

**College Park Quarterly Meeting
Fall Session 2022
October 15-16, 2022**

Minutes from Plenaries 1 and 2

Plenary 1 – Saturday, October 15

Plenary 1 started at 8:30 am after opening silent worship. Joe Magruder (Berkeley) clerked the meeting being held both in person at Sierra Friends Center and on Zoom. The Clerk welcomed us to the 249th session of College Park Quarterly Meeting. He introduced Stephen Myers (Sacramento) as the Assistant Clerk and Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) as acting Recording Clerk in the absence of Sandy Farley (Palo Alto).

Welcome to Sierra Friends Center

Coleen Hedglin, Director of Woolman at Sierra Friends Center, welcomed us to the property.

Committee to Name the Nominating Committee

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) gave the report for the Committee to Name the Nominating Committee. There are two slots to fill and one name to bring forward for Nominating Committee. Liz Baker (Sacramento) and Nancy Nanna (Redwood Forest) are terming out. The Committee brought the name of TinaMarie Jackson (Appleseed Meeting). Mary Miche (Redwood Forest), Jay Owen-Smith (Monterey Peninsula), and Owain Elliott-Sowaal (San Francisco) continue to serve on Nominating Committee.

The Clerk asked for names to fill the third empty slot on the Nominating Committee. Friends may speak with the Clerk. Catherine Curtis (San Jose) offered her name. Dorothy Henderson (Grass Valley) offered her name for Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee Report

Mary Miche (Redwood Forest) reported that there is no Nominating Committee report at this time.

Family Night

The Clerk asked for a volunteer to organize this evening's Family Night event. Jan Turner (Humboldt) volunteered. The Clerk asked if Friends on Zoom wished to be included. Friends on Zoom may contact Jan if they would like to participate in Family Night.

Sierra Friends Center Report

Sandra Schwartz (San Francisco), Clerk of College Park Friends Education Association, gave the land acknowledgment. We understand we are on Nisenan land that was never ceded, and the original tribal families have yet to recover from the near genocide of their people. She introduced Executive Director Coleen Hedglin and gave a brief description of Coleen's background. She named the current eleven members of the board. In November, they will be naming their new slate of directors.

Coleen gave the report for Woolman at Sierra Friends Center. She named the members of the staff and their contributions to Sierra Friends Center.

Coleen described the Sierra Friends Center's activities and gave a slide presentation. Programs include Camp Woolman, Woolman Outdoor School, Woolman Arts, and Jorgensen Center for Activism, as well as retreats and stays. Students from San Francisco Friends School and International Montessori School have participated in the Woolman Outdoor School program. Sierra Friends Center plans to have three to five schools participate in the outdoor program each year. Woolman Arts has recruited over 50 artists. Through the Jorgensen Center, Sierra Friends Center wants to become a hub for Friends to organize for peace and justice. Coleen outlined the sources of operating revenue. There is an increased effort in fundraising, as spending is currently higher than revenue. Sierra Friends Center will be having its first audit in three years in January. Coleen plans to have annual audits in the future to build the confidence of funders.

Three hundred people have attended seven group retreats. Improvements have been made in both indoor and outdoor spaces. The Meeting Room has new flooring and sound paneling to improve acoustics. Roof leaks have been fixed. Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (aka HVAC) has been installed in all the main buildings in order to install high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters. Dining area has been expanded outdoors, as well as handwashing stations. A new irrigation system will go on line in a couple of weeks, and Sierra Friends Center will receive a reimbursement from the county.

Fire recovery includes planting 4,000 tree seedlings. Friends may learn more during the tour scheduled for the afternoon. The ecosystem is returning to a healthy state. There is a plan to use fungi to remove toxins from the burned areas.

Sierra Friends Center is looking for expanded revenue through continued retreats, individual giving, and institutional grants. They look for a balanced budget in the next year.

Sierra Friends Center are working to increase visibility to the local community.

They are building platform tents, instead of rebuilding the lost cabins. A high priority is creating an emergency egress. Due to opposition from one neighbor, Sierra Friends Center has found an alternative route for an emergency exit. Modifications to the oxidation pond and an improved water system are in the works.

Sandra reminded us that much of these improvements have been made since April. The board decided to use the insurance money to pay off previous debt and establish an emergency reserve account.

Worship Sharing and Interest Groups

The Clerk announced two worship sharing sessions, one following plenary and the other following lunch. There will be two interest groups for this afternoon. Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) will talk about how to keep records for archiving. Coleen Hedglin will give a tour of the campus and show changes since the recent fire.

Ann-Marie Snell (San Francisco), clerk of Ministry and Oversight Committee, had Friends in the room count off for organizing into the onsite worship groups. Breakout rooms will be created for worship groups on Zoom.

Plenary 1 ended at 10:45 am.

Plenary 2 – Sunday, October 16

Plenary 2 started at 8:35 am. Clerk Joe Magruder reviewed the agenda for the plenary.

Reading of minutes for Plenary 1

Acting Recording Clerk Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) read the minutes for Plenary 1 which were approved with corrections.

Approval of nominations

The name of TinaMarie Jackson (Appleseed Meeting) was brought to serve on Nominating at Plenary 1. Dorothy Henderson (Grass Valley) offered her name for Nominating Committee. After discussion, the meeting approved Dorothy Henderson to serve on Nominating without holding her nomination over to January. TinaMarie Jackson was approved to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Martha Hunkins (Humboldt) gave the Treasurer's Report, which is attached to the archived minutes. Work continues to transition to a new checking account. Annual suggested contributions for monthly meetings have been paid in full by all College Park Quarterly Meeting member meetings for fiscal years 2020-21 and 2021-22. Letters for FY 2022-23 suggested contributions will be sent to meetings this fall. The quarterly meeting is in a comfortable financial position.

The Clerk offered a minute to authorize the Treasurer and the Clerk of Finance Committee to open a new checking account with themselves as signatories. A minute was approved at fall quarter, but the Treasurer said that minute appeared vague. After discussion, we approved the following minute:

Minute 1

The Quarterly Meeting authorizes the Clerk and Finance Committee to open a checking account with Everence Credit Union or any other appropriate financial institution with the authorized signatories of the Clerk of Finance Committee and the Treasurer.

Registrar's Report

Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) gave the Registrar's Report with a slide presentation. The report is attached to the archived minutes. Of 82 people who pre-registered, 45 attended in person. 13 attended via Zoom. There were 4 cancelations, 5 in-person no-shows, and 13 Zoom no-shows. Only half of people who registered to attend via Zoom actually attended. There were 3 teens and 8 children. On site attendance was lower than at Spring quarter. We accepted the Registrar's account of the fall quarter's attendance numbers as the roll call for the fall session.

Ministry and Oversight Report

Ann-Marie Snell (San Francisco) gave the Ministry and Oversight report. They have created the ad-hoc committee to look at the health and function of the quarter as described in the following report accepted by the body on a called meeting on June 27, 2022:

The College Park Quarterly Meeting job description states that the Ministry and Oversight Committee “Nurtures the spiritual life of the Quarterly Meeting”. For more than a decade we’ve had diligent Nominating Committees who’ve had to work far too hard to find willing and well-suited nominees to serve in our current structure. Ministry and Oversight Committee believes we must consider why this is the case and whether enough Friends find engaging in the life of the quarterly meeting to be spiritually nourishing. It is the purview of the Ministry and Oversight Committee to create a subcommittee under our care, which we’ve found unity to do. The charge of the subcommittee will be to identify what might be contributing to declining engagement in CPQM, what our monthly meetings are longing for, what the purposes of the quarterly meeting are, and what structure and roles would serve those purposes.

1. We plan to seek out Friends of diverse experience who have an interest in College Park Quarterly Meeting to be members of the subcommittee.
2. The subcommittee will be asked to actively seek input from a broad base of Friends through Monthly Meeting Representatives, teens, parents of young children, as well as Friends who have been active participants in other quarterly meetings, etc. This input may be gathered through called threshing sessions, surveys, discussions at upcoming Quarterly meetings, and so forth.
3. The subcommittee will be asked to report updates on their ongoing work at each quarterly meeting.
4. When its work is complete, the subcommittee will present its findings to the body with possible recommendations to be approved by the quarter.

The committee wishes to begin this process by listening to those who are present at this meeting and to continue by listening to as many Friends as possible.

The current members of this committee are: Thom McCue, Sandy Kewman, Keith Runyan, and Julia Bazaar.

Teen Committee Report

Alma Moon (Strawberry Creek) Teen Clerk gave the report.

“This year we had a small turn of teens but still had a great time! There were 3 teens in attendance and quite a few children who we combined activities with. We played Jenga, and connect 4, went to Mell’s pond for a swim, played on the tire swing and had worship sharing with the queries:

How has the pandemic affected your experience as a Quaker teen?

What are things we can do to help you feel connected and apart of this community as well as compel you to come to more events?

“After 5 years of servings as teen clerk of College Park Quarterly Meeting I am thrilled to announce we have nominated new teen co-clerks Ash and Amaya! They are now tasked the vital role of improving teen attendance at quarterly meeting.”

Next gathering of College Park Quarterly Meeting

We agreed to have the Winter 2023 quarter at Berkeley Friends Meeting.

Reading of Minutes for Plenary 2

Acting Recording Clerk Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) read the minutes for Plenary 2. The minutes were approved with corrections.

Plenary 2 ended at 9:45 am.