

Minutes for College Park Quarterly Meeting

Spring 2019

College Park Quarterly Meeting Clerk, Barbara Babin of Redwood Forest Meeting, welcomed us. The theme, “Spring Forth from a Well,” comes from the idea of people in the past needing to go to a communal well and come together and work to keep the well clean and fresh. In a desert we might find an oasis, a communal place where people could come together and share.

The Clerk asked a number of questions about how we came together this weekend for example, whether we come to be together, whether we came to deepen our spiritual experience, and so on. We had a number of activities this weekend for people with different abilities and different interests; there were several experiments taking place, and we were asked to please share what worked and what didn't and what we might carry forward.

As the Directors of Quaker Center, Kathy and Bob Runyan are the stewards of this land and acknowledge that this is the ancestral land of the Achistaca people of the Ohlone tribe. They reminded us to be aware that this is the season for ticks and poison oak to flourish.

We engaged in an interactive roll call, grouping by size of Meetings for Worship that generally gathers on an average First Day. We had lots of people in the big group. Clerk asked those in each group to introduce ourselves and where we're from and one thing we really like about our meetings. Friends were invited to share out about their experience.

We had visitors:

Jim Summers for the Pacific Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Oversight Committee

Amy Cooke for Woolman at Sierra Friends Center

Mico Sorrell for Friends Association of Services to the Elderly Board

Thom McCue for Ben Lomond Quaker Center Board

Alice Elliott-Sowaal of San Francisco Meeting, Clerk of the Children's Program, told us a little about what the children will be doing this weekend. She has several others adults working with her in taking care of our four children, and they will be exploring the idea of going to the well.

The Teen Program sat with us in Meeting for Worship, and then Alma Moon, co-Clerk of the Teens, made a report including telling us about the t-shirt project that they will be engaged in this weekend in Redwood Lodge for Palo Alto Meeting's El Salvador trip with

Nate Secrest in 2020, which a number of the teens plan to participate in and hope to receive donations and support for.

Plenary 1:

Clerk's remarks

Naming Committee:

Thistle West of Santa Cruz Meeting, Convenor of the Naming Committee, brought us a report recommending a Friend for the Nominating Committee. This name was held over until Sunday morning, 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.

Nominating Committee:

Clerk Janet Wile of Appleseed Meeting delivered the Nominating Committee report (attached in archive minutes). All officers are named for a one year term. These names will be held over until Sunday morning's plenary, with any comments on these names to be given to a member of the Nominating Committee: Janet Wile or Nate Secrest.

A concern was raised about the continued use of the word "oversight" in the quarter's Ministry and Oversight Committee name. A representative from the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Committee raised up the fact that our yearly meeting has also not changed its name for this committee and welcomes comments on this nomenclature. Jim Summers, co-Clerk of the Pacific Yearly Meeting M&O Committee, noted that other members of the PYM committee at this quarterly meeting are Thistle West, Valerie Nutman, Elena Anderson-Williams, and Eric Sabelman; you may also discuss this matter with them.

A concern was raised more than a year ago about the distances that people need to travel and especially the amount of travel for some friends for the one day winter quarter. We formed an ad hoc group to look into the possibility of replacing the Winter Quarter with regional gatherings.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Regional Gatherings

Mico Sorrell of Redwood Forest and Strawberry Creek Meetings, brought us the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Regional Gatherings (attached in archive minutes) on the three regional gatherings that took place this year (in Chico Meeting House, Ben

Lomond Quaker Center, and at a Hindu center near Garberville). While they did not replace the winter quarterly meeting, the gatherings in some of our Northern California areas provided opportunities for attenders of meetings that are fairly close together to meet and share activities. All three of these gatherings plan to repeat these meetings next year. The ad hoc group had hoped to see the Bay Area host a gathering, and would like to see another one around Visalia, and they hope to promote those in the coming year. Having these meetings in January is not appropriate, given travel conditions at that time, and they do not recommend replacing the Winter Quarter with regional gatherings. Perhaps Winter Quarter could make their speaker sessions available online. Information about this year's gatherings will soon be available on the College Park Quarterly Meeting's website. The Clerk noted that there is no plan to change Winter Quarter 2020.

Ministry and Oversight.

Jim Anderson of Chico Meeting, Clerk of the Ministry and Oversight Committee, made the report (attached in archived minutes). One task of M&O is helping to create connections between this event (the well) and the monthly meetings. They meet with meetings in transition and also small and more distant meetings. Whenever M&O gathers, they wonder, what is the state of our quarter? We have composite identities: individuals and members of a meeting. How rich would it be to give more accent to our sense of membership? In all of our diversity, we are one people. We drink from the same well.

Naming the Naming Committee

One name arose from worship, and the Clerk asked for any more names to be brought to her or to members of Ministry and Oversight as soon as possible.

Plenary 2

Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Thom McCue of Live Oak Meeting, co-clerk of the Ben Lomond Quaker Center Board, presented a report on Ben Lomond Quaker Center (attached in archived minutes). During the past year, 2018, 61 groups have used Quaker Center (more than one a week!), not all of them Quaker, and forty-four people have come for personal retreats. The successful operations of the center are rooted in the staff, many of whom live on site. Of course, the big news is that Bob and Kathy Runyan are ending their terms as Co-Directors after eight years. The search for new directors has been both invigorating and exhausting. The board is continuing to interview applicants, and their plan is to have new Directors in place before Kathy and Bob move to their new home in Chico at the beginning of September this year.

The board considered the emphases of the last eight years: 1) that this is a **Quaker** center, taking it on the road and offering daily meetings for worship online, for example. 2) Expanding the board beyond College Park Quarterly Meeting. 3) Having Quaker Center on a strong financial footing. 4) Improving the physical plant.

Things will change with new co-Directors, but we will gain as well. We want to reach out to Quakers and all who are intended to be Friends. Thom asked Friends to consider whether they are called to serve on committees for the board or to support Quaker Center monetarily or by attending a program. He also encouraged meetings to consider investing in an annual pass for workshops if you don't already have one; they help more people to attend workshops as well as support Quaker Center financially.

Plenary 3.

Naming Committee

Don Sands, Sacramento Meeting, brought us the Naming Committee Report. The name of the Friend being considered for the Nominating Committee will be given to the next Naming Committee, since our full Naming Committee was not at Spring Quarterly to proceed with discernment.

New names for the Naming Committee were given to the Clerk and M&O and were held over until later in the plenary. More names may arise in worship. The Clerk asked whether the meeting could approve having the Clerk and M&O approve any outstanding members of the Naming Committee after quarterly meeting. A Friend noted that this process, if introduced as precedent, could lead to Naming Committee being selected from an "inside group."

Finance Committee

Carl Anderson of Strawberry Creek, Clerk of the Finance Committee, gave us a report (attached in archived minutes). We have enough money in the bank, largely because we did not have catering for Winter Quarter, thanks to the work of volunteers making the food, which is the major cost for that meeting. Our Treasurer, Tom Yamaguchi of Strawberry Creek, noted that this was despite the costs for the speaker and the rental of the site.

The financial reports for the last two quarters, which were not previously available are available now, and will be included in the attachments for this quarterly meeting.

The Clerk expressed her gratitude to the Clerk of Finance Committee and the Treasurer for their hard work in reconciling the financial reports for the past quarters. Sometimes our sense of our imperfections keeps us from wanting to serve.

Registrar

Eric Sabelman of Palo Alto Meeting, of the Registration Committee, made the report. We had a 69 adults, 7 teens, and 4 children. We did find indoor space for everyone who wanted to be indoors (due to rain). We had Friends from Arcata to La Jolla in attendance. The youngest attender was about 15 months and the oldest about 90.

Naming Committee

We approved the names of Bob Runyan (Clerk), Cindy Trublood, and Ben Hofrendahl, should he prove willing, to serve on the Naming Committee.

We entered into worship to consider more names for the Naming Committee. Another Friend noted that a committee reflects the concerns of the larger body, and therefore the process of allowing the Clerk and M&O to oversee the process after Quarterly feels appropriate. One Friend stepped forward as an alternate. The Clerk asked whether we have enough names that we will not need to ask the Clerk and M&O to step in before the Fall Quarter to add more names, and we agreed. We approved Dinah Bachrach as an alternate for Naming Committee.

Nominating Committee

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

Teen Group

Alma Moon of Strawberry Creek Meeting, Co-Clerk of the Teen Group, made a report about their activities this weekend. The Clerk expressed appreciation for the teens' contributions to this quarterly meeting.

Children's Program

Alice Elliott-Sowaal of San Francisco Meeting, Clerk of the Children's Program, helped the children show what they made this weekend (painted pegs and dioramas) and sing the song they learned, "Make New Friends," as well as a new favorite, "Tomato Spin."

We reviewed the minutes and approved them with minor corrections.

With the weekend's rains slowing, we made our way back to our homes.