

Business meeting Wednesday, August 24, 2016

Clerk: Eliana Colzani

Co-clerk/recording clerk: Blue Mitchell

- The Clerk started with a moment of silence and then gave a review of the Sweat Lodge and George and Kody's positions which they had shared with the group following the last business meeting (Monday August 22, 2016).
 - George studied with the native peoples and feels that he respects the tradition. He thinks that to not do the tradition is to dishonor the Native Americans. He doesn't think that he is crossing into cultural appropriation because he is providing the spiritual messages and truths of the native peoples.
 - Kody said he didn't feel comfortable participating in a tradition that only brings him up without incorporating how the said tradition fits in with the full culture and the oppression of native peoples. Because the Young Friends community as a whole does not have a commitment to justice for native peoples, participating in their rituals is insensitive and can de-politicize issues about our history and encourage us to ignore the fact that we live on stolen land. Additionally, we do not know if there is unity among native peoples as to whether or not it is okay for others to participate in the sweat.
- The Clerk asked friends to give their thoughts on two prompts about the sharing from George and Kody: "what truths are sitting with you?" and "what questions remain for you?" Clerk clarified that this would not be a deciding space, but rather a space to share how we were processing the previous sharing.
 - A friend expressed that they thought that the sweat lodge offers opportunities that friends might not get on most occasions
- After some lengthy silence, the clerk asked about Friends' thoughts around cultural appropriation and the Quaker Sweat Lodge that George leads
 - A friend stated that they thought that George doing the sweat is not appropriation but to have friends do it is cultural appropriation
 - A friend noted the difference in tone between this year and last year's business meetings and how George clarified the sweat lodge
 - Multiple friends expressed that they thought of it as cultural appreciation
 - A friend wondered if George could modify the sweat to adhere to one native American culture rather than a few

- The clerk stated that they thought that the general mood of friends was that they would like to know what the differences between a “Quaker Sweat” and a traditional sweat are and a general history of the traditional sweat before proceeding onto the sweat lodge. Some friends agreed
- The clerk asked whether or not friends actually wanted to do the sweat
 - A few Friends showed enthusiasm in doing the sweat lodge
- The clerk asked for final thoughts