

Friday, August 26, 2016 Business Meeting

Co-clerks: Eliana, Blue

Recording Clerk: Jacob

The clerk began with a moment of silence and then stated the agenda.

- Nurture Committee - Christian White stood for Nurturing and Discernment Committees and presented the names of future Permanent-Nurturers, who have been asked and confirmed an interest in serving before this meeting: Rachel, Joaquin, Eve, Lily Basgall.
 - A friend reminded the clerks that proper procedure includes sending the people named out to confirm the names with the group. Those friends who were named left the room.
 - The community approved them. Those friends who were named returned.
- Discernment Committee – Discernment has been thinking about the end of our current Adult Clerk's term and how to proceed with finding a new adult clerk.
 - Raven present on behalf of the committee suggested qualities that would be useful for an adult clerk
 - Time to attend most if not all gatherings
 - Clerking experience
 - Connection to the Yearly meeting & ability to serve in some way as a liaison / translator between YM and YF.
 - Engaged with Young Friends when they are here
 - Approachable and trusted
 - Grounded but not overbearing
 - A friend clarified for the group that Robert's term is up at Onas 2017
 - Friends approved the list of qualities
- Program Committee - Kaise and Eve took turns suggesting themes for future gatherings
 - Fall: Serving the community and the greater world
 - Holiday: Play
 - Winter: Imagining the future you want
 - Spring: Finding and expressing your inner voice
 - Swatara: Looking back and Looking Forward
 - Onas: Self-help and de-stressing
- A few friends stated that the possible themes for future gatherings all sound similar

- The clerk asked for suggestions for how to make them more distinctive
- Without any sharing, the clerk asked if the community could approve the list given that Program Committee would keep working to make the subjects more distinct
- Friends approved
- Sweat Lodge
 - The clerk and co-clerk gave a short overview of the history of the sweat lodge and reviewed what was said in previous business meetings about the subject, then opened the floor for Friends to share their reflections towards the community making a decision about our future participation in the Quaker Sweat Lodge.
 - A friend said that this has happened throughout the east coast and native tribes have responded in different ways; we should hold off until we have a reply, but it has been about six months since we sent that question and it is likely that it has not reached them.
 - A friend had felt that George Price had no experience of the history of the Sweat Lodge, now feels that George was appreciating, not appropriating. The friend's personal belief is that to avoid cultural appropriation on-site appreciation and learning about the history of the sweat lodge is necessary. Some friends agreed.
- After a period of silence, The clerk asked if waiting to receive a reply letter back from the Lenape tribe felt important to Friends.
 - A friend said that they have learned that the Lenape did not practice the sweat lodge. Many friends agreed. The friend recommended sending a letter to tribes who are the closest tribe(s) who practice the sweat lodge.
 - A friend said that if they were to continue the practice of the sweat lodge, they would feel very uncomfortable if no response was received were received from the Lenape.
 - A friend said that the knowledge of the true devastation of the Native American tribes was necessary to continue this practice. The friend felt that if we do not really know how devastating it was, we should not do it. The friend recommended having a workshop about the past of the Native American tribes.
 - A friend felt they were not as educated as they could be.
 - The clerk asked if a commitment to justice for native peoples was present in the community. Resounding approval.
 - A friend said that sending a letter to a tribe with a particular practice of the sweat lodge and receiving a positive response does not give our group the right to combine that practice with others similar to it. The metaphor that was provided was Italian food is essentially the same as French food because they both use a certain type of cuisine. No practice is the same, so the right to the use of one is not the right to the use of all.

- A friend expressed approval.
- The clerk suggested the creation of a committee for Justice for Native People with a possible connection to George Price as well as our Young Friends Program Committee, possibly helping to create workshops to deepening our understanding of the various injustices suffered by native peoples historically and currently.
- Friends vigorously approved of this plan.
- The clerk and co-clerk asked for which members of the community would like this committee.
- The names that were presented were Eve, Jess, Kaise, Lily, Lily, and Eliana.
- The minutes were read back and approved and Friends closed with a moment of silence.