

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
for Worship on the Occasion of Business
April 14, 2024
Approved minutes**

The meeting opened at 12:30 p.m. online. Beth Wrightson clerked. 33 Friends were present via Zoom.

Sarah Hawthorne read the Advices and Queries on Meeting for Worship on behalf of the Worship and Ministry Committee.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted on groups.io on April 12, 2024.

The minutes of the March Meeting for Business were approved with the following correction: CHIRP stands for the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project.

The Clerk read the prompt: *"We are reminded to consider how our work and decisions today support SCMM in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community."*

Correspondence and Clerk's Business:

1. Site Search Committee. Margaret Moses Schneider is appointed to replace Ragni Larsen-Orta on the Site Search Committee. Ragni found it necessary to spend more time in Friends of Color spaces not available at Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting. The ad hoc SSC is now: Margaret, Amy Dewey, and Emily Thurston.
2. Ben Lomond Quaker Center will offer two camps this summer, for rising 5th through 7th graders June 16 to 22, and for rising 8th to 10th graders June 23rd through 30th.
3. Friends Journal wrote to ask if we want to renew our subscription. The Treasurer will research the situation and the Clerk will contact Friends Journal as needed.
4. A working group of Quaker Institute for the Future, which includes Betsy Morris, is conducting research on homelessness. The working group has sent a survey, which the Clerk will pass to Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee.

Old Business

State of the Meeting Report (Heather Levien) pointed out the changes that have been made to the report since the first draft was read at the March business meeting. The report was approved with appreciation for the work of the committee (Heather, Kat Stenstedt, and Francie Nurkse).

Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr) has been seasoning the recommendations for the refinement of the report on the use of the prompt and query on confronting racism. Susan expressed appreciation for the recommendations, and advised us that the current practice will continue until recommendations are finalized and approved.

New Business

1) Nominating committee (Charlie Blanchard) presented the first reading of a slate of committee clerks and members, officers, and representatives. The report is available via goups.io April 16th. Friends are encouraged to consider whether their names belong on any of the blank slots.

2) Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness (Jeanne Diller) A \$44 million police headquarters and regional training academy has been proposed for the city of San Pablo. Jeanne, who serves on an ad hoc committee organized to oppose the development, read a letter she hopes the Meeting will sign along with many other organizations. A friend spoke about the difference between, on the one hand, adding our name to a letter with many signatories, and, on the other hand, sending a letter on our own stationary. The proposal was approved.

Based on this request, and a previous request for endorsement of a minute opposing the war in Gaza, the clerk asked for clarification. How do Friends want her to respond when an item is presented to Meeting for Business which has not been seasoned by a committee? A thoughtful discussion followed. Friends spoke of the need for agility in some circumstances, the value of having committees provide their recommendations, and the possibility that the committee that might vet the request by email when the request is urgent. The clerk will consult Worship and Ministry about how to proceed.

Reports

Communications Committee (James Hosley) James Hosley read the report from Communications Committee. Its main points were:

1. The Committee is working creatively to work around the vacancies in the Librarian and Newsletter positions.
2. The Committee partners with our Treasurer, who volunteered as a one-off, to develop this year's list of Western Friend subscriptions. A permanent home for the Western Friend subscription duties needs to be found.
3. In March, the first Strawberry Creek annual photo since 2019 was taken, including 60 strawberries on Zoom and at B-Tech.
4. The Committee is working to get historical documents up on the meeting's website.
5. Requests have come to the committee to record religious education and other zoom sessions. Many privacy issues have yet to be ironed out.
6. Concerns have been expressed about the security of our zoom account. Look for more information soon.

John Woolman School / Sierra Friends Center (Cindy Trueblood) Cindy Trueblood, noting the time, did not read her entire report (shared via groups.io, April 22)) but shared the history and progress of the Sierra Friends Center land transfer as well as her personal evolution to supporting the sale of the land to California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project.

Community Sharing Fund (Tom Rothschild) Tom Rothschild reported that the Community Sharing Fund (CSF) has made donations with half of the allotted \$15,000. \$5000 went to CHIRP, and \$2500 went to Healthy Black Families. The committee welcomes suggestions about what other organizations we could support with these funds, and also encourages members to make donations earmarked for the Community Sharing Fund.

Query: *“How did our work and our decisions today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?”*

Announcements

- a. Next Meeting for Business: May 12, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.
- b. Events Committee (Elizabeth Strain) Retreat at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, May 3-5. Deadline for application is April 22.
- c. Quaker Events Fund reminder (Susan Burr) There is financial help available for Quaker events such as Pacific Yearly Meeting and Friends' General Conference. Please submit requests by June 1 to the Care of Meeting Committee.
- d. Adult religious ed: Peace Earthcare & Social Witness April 21, 12:30 p.m. (David Rutschman) The committee, along with PPR, will sponsor the first of two sessions on the California Reparations Report. This Friday at 7 p.m. there will be a reading of some of the material in the report to help folks prepare.

Meeting closed with worship at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Beth Wrightson, Clerk
Elaine Emily, Alternate Clerk
Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk