

College Park Friends Educational Association Report - Fall 2020

Hello Friends. My name is Sandra Schwartz, currently serving as the Clerk of the College Park Friends Educational Association or Woolman, as so many know it.

As you know, it has been a difficult year, not just for Sierra Friends Center but for the many thousands of people who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their property, and even the lives of loved ones.

This year can be characterized as a constant response to crises, financial, COVID- 19, and fire. I have heard some concern that we have not been communicating as frequently as people would like. I hope you can understand that since the fire we have been dealing with situations that require immediate attention; for example, we still don't have potable water on campus. We have done our part, but the County has not been able to come out and check the water and certify it. Residents can use the water for bathing and washing but not drinking, so bottled water has been delivered since August. That is just one small example of thousands. However, as we have worked through these crises with a small but dedicated board, volunteers, and staff, I am struck by how resilient we are. All have been willing to put in many overtime hours, including weekly Board meetings in addition to committee meetings. If we have forgotten to keep you in the loop, it is because often it is hard to know what to say as the information may change by the day or even the hour.

Today I am going to go back to where we last spoke in May at Spring Quarterly and try to fill in the background information.

When I reported in May during the Spring Quarterly Meeting that all of our programs were shut down due to COVID, we were still hoping to have a shortened camp program of three weeks instead of six. However, we were forced to cancel camp completely due to health concerns related to COVID- 19. This required refunding the tuition that families had made for camp. Some families declined the refund and made their tuition gifts and others rolled the tuition over for camp in 2021. It is important to note that 6 months of staffing costs preparing for camp had occurred and had to be paid out of regular operating income, a very challenging reality that pushed the organization toward serious financial instability.

During the early spring, we met with our lenders regarding our financial situation. Our lenders were very generous with us, offering a number of options including forbearance of payment for some months, interest-only payments, and restructuring debt to lower our monthly run rates. We continue to work closely with all of our lenders. Our current long-term debt is \$1.13 million.

We also reported that we received a PPP loan, which was the first COVID CARES Act funds issued by Congress to help businesses and non-profits keep people employed. We hired camp staff to do general maintenance work on the campus including replacing roofs on A-frames, painting, cleaning and sorting camp supplies, and

general deferred maintenance. We also were able to use the money to hire a general contractor to continue work on the Ranch House, which included installing windows and siding, painting, etc. The fully restored Ranch House will be ready for rental at current market rates next month. We have followed the requirements for the PPP loan to be converted to a grant which will occur when the feds open the application portal.

We also received an EIDL loan or Economic Injury Disaster Loan of \$150,000 from the Small Business Administration at 2.75% interest rate over 30 years. \$10,000 of this loan has been turned into a grant. We have been holding most of that money in reserve for an emergency as we don't want to increase our debt. However, we have used some of the monies to pay debt that was at very high-interest rates, like the credit card. This isn't increasing our debt, just replacing debt with debt at a much more favorable interest rate. We will consider this approach as a way to restructure other loans that have less favorable terms.

As summer approached and COVID 19 shut down all income opportunity: rentals, camp, retreats, weddings, etc. We realized that we could not hold out forever with the cash we had on hand and we didn't want to go into bankruptcy. So, we engaged a real-estate broker, Terry Hundemer, from Chickering and Company, who specializes in selling large properties, camps, and ranches, throughout the west. He suggested marketing the property for between \$2 - \$3 million. He was also willing to facilitate a sale between CPFEA and a "friendly buyer". We started holding buyers' meetings in July and August with interested parties in the hopes that we would find a buyer or group of buyers who wanted to own the land and lease it back to CPFEA for programs. Our plan was to report to Quarterly Meeting in October where we stood with the land sale. If we weren't successful in engaging a friendly buyer by December, we would allow Terry Hundemer to begin marketing the land to the larger world. We had three buyer's meetings, one with stakeholders, i.e. our lenders and donors, and two with a much larger group of interested parties ranging from alumni, Quakers, to local individuals. Interest was gathering. And then on August 17, as a result of a lightning storm, we were devastated by the Jones Fire!!

The fire has changed everything once again. Terry Hundemer does not recommend selling the property now with the level of damage to the land and buildings. It would literally be a fire sale, so currently the land is not for sale.

The fire burned 19 out of 44 structures – 16 were destroyed and 3 were damaged - not counting smoke damage in all the buildings. Approximately 150 acres of forest burned, 2/3 of the land. Some of this area is considered catastrophic meaning the fire was so hot it killed the soil. There is damage to the trees, damage to the creek, riparian areas, and the uplands. Farm infrastructure is severely damaged including the barns/sheds, fences, irrigation system, most of the garden structures burned. There was some damage to the well, water, irrigation and sewer infrastructure. We are very lucky that due to the heroic efforts of fire crews, the fuels reduction work staff has undertaken year-after-year and the 40 acres of maintained, irrigated pastures surrounding the campus, most of the main structures were saved.

We have good fire insurance and have been meeting with the insurance adjustors to determine the final settlement. In the meantime, the County Disaster Relief Fund awarded us \$15K, which was used primarily to provide rent relief to our tenants who were all displaced for several weeks due to water and power issues, and damage to some homes. Another \$15,000 has been raised in donations.

Madrone Hall did burn to the ground. Madrone Hall was rented to Sierra Streams Institute which was a partner on many environmental sustainability initiatives. It was a great loss to both organizations in many ways.

Since the fire, we have engaged Kevin Whitlock a local forester with a lot of international forest management experience to manage a salvage operation and reforestation plan. We must cut dead and dying trees within 3 months to realize any retail value due to a blue mold that begins to encroach on the timber. We have secured a purchase order with a local timber company. Fortunately, we had a Timber Harvest Plan in place, which has expedited the sale significantly.

Erosion control is critical. We are planning to apply for another disaster grant to cover costs for control actions such as installing waddle, hay bales, swales, etc. Americorp Disaster Relief crews will arrive on October 28 to work on erosion control and debris removal. There are other disaster grants for tree seedlings but we need to assess how much of the forest should be replanted vs. enlarging pastures for future fire mitigation.

Mel's Pond was drained due to fire damage and we will use this opportunity to do some needed dredging and weed management. We may replumb the pond to make it part of the campus firefighting infrastructure of the future.

Much of the debris cleanup of buildings destroyed by the fire is dependent on FEMA due to hazardous waste. As one might imagine, FEMA is overwhelmed and the timeline is unclear at the moment. Our rebuilding efforts are dependent on FEMA's cleanup.

All of which is to say, that we the CPFEA Board have our hands full. We are blessed to have Marty Coleman-Hunt, Interim Executive Director working on this day and night. Marty has a background in land and site management and knows where there is grant funding for some of the recovery operations. We are lucky that Doug Smith agreed to serve on the Finance Committee back in February and that he has extensive experience with fire insurance and insurance adjustors, and is able to assist Marty in wading through the fine print of more than 600 pages of the policy. We are fortunate to have two new Board members joining the Board, Phyllis Jewel, parent of an Woolman Semester School alum and an attorney, who is returning to the Board after a leave of absence, and Heidi Pidcoke from the San Francisco Friends Meeting who brings a wealth of international experience after working in Africa and Geneva for the past 10 years. We are so happy to welcome them to the Board.

We are recruiting new committee members for Buildings and Grounds, and Educational Programs in particular. We have an opportunity to plan a new and improved campus that meets the needs of future programs with structures that are versatile and durable. As we begin land restoration efforts, we need to create management plans for the grounds, the farm, and the forest that make the best use of current knowledge and practices for healthy forests, watersheds, and land management. We need to meet the current moment with Quaker values, and develop programs that foster diverse learning communities in the search for peace with social justice and environmental sustainability. These must be designed with proper business plans that support overall financial stability. These programs must support in-person and virtual learning since we expect Covid will be with us for a while. If you have expertise in any of those areas, please contact us.

Not all of the news about the fire is bad. We have struggled for years to identify and build a secondary egress as an alternative evacuation route for our campus and our neighbors. The dozer lines cut by fire crews may have created this route for us. We will be working with the county to see if those bulldozer roads can be made permanent and what additional connections are needed.

As I said earlier, we have good insurance, thank you Church Mutual. We don't have the final offer, but we think we may be able to make substantial progress on repaying all of our debt and rebuild the deteriorating infrastructure that was plaguing all efforts to create a future for Woolman. We may not have enough money to rebuild some of the buildings but we have been advised to use the money to invest in the infrastructure. No one will donate money to replace pipes and electrical panels. These are all issues that will need to be decided once we have a number to consider but we want to assure all of you that we intend to use the money responsibly and with an eye for the future.

We recently held a ceremony for grieving on the one-month anniversary of the fire. Shelly Covert from the Nisinan tribe sang songs of grief and loss for the land at the ceremony. Holding a big cry and singing are traditional ways to mourn. Eight local firefighters who fought valiantly to save Sierra Friends Center joined us, all in uniform. After the formal remarks and singing we gathered in worship sharing groups to answer the query, how am I preparing for the future? It was a beautiful sunny day and those who gathered on the soccer field to remember and grieve seemed to appreciate the opportunity to be together. Even the firefighters joined the worship sharing groups!

Many people want to help. We are setting up volunteer work weekends beginning October 30th. Due to Covid we can accommodate no more than 12 individuals each weekend. We have many projects for volunteers including forest debris clean-up, erosion control, trail repair, garden restoration and others.

We continue to be open to working with the local Nisenan tribe to build strong relationships. There have been conversations and we met with Paula Palmer to ask about models for joint projects. There is a deep desire of many to explore this further,

but today we are consumed by managing the pressing issues that must be dealt with before the rains cause another environmental disaster.

We want to acknowledge that while the fire has potentially created the opportunity to address long-standing financial issues, it also requires us to engage in spiritual listening and threshing of what we are being asked to bring forth in and for this land, this community of those that live on and love this place, and those who will visit, learn and live here in the future. Our goals have established a solid framework, but during this time of such uncertainty, we are called to slow down and collectively discern what are the promptings of Spirit.

As we have met each new hurdle over the course of the year. It has been our goal to protect the investment that our donors and lenders have made in Woolman, to care for the land, and to bring mission-driven programs to Woolman. Each of those goals has been challenged but we are unwavering in our efforts to accomplish them. We hope you will join us as we move toward a more positive, sustainable future.



Friends Committee on Legislation of California

October 16, 2020

Report to Meetings Fall 2020

Information provided by Kevan Insko, Co-Director, kevan@fclca.org and Jim Lindburg, Legislative Director, JimL@fclca.org

Thanks to the support of Friends Meetings around the state and of concerned individual donors and activists, FCLCA was able to continue a strong lobbying program even in this most unusual of legislative sessions. In the context of an erratic and compressed schedule due to the pandemic, the Legislature focused on efforts to mitigate the economic and health crisis, as well as efforts to address racial justice. In addition to the lobbying done by Jim and Kevan, statewide, FCLCA activists joined virtual lobby visits on Zoom and sent over 3,660 email messages to their legislators!

Among the highlights:

AB 2542 – The California Racial Justice Act, by Ash Kalra, was signed by Gov. Newsom! This landmark legislation will make it possible for a person charged or convicted of a crime to challenge a conviction or sentence on the basis of bias based on race, ethnicity or national origin. FCLCA was part of the workgroup that helped get this bill passed.

AB 1876 was signed by the governor. This is a budget bill to include tax filers who use Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers, mostly undocumented immigrant workers, in the California Earned Income Tax Credit and Young Child Tax Credit, which are recognized as among the most effective anti-poverty measures. Over 600,000 low-income people will benefit, including an estimated 245,000 children. FCLCA worked in coalition over several years on this issue and brought in other faith-based groups as supporters.

FCLCA played a role in the passage of AB 3070 to address racial bias in jury selection and in the passage of SB 823 to close the Department of Juvenile Justice and move its mandate to the Dept. of Health and Human Services, writing letters, lobbying legislators, and testifying in hearings.

Gov. Newsom signed SB 1383, a landmark bill to ensure job protection for people, typically low-income wage earners, who need to take family leave (that they have paid for through disability insurance deducted from their paycheck) to care for themselves, ill family members or a newborn. This bill was especially critical in the current pandemic - six million workers stand to benefit! FCLCA staff helped organize support via the statewide Work and Family Coalition, and FCLCA supporters virtually lobbied their legislators.

There were several disappointments also – unfortunately, SB 555, a bill co-sponsored by FCLCA, passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Newsom. SB 555 would lower the cost of communications and commissary items in local jails and detention centers that fall on the backs of low-income families. With your support, we will continue to work next year to find a way to address this problem.

Environmental legislation, too, did not have a stellar year. FCLCA worked extensively on SB 54 and AB 1080 which would require California to significantly phase out most single use plastic – unfortunately, the bill fell four votes short in the Assembly. We expect to see a ballot initiative in 2022 to reduce single use plastic.

We don't know yet what specific bills will be introduced next year. We do know that much work needs to be done on climate change and other environmental issues. We know that our economy is still reeling from the effects of the pandemic and that our most vulnerable Californians will be especially hard hit if significant federal help doesn't come through. We know that significant reforms in policing still need to move forward.

With your support, we will be ready to act. But we need your help. Like many nonprofits, FCLCA and the FCL Education Fund are feeling the effects of an economy and society in crisis. This has already led to cuts in staffing and gives urgency to our current end of year fundraising.

To help out, generous donors have offered to match Meeting contributions directly from the Meeting's budget/reserves that are made between July 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, and that are greater than the previous contribution from the Meeting's funds (in some cases that previous contribution would have been made in 2019, or in the case of a July-June fiscal year in the first half of 2020.)

We encourage individual Friends to become monthly sustainers: \$85 a month from one person would sponsor a whole day of our advocacy, lobbying and education, and fifteen people contributing \$25 a month each would sponsor our Action Network online system (that sent over 3,600 messages to legislators in 2020) for a whole year.

A reminder that, with election time close at hand, the FCLCA Board of Directors' recommendations on California's November ballot propositions, along with a brief analysis and rationale for the board's recommendations are now online on our Action Center <https://cqcengage.com/fclca/home> and on our website, www.fclca.org.

We'd like to thank you again for your thoughtful participation in our civic life, for your activism and for your generous support of FCLCA/FCL Education Fund. You are very much appreciated!

Fall 2020 Report from Ministry and Oversight

2020-10-26

Ray Rischpater, clerk

Committee:

Jim Anderson
Joe Magruder
Kathy Runyan
Ann Marie Snell
Cindy Trueblood
Barbara Babin, ex-officio as CPQM clerk

Your quarter's Ministry and Oversight committee serves the quarter by shepherding the quality of worship and relationships of the quarter as whole, and, upon request, within individual meetings. As such, we work with your clerk, assistant clerk, and planning committee to help organize our quarterly gatherings through facilitating time for worship, worship sharing, and holding those in our plenary and interest sessions in worship during our time together.

This work has kept us quite busy over the last several months!

As the pandemic spread, we worked with a number of meetings to help understand and share best practices for corporate worship via Zoom and other means. We hosted two listening sessions with members of meetings in our Quarter, and have been asked to hold another series of them in the future. At these meetings, we've heard you tell us about your experiences with online worship:

- You are seeing faces that haven't been to meeting in a long time
- Many of you are surprised that Zoom works as a replacement of any kind for in person worship
- Many are worried that meeting online diminishes what we experience when we are gathered in person at worship
- Online worship opens some doors to some people (enabling far-flung members to attend meetings) while disenfranchising others (including those who do not have the technical experience or the income necessary to support Zoom-capable devices and internet connections).

Several meetings have expressed an interest in continuing these discussions around the quarter in order to find best practices and common ways of working as the pandemic continues to inhibit our ability to meet in person and we plan to hold further such discussions.

We've also been working with several meetings as they grapple with the reality today that for a variety of reasons (aging, moving away, and so forth) that there are fewer people participating both in meeting for worship and in service to their meeting. Meetings are approaching these

challenges in exploring "committee restructuring" and "re-envisioning" exercises to examine what is truly important for a meeting's life and service as well as in some cases working through the painful discussions around whether it may be time to lay down a meeting altogether. Some meetings have found new life during the pandemic, because far-flung members are actually able to participate *more* now that they don't have to travel for meetings for worship and committee meetings. This work is just one example of how the committee serves you: members of the quarter's M&O committee have worked with meetings in the past that have distress over any number of issues that feel too great for a specific meeting to handle alone. You're invited to reach out to me, or another member of the committee at any time with those concerns.

While the primary responsibility of the corporations under our care resides with their boards, the M&O committee has also been actively helping CPFEA by providing some specific assistance as they examine their way forward, including attendance by our committee members to several of their board meetings to hold CPFEA in worship as they deliberate. Several members of the M&O committee also participated in part of Ben Lomond Quaker Center's visioning teleconferences as they explore new ways to serve the Quaker community in today's world. We will continue to offer this support to the corporations under our care as they navigate difficult waters. We encourage you to support these boards with your prayers, ideas, and service.

These times we are living through are challenging for each of us, for our Meetings, and for the Religious Society of Friends. In our Meeting communities and beyond, may we continue to move forward, seeking to walk together in the Light and to engage lovingly with others to address the many challenges we face. Our committee holds you and our meetings in our care, and are ready to serve you in this difficult time.

Finance Committee

Gordon Starr, Convener; Carolyn Levering; Don Kewman;

Ex Officio, Tom Yamaguchi, Treasurer

The CPQM Finance committee at its most recent meeting on October 5, 2020 continued exploring the possibility of being able to accept credit (and debit) card payments on our web site. We were joined by Barbara Babin and Fosten Wilson, treasurer of Grass Valley Meeting who has been using an on line service called Thithe.Ly for the last two and a half years to receive donations on their web site. He reported the set up was simple, that in-person help was readily available and that, while charges per transaction were typical, there were no carrying charges, monthly fees or minimums. Our site could include a drop-down menu that offers multiple options of where funds might go – registration, donations to scholarship funds, other Quaker institutions, etc. Tom Yamagucci, our treasurer expressed support since it would alleviate his having to deal with checks improperly made out. The committee being in unity, we agreed to proceed. Tom will contact Thithe.Ly to begin the set up and Bob Runyon will then be asked to set up the donate button on our web site. It is quite possible this can be completed in the next week or two.

Barbara brought to the committee the request of the Teens wanting to meet outside the usual the Quarterly Meetings for retreats, camping trips or other get-togethers. There are several issues surrounding this: Liability insurance coverage, how to handle finances and FRAPs. Currently our insurance specifically covers three meetings at specific dates and places, it is likely a rider would have to be added to our policy. Barbara will contact our insurance company to explore this.

Finances to support gatherings for CPQM teens could be managed through a youth fund to which people could donate directly. Fees taken in for such gatherings would be sent to the CPQM treasurer, as would requests for reimbursement. This would need to go to plenary for approval.

Finally we agreed that Andrea's fee of \$25/hr. for managing the Zoom meetings during Quarterly Meeting was not insufficient and that for Fall Quarter we would pay her \$35/hr. She agreed to work for 27 hours that the Quarterly Meeting is in session and it is her wish that any additional hours be considered a donation.

CPQM Fall 2020 Registrar's report

The registrars recorded 111 pre-registered through the CPQM website, plus on-site and guest registrations totaling 123 individuals. Friday events were attended by 61 individuals, and 81 adults attended at least one Saturday event. The special session emulating a “walk-around” of fire damage and recovery plans at Sierra Friends Center and Ben Lomond Quaker Center had 46 attenders. As of the closing plenary, 36 individuals including 4 children had attended just one day, 47 attended for 2 days and 30 attended all 3 days of the session. There were 31 pre-registrants who did not attend at all; it is planned to contact them later to ask why.

There were no teens in attendance, a consequence of their heavy load of Zoom meetings at school. The distribution of attenders by Monthly Meeting is shown in the first of 2 bar graphs. Absent monthly meetings were: Delta, Fresno, Mendocino, Napa, Redding and Visalia.

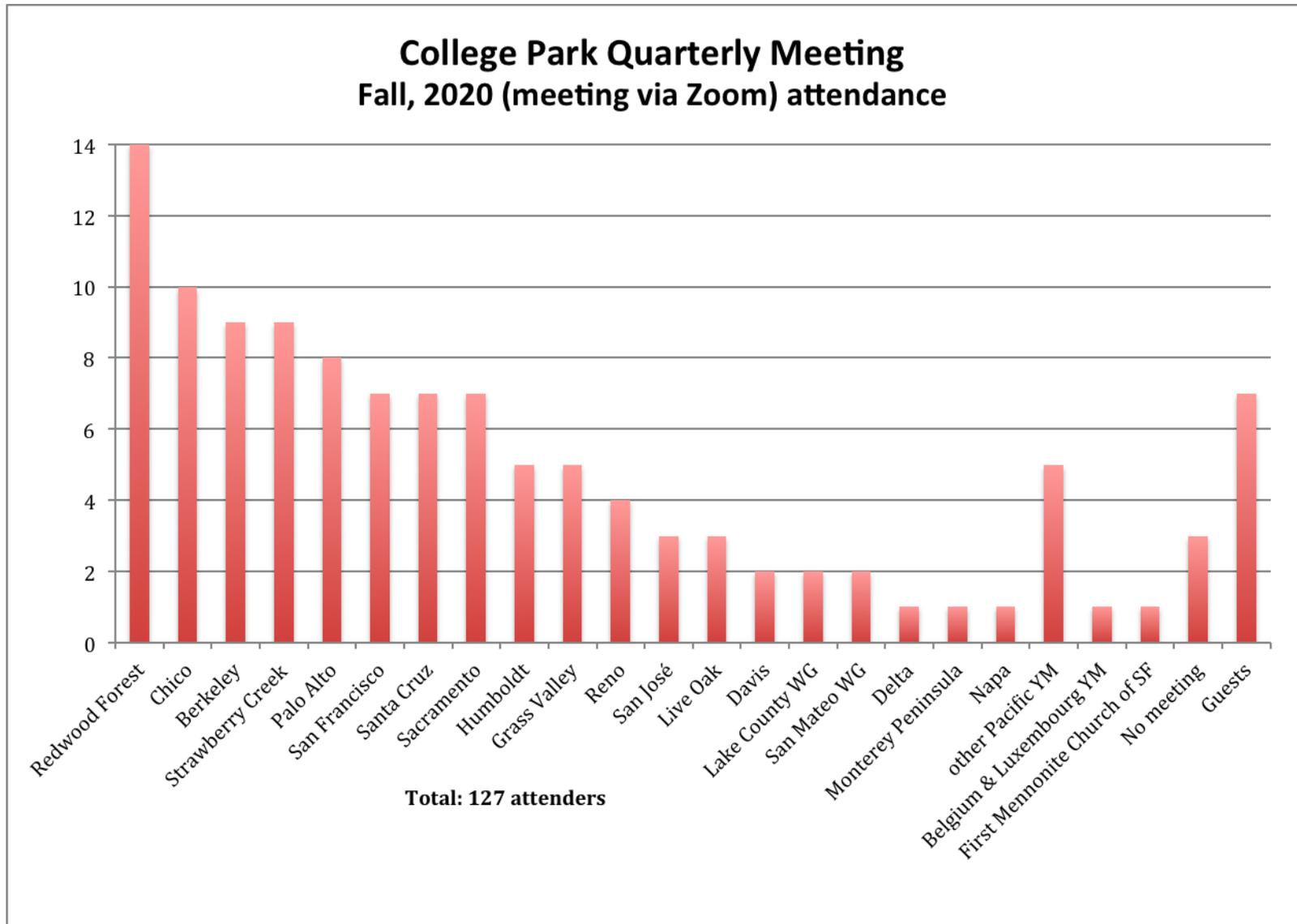
Fall attendance was lower than the Spring 2020 session, the first held via Zoom. Then there were 144 pre-registered through the CPQM website, plus on-site attenders totaling 152 individuals. As of the closing plenary, 107 adults had been checked in. In the spring there were no attenders from Fresno, Mendocino, Monterey Peninsula, Redding or Visalia Meetings (2nd graph).

From the spring and Fall pre-registration lists can be derived the following information on repeat attendance and attenders in the Fall only; this means that 79 signed up for Spring and did not return (many of these were no-shows in the spring despite pre-registration).

SPRING	FALL+SPRING	FALL NOT SPRING
143	64	34

-Registration Committee: Eric Sabelman, Marcia Roberts, Elizabeth Baker

CPQM Fall 2020 Registrar's report



CPQM Fall 2020 Registrar's report

College Park Quarterly Meeting Spring, 2020 (meeting via Zoom) attendance

