

Minutes for College Park Quarterly Meeting

Spring 2020

Following a period of worship, College Park Quarterly Meeting Clerk, Barbara Babin of Redwood Forest Meeting, welcomed us to our first ever virtual quarterly meeting, gathering in this time when we continue to shelter in place to protect our communities against COVID-19. Though we couldn't do a traditional role call, Barbara welcomed everyone. The theme is "Shall we Gather at the River?" the river being what gathers us and sustains us. When we left each other in Winter Quarter, we were talking about climate issues, and we intended to keep talking about those issues, but we may not have had the time or energy to do that, so please do continue and send your thoughts about the queries the quarterly meeting sent out to Barbara.

We had 144 people register for this meeting, and we are grateful for all of them even though not all participants attended all the sessions; the planners for this quarterly knew vaguely about Zoom fatigue when they were planning but not even what it was called. Clerk Barbara introduced those who would normally be seated at the clerk's table: herself; Assistant Clerk, Janet Leslie from Chico Meeting; Recording Clerk, Heather Levien of Berkeley Friends Meeting; and, for this virtual session, Zoom Coordinator, Andrea Harmon of Palo Alto Meeting. The Clerk recognized the Registration team for their assistance in arranging this quarterly session as well.

The Clerk noted that it may be difficult to remain in worship in this mode, and asked that we try to remember how we would act if we were together, for example saying our names and meetings when we begin.

We had visitors:

Sharon Gates and David McKenzie, Orange Grove
Rebekah Percy, Interim Youth Programs Coordinator, Orange Grove
Henry Yang, Ben Lomond Quaker Center Board, Santa Monica Meeting
Sandra Schwartz, San Francisco, for College Park Friends Education Association
Susan Wilson and Bob Fisher, Ben Lomond Quaker Center Co-Directors

Alma Moon of Strawberry Creek, co-clerk of the Teen Program – was introduced, and she talked about the intergenerational online computer games like Pictionary that will happen tonight. The teens also plan to join us throughout the day. Nate Secrest, Redwood Forest, one of the Teen Committee Clerks, added a promotion for the sorts of computer games that we will be playing tonight. Jesse Mitchell, Ari Standish and Nate will be the FRAPS for the Teen Gathering later. Callum Standish, co-clerk of Teen Program, also added details about the games activity.

Naming Committee:

Bob Runyan of Chico Meeting, Convenor of the Naming Committee, brought us a report recommending Liz Baker, Sacramento Meeting, to serve for a three year term through 2023 on the Nominating Committee with the coming year as Clerk of the Committee. This name was held over until the afternoon, with comments to be directed to members of the current Naming Committee.

The Clerk reminded us that we needed to generate names for a new Naming Committee during this session since Bob Runyan, Dina Bachrach and Cindy Trueblood are finishing their period of service. She asked us to settle into worship and discern some possible names. Out of the silence, we brought forth the name Stephen Matchett. Barbara asked us to chat or text her more names that come to us.

Our clerk then asked Sandy Kewman to speak about Stephen Matchett. Sandy told us about Stephen's recently diagnosed brain tumor and that he is now in hospice. He is able to see members of his family one at a time. Sandy will post his address so we can send cards to him or his brother. She asked that we hold him and his family in the Light as they go through this transition.

Nominating Committee:

Nate Secrest of Redwood Forest Meeting presented the Nominating Committee slate (attached in the archived minutes). All officers and clerks are named for one year terms, and all of the names were held over until Saturday afternoon's plenary, with any comments on these names to be given to a member of the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee took concerns by e-mail. Stephen Myers, Nominating Committee, clarified that membership of the Quaker Center Board and the FASE Board are for information only, since these corporations do not make their nominations through the quarter.

Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Henry Yang of Santa Monica Meeting, co-clerk of the Ben Lomond Quaker Center Board, presented a report on Ben Lomond Quaker Center (attached in archived minutes). He told us about his son's experience as a teen at Quaker Center, being integrated even though he initially felt different. His talk was supported by slides from Susan Wilson, showing photos of the Center. Henry talked about the successes of the past year, the large number of people who have used Quaker Center, and the transition to new Co-Directors, Susan Wilson and Bob Fisher, in August 2019. With Kathy and Bob Runyan moving to Chico just in time for the wildfire season, Bob and Susan undertook a steep learning curve that has included a complete shutdown of the Quaker Center programs this spring with the COVID-19 pandemic. Henry spoke of the Quaker Center's

continuing online activities and its need for the quarter's spiritual and financial support during this very difficult period.

Finance Committee

Carl Anderson of Strawberry Creek Meeting, Clerk of the Finance Committee, gave us a report (attached in archived minutes).

Since Ben Lomond Quaker Center and its cook, Tod Nysether, had been anticipating payments for our spring quarter, and we had already made deposits of \$1919.40, Finance Committee proposed leaving that deposit with Quaker Center and making a further contribution of \$1000 to Quaker Center and \$1000 to Tod Nysether to help make up for lost income. The Finance Committee feels that we have funds sufficient to make these payments.

The Clerk explained these are not usual payments and that we would need a minute to make them.

A number of questions followed.

A Friend wondered whether we might hold this question over, since we were running short of time, and there were some questions remaining about using such a significant portion of our reserves. The Finance Committee report will be posted so that Friends can look at it before this afternoon's plenary.

We held over until the afternoon the minute and the names of those who can sign checks for the quarter.

College Park Friends Educational Association

Sandra Schwartz of San Francisco Meeting, Clerk of the CPFEA board, made the report (attached in archived minutes) updating us on the situation at Woolman. Things are very difficult there too. Their short-term rentals have been shut down, and the plans for the Woolman Outdoor School which was scheduled to begin in Fall 2021 have been slowed and the outdoor camps are in limbo for the moment, with the parents needing to be informed of their status. An ad hoc committee of M&O was set up after Winter quarter to advise the board about the situation. The board had hired a co-director for finances and was talking to major donors in February when COVID-19 struck. Executive Director, Amy Cooke has since been laid off, in consultation with Amy herself. Sandra expressed her appreciation for Amy and said that they want to celebrate her service as soon as possible. The board is currently meeting weekly to decide on the best course of action, and Marty Coleman-Hunt, who had been the new co-Director, is now serving as the Interim Executive Director and giving them her financial expertise.

Plenary 2

Clerk Barbara compared all the changes from room to room online to Contra dancing, which she does from time to time, and finding new partners.

Naming Committee

We returned to the Naming Committee recommendations and approved Liz Baker as a member of the Nominating Committee through 2023 and clerk for the coming year.

New Naming Committee Members

The Clerk reported that Alma Moon has agreed to be an Alternate Member of the Naming Committee for the coming year. One other Friend does not feel able to serve, and another has not yet been reached. We will work out a process for naming people to this committee.

Nominating Committee

We heard again the names recommended to us by the Nominating Committee, and we approved them.

Registrar

Eric Sabelman of Palo Alto Meeting, of the Registration Committee, made the report (attached in archived minutes). He made a chart with registration by meetings; he had checked in 102 registrants so far. Chico has the most registered participants, though they are a small meeting. We only had 80 in attendance last spring with the most from Santa Cruz, the closest meeting.

Final Discernment

We returned to the minute from Finance Committee about contributions to Ben Lomond Quaker Center and Tod Nysether. A Friend asked how much had been received in contributions for this session. Tom Yamaguchi, Treasurer, noted that there are a number that have not been added in yet, but so far he has received something more than \$1400. We approved making these contributions.

A friend asked about contributions and payments via PayPal and Barbara suggested that they make that comment on the evaluation.

Planning Committee

Please allow the Planning Committee, Barbara and the Clerks, to make decisions without the entire quarter, and if that feels uncomfortable, there will be a called meeting. The sort of question will be whether to meet in person for fall and whether Sierra Friends Center would be available.

Minutes

Heather Levien read the minutes of the morning and afternoon plenaries, which we approved with minor corrections.

We approved Alma Moon, Strawberry Creek, as an Alternate Member of the Naming Committee.

Assistant Clerk, Janet Leslie, Chico Meeting, described the interest groups.

Kathy Runyan, of M&O, shared that Mark and Keith Runyan and Emily (who are sharing space) will have a campfire in front of the Redwood Lodge that we can share virtually with them.

Nate Secrest, Redwood Forest, told us about the computer games that would be available later.