a.m.
College Park Quarterly Meeting Spring Session will be held via Zoom May 15-17.

Susan Burr announced Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee's summer book discussion series will be on White Fragility: why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism by Robin DiAngelo. The first of three discussions will be June 21. Details will be available in SCMM groups.io. Friends wishing to order the book may contact Susan Burr.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 2:00 p.m.

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