

The Green Street Messenger
Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends
45 West School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144
267-285-0553
secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org

West Philadelphia Preparative Friends Meeting
4718 Windsor Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143



Meeting for Worship

10:30 AM Via Zoom/83195217639

October 2020

Sunday, 4th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 11th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Sunday, 18th

10:30 AM
12:30 PM

Via Zoom/83195217639
Monthly Meeting for Business

Sunday, 25th

10:30 AM

Via Zoom/83195217639

Minutes of Green Street Monthly Meeting for Business Held Ninth Month 20, 2020

Via Zoom, Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Ninth Month 20, 2020.

Business Meeting convened at 12:45 pm in prayerful silence.

Clerk Gabe Ehri welcomed friends.

After a moment of centering prayer, Gabe read to us the query which we have approved to guide our work: How does our time together today support Green Street Meeting in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?

20-20-01 Report from our Meeting Secretary

Ashanta Washington provided friends a brief update on her work in support of the Meeting. She noted that the Meeting telephone is being forwarded to her personal cell phone so friends can trust that calls to the Meeting are not being ignored. Friends are welcome to contact her through that number (267-285-0553), though email (secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org) remains the best way to contact her.

Ashanta has established a PO Box for the Meeting to improve access to our paper mail. Following the passing of our member Geniver Montalvo, the work of maintaining and updating our website now falls on Ashanta. She is studying relevant programming skills and is confident that she will be able to manage the website in the future. When she has a clearer understanding of what is involved, she will coordinate this work with the current members of the Website Committee.

20-20-02 Nominating

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Clerk, reported.

Walter presented for a second reading the names of seven individuals originally nominated to various committees and positions in June 2020. The Meeting approved these seven Friends for service.

Walter reported that L. Lanza asked to have her nomination as a second Green Street representative to the Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting withdrawn given a number of

resignations in the PQM leadership which impact her role as PQM secretary. Nominating Committee will work with Jerry Williams, our remaining representative, to identify another friend to support his work.

Walter shared the link to a Google Folder where friends could find a continuously updated version of Green Street Meeting committee rosters. The link is regularly posted in the Meeting listserv. Any member or attender of the Meeting can contact Walter for the URL, though friends are asked not to share it with those outside of the Meeting given the confidential information that is stored in the folder.

20-20-03 Property Committee

Committee member Robin Mohr reported.

Lots of significant work is going on at the Meeting during this pandemic time. The concrete access ramp to the dining room has been poured. More work on correcting the drainage and other finishing touches needs to be done before the project is completed, with hope by the end of September.

Work on the electrical heating and cooling system has started. Our contractor, Air Done Right, is a POC-owned, Germantown-based company. The old boiler system has been removed. Property Committee will be organize a socially distanced work party to help move furniture to make space for the electric system installation. Friends hope that the whole project will be completed by mid-October unless additional work is revealed when the walls are opened up.

Work on the project revealed that the electrical connection to the Meetinghouse is unsafe. PECO is responsible for the fix and has been informed.

Friends expressed their deep gratitude to the Property Committee for their work, particularly Dan McDevitt for managing the ramp project and Anthony DiGiovanni for the HVAC project.

20-20-04 Reopening Plan & Policies

Discernment Committee member Jocelyn Banks reported.

Jocelyn gave a brief overview of the Discernment Committee report outlining the proposed structure for starting outside in-person worship at the Meetinghouse and eventual face-to-face worship inside. The committee assumes that there are people who will want to meet in-person and those who will want or need to continue to meet virtually for a long time. The committee recommends that the Meeting seek professional technical advice on how to accomplish hybrid worship that works as best as possible for all involved. How long it will take to figure out the technology is not known. No inside worship is possible before the work on the new heating and cooling is complete and the Meetinghouse put back together.

Friends were invited to ask questions and share their thoughts. Friends encouraged close communication with Greene Street Friends School as they consider reopening for in-person classes and to coordinate responsibilities for cleaning and sanitizing surfaces. Clerks and the School administration meet regularly and can make sure this happens.

Friends wondered about the timing of indoor worship, particularly if the hybrid technology has not been worked out. One friend hoped that folks will know in advance how many people plan to attend in-person worship because they would feel different about joining with 5 rather than 20. Friends also wanted the Meeting to do a better job of making information about worship, both in-person and virtual, available to members of the general public.

Friends minuted their general approval of the reopening plan and procedures created by the Meeting Discernment Committee with great thanks for their efforts.

Friends acknowledged that there remains a question about when the Meetinghouse will be opened for indoor worship and the timing of various meetings on First Day going forward. Friends asked the Discernment Committee to keep meeting and to bring back a specific recommendation. The Discernment Committee will also make sure that information about in-person meeting is posted at the Meetinghouse.

Friends acknowledged that the specific policies and protocols may change as the advice from the City responds to the ever-changing nature and understanding of the pandemic. As needed, edits will be made to the document which can be found on-line, and the link which will be regularly posted on the listserve.

Worship and Ministry will take responsibility for recruiting and scheduling friends to take care of both in-person and virtual worship. The Meeting looks forward to hearing more from the working group exploring best practices for linking virtual and in-person worship together through technology.

Friends who have clear opinions about how they hope in-person worship will be held over the next few months were strongly encouraged to contact members of the Discernment Committee.

20-20-05 Closing Announcements

With time ending the clerk promised to send out a brief written report from Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting which we can discuss at our next Meeting for Business.

One friend suggested that we might consider a query that had arisen out of Worship this morning, “How might we become the Quakers that the world needs us to be?” The clerk suggested that friends reflect on the query and we could take it up next

month as well.

With gratitude for our work together, Meeting ended in worship with the intention of meeting again at the appointed time on Tenth Month 18, 2020.

Gabe Ehri, Clerk

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

The recording clerk forgot to gather the names of those in attendance, but many were.

News & Announcements

Please submit all news and announcements to the secretary by the 28th of each month.

Meeting for worship is at 10:30. All are welcome.