

Ben Lomond Fellowship Steering Committee minutes
Jan. 9, 2025

Open meeting with the Serenity Prayer

Attendance: O'Neill, Zoom facilitator and Monday noon secretary; Jason, chair; Michelle, media coordinator and recording secretary; Chris B., co-treasurer; Matthew, Intergroup chair; Beth, in-person secretary coordinator; Eric, maintenance; Matt M., supplies coordinator; Russell, activities coordinator; and Chris K., Friday 6 p.m. secretary

Approve Recording Secretary Minutes from Dec. 12, 2024—Matt/Beth 2nd—unanimous

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report — Chris B.: No report. He's still waiting on December accounting. We have a lot of money in the business account. January rent was paid but probably not the right amount because the autopay system was set to last year's rent. The rent increased by \$100 in January.

GSR—Open position, no report.

H&I—Coordinator wasn't present; no report.

Intergroup—Open position, no report.

Literature—Coordinator emailed her report. Everything is stocked up.

Online meeting secretary coordinator — Coordinator wasn't present; no report.

In-person meeting secretary coordinator — Beth: All meetings except two are filled. Saturday noon is a problem. The Secretary's commitment was up Dec. 14 and she can't continue. Beth asked her to let us know if she won't be there so we can backfill. The co-in person secretary coordinator is leaving so we need a replacement. Jason asked members to see if anyone can do it. Russell/Michelle 2nd—unanimous approval.

Media coordinator — Michelle: No report.

Maintenance — Eric: No report.

Supplies — Matt: No report, but we're stocked up.

Activities — Russell: Thanked everyone for help with past events, and asked what the expectations are for the Super Bowl fundraiser. Matthew said that's also the ACYPAA convention in downtown Santa Cruz. Jason said Russell could form a committee and recruit people to plan the Super Bowl fundraiser. Eric suggested a football pool to raise extra money. O'Neill suggested asking for a suggested donation instead of a flat fee to encourage attendance. O'Neill/Matt 2nd—unanimous approval

Old business —

- Real Estate Committee—Jason recapped the issue: 7th tradition donations and fundraiser revenue are on a downward trend, while rent increases each year. Jason had previously volunteered to head a committee to look at ways to address the issue, but he won't be able to fulfill that, so he's stepping down and asked for another volunteer. O'Neill asked for details about the position. Jason said the committee chair should be on the Steering Committee and would work with other members to research possible solutions, like finding another building, renegotiating the lease, hosting more fundraisers, or other ideas. "This is going to be a long process," Jason said. Chris suggested talking to Mark K., a member whose wife is a Realtor, to approach the landlord about renegotiating the lease. Michelle suggested having a Steering Committee member approach the landlord instead, and volunteered to contact them. Jason said he'd participate as well. They'll report back in February.

New business —

- Comedy fundraiser—Jason: Recovery comedian Mark Lundholm has agreed to do a fundraiser for the fellowship, at no cost. We would need to rent the Scotts Valley Performing Arts Center for \$550, plus a \$250 refundable deposit. Tickets would be \$30 for general admission and \$50 for VIP. VIP would include a meet and greet with Mark, a signed copy of his book, and priority seating. We'll have a 50/50 raffle and we could also project the BLF QR codes to get extra donations. The event would be Saturday, March 22, from 6 to 9 pm. The venue holds 285 people. Jason said he'd like to form a committee with Chris K. as chair, and Jason and Michelle as other members. Volunteers would also be recruited to help. Beth asked when the committee would meet and Jason said Chris would figure that out. Matt/O'Neill 2nd — unanimous approval.
- Mystery books—Chris B. said that the fellowship received a box of very nice, new photography books from someone in Rhode Island named Bill Harnett. The box didn't include any correspondence explaining why they were sent. O'Neill suggested making them raffle prizes, and Beth said they'd be great for the Take Your Sponsor to Dinner event.
- Intergroup relations: Matthew said there's a disconnect between Intergroup and the Ben Lomond Fellowship. There isn't an Area 11 representative for the San Lorenzo Valley, nor is there an intergroup rep for the Ben Lomond Fellowship. He said that more advertising for the fellowship should be done so we can get support for our fundraisers. Members acknowledged the need to spread the word about fundraisers. Chris B. said that the fellowship made a \$4 "profit" per month in 2024, after all the bills were paid. Jason said, "We know that over the longhaul, it's not sustainable." Jason acknowledged the need to create a better connection with Intergroup, but said that no one has been interested in volunteering. O'Neill suggested moving SC committee meeting to Tuesday to avoid conflict with pie meeting in Felton so that more people will attend the SC meeting. Beth noted that we can't even recruit people from our own fellowship for open positions. Jason said we've looked at changing the SC meeting time before and the Thursday night slot has been proven to work best for everyone.

Motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.: O'Neill, Beth 2nd

Close meeting with the Serenity Prayer