

Palo Alto Friends Meeting (PAFM) Agenda
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
11th Month – November 14, 2021

1. OPENING WORSHIP
2. ADVICES AND QUERIES
3. AGENDA review and acceptance
4. REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS
 - a. Approval of minutes – 10th month
 - i. Proposed Minute: **Minute 2021-11-01: Meeting approved the October 10, 2021 minutes of the Corporation of Palo Alto Friends Meeting (PAFM).** (Minutes in Attachment 1A)
 - ii. Proposed Minute: **Minute 2021-11-02: Meeting approved the October 10, 2021 minutes of Meeting for Worship with attention to Business.** (Attachment 1B)
 - b. Ministry and Counsel –Erin Cizina, Co-Clerk
 - i. Ministry & Counsel Committee report
 - ii. Memorial Minute for Arden Pierce (Attachment 2)
 - c. Property and Finance – David Tucker, Clerk
 - i. Proposed 2022 Budget – First Reading. (Attachment 3)
 - ii. Stanford Students Group: In the years since this fund was established, the University has made several changes to the rules and qualifications for student groups to form on campus. The changes are such that a small group such as the Stanford Student Group has always been, is unable to meet the requirements for formation as a separate group. All students are welcomed at Meeting and if they wish to join an on campus group are referred to the United Christian Campus Ministry (UCCM).

Proposed Minute: **Minute 2021-11-04: Minute: Given that the Stanford Student Group has not existed for some years, Meeting approves laying down the Stanford Student Fund. If a future need arises, we trust that Friends then present in Palo Alto Friends Meeting will gladly support such a group financially, if needed, as well as supporting the spiritual growth of individuals and the group at large.**
 - d. Work in the World –Dwight Clark, Clerk
 - i. Final Report of Harvest Festival results
 - ii. Hotel de Zink plans – results of discussions with co-host Highway Church
 - e. First Day School – David Arnott, Clerk
 - i. Meeting Christmas Party is scheduled for December 19 after rise of Meeting, virtual.
 - f. Meeting Life – Cathe Wright, Convener
 - i. Quaker interviews will be held for January, February, March
 - g. Nominating Committee – Janet Murphy, co-clerk
 - i. First reading of Erin Cizina and George Mills to be co-clerks.
 - h. Presiding Clerk’s Report –Robin Severns
 - i. First reading of Seth Raphael’s request to transfer membership to Multnomah MM.
 - ii. Ongoing need for greeters and zoom hosts. The tech support in the Meeting room and in the Redwood Grove have long-term support and only need substitutes occasionally.

- iii. Barbara Babin will be holding a 6-week seminar on Clerking at Quaker Center starting in February. 1.5 hours per weekly session.

5. JOYS AND SORROWS

A time to share personal news whether it is celebratory or lying heavy on our hearts. Through sharing we build and strengthen our connections within this beloved community and provide opportunities to support each other through silent worship or by reaching out. Through knowing each other on all levels, we become a faith community that cares and supports all members.

6. CARES AND CONCERNS

Time for care and concerns that can be shared with the meeting.

7. CLOSING WORSHIP

Meeting of the Corporation of Palo Alto Friends Meeting (PAFM)
10th Month – 10 October 2021

Attachment 1: Meeting Attendance of the Corporation of PAFM
Attachment 2: Highlights of By-Laws Changes
Attachment 3: Amended By-Laws, As Approved

1. OPENING

Meeting opened at 12:23pm

2. PROPOSAL TO AMEND BY-LAWS

There were 21 Members attending. The meeting considered updating the PAFM corporate by-laws as was taken up in the July 11, 2021, Monthly PAFM MFB, where these changes were approved. A short description of these changes is listed in **Attachment 2**, for convenience. The final approved version of the by-laws is included as **Attachment 3**. Please see the “By Laws Amendment Packet 20210711” pdf published in the August 2021 PAFM Newsletter for more details of the changes and reasons for them.

Friends further considered the rationale for changes, consequences, and possible vulnerabilities of these changes, including concerns about susceptibility to a hostile takeover. Because the number of directors required was reduced from 7 to 3, it may make it too easy to make big decisions with too few interested persons. However, many changes of the By-Laws are to comply with our articles of incorporation. The articles were amended last year to modernize and streamline our corporate actions and to comply with current Meeting practice. Some examples are not limiting notification to U.S.P.S. Mail and limiting the number of members required to achieve a quorum to those who live close enough to attend regularly. One Friend commented that in the age of Zoom or blended meetings for business, there is little rationale for reducing the number of counties for figuring out a quorum. Another Friend pointed out that in any organization, lawsuits and other foul play can occur in any circumstance, regardless of governance, so the changes might not create future problems. Another Friend clarified that the By-Laws are for us, not the state of California. It was agreed that there was still more work to do to tighten up our By-Laws, but updating them was a first step to bring them into conformance with current practice and the Articles of Incorporation. After some discussion, the sense of the meeting was to adopt the changes, with one Friend standing aside.

Minute 2021-10-01: The Proposed Amendment and Restatement of the Bylaws, titled “BY-LAWS of PALO ALTO FRIENDS MEETING AS FIRST AMENDED 2021” is ADOPTED.

This meeting of the Corporation directs Meeting for Business to appoint an ad hoc committee to continue working on the updating of the by-laws and Articles of Incorporation.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Severns Presiding Clerk
Linda Kamas, Co-Recording Clerk

Palo Alto Friends Meeting (PAFM) Minutes
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
10th Month – 10 October 2021

Attachments (*included at the end of the minutes unless otherwise noted*):

Attachment 1: Attendance at Meeting for Business

Attachment 2: Ministry and Counsel Committee Report

Attachment 3: Revised Budget Statement

Attachment 4: Joint Statement Against the Death Penalty in San Mateo County

1. OPENING WORSHIP

Meeting settled into Worship at 12:10pm

2. ADVICES AND QUERIES: The Advices and Queries for Tenth Month on *Personal Relationships* were read, after which we settled back into worship.

3. AGENDA

Meeting accepted the agenda

4. REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. We suspended Monthly Meeting at 12:22pm for a special meeting of the PAFM corporation. As a reference here, the sense of the meeting agreed upon the following resolution within that corporate meeting. One Friend stood aside. A separate Minutes report will be created for the corporate meeting.

The Proposed Resolution for the Called Meeting of the Corporation for the Purpose of Amending its By-laws should be: The Proposed Amendment and Restatement of the Bylaws, titled “BY-LAWS of PALO ALTO FRIENDS MEETING AS FIRST AMENDED 2021” is ADOPTED.

This meeting of the Corporation directs Meeting for Business to appoint an ad hoc committee to continue working on the updating of the by-laws and Articles of Incorporation.

Special meeting of the PAFM corporation closed and we resumed our Monthly Meeting after a 5-minute break at 1:20pm.

- b. Approval of 9th month 2021 Minutes of Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business was introduced.

Minute 2021-10-01: Meeting approved the July 11, 2021 minutes, with the added clarification “Naming Committee discerned that 5 persons on the Nominating Committee would be an appropriate number to best serve the needs of our community.”

- c. Ministry and Counsel Report – George Mills, Co-Clerk
- i. George, along with Erin Cizina, agree to co-clerk M&C.
 - ii. Dropped suggestion for masks outdoors. Watching this closely.
 - iii. Memorial for Arden Pierce. Need material about Arden’s Quaker work and life. Please send to George Mills.
 - iv. Nominating has an action item to work out the approving of Clerks for M&C.
 - v. Additional items can be found in the M&C Report that was sent out this morning and is Attachment 2.
 - vi. Rita commented that we should keep in mind that some children in our community are still under 12 and cannot be vaccinated yet. She urges all of us speak up to help the community be aware to keep our environment safe for young people.
- d. Property and Finance –David Tucker
- i. We are in unity on the suggestions by P&F to increase donations. Minute approved:

Minute 2021-10-02: Given the ongoing economic impact of the pandemic on people in our communities who continue to struggle and on Quaker organizations, the committee recommends that we revise our 2021 donations from \$2,000 to \$7,000 dollars for Quaker organizations and from \$1,750 to \$4,750 dollars for non-Quaker organizations. The committee has determined that allocating these additional funds is quite feasible in terms of our current budget and reserves and that our faith calls us to share with others in such times of need. Note that Meeting approved an identical increase in 2020.

- ii. David will be the convener of an ad-hoc committee to determine how to distribute funds to Quaker organizations.
- iii. David informed us about P&F decision to combine line items in the budget. Specifically, to combine the Peace & Social Action (previously under P&SA) and Community Service (previously under Oversight) budget line items to a single line item to be managed by Work in the World. This is being done since P&SA and Community Service are no longer separate committees—the work is now done by the Work in the World Committee. See revised budget statement in Attachment 3.
- e. Work in the World—Dwight Clark
 - i. Dwight gave an update on Hotel de Zink support for this December. Due to the continuing pandemic situation and our small meeting house size, PAFM will support HdZ as we did last year. This consisted of teaming with a larger church for the housing, while we provide the meals. LifeMoves has come up with a viable partner in Highway Church on Middlefield Rd. to do the housing.

Minute 2021-10-03: Given the reality of the public health situation and the limited space of our physical plant, the Work in the World committee is in unity that we cannot physically host Hotel de Zink during the month of December 2021.

- ii. Dwight proposed that our meeting support a joint statement against the recent death penalty escalations by the San Mateo County DA. This was approved. The statement is in Attachment 4.

Minute 2021-10-04: Palo Alto Meeting supports the Joint Statement Against the Death Penalty: We urge the district attorney of San Mateo County to pledge publicly to stop seeking the death penalty in any and all cases from this day forward and to consider resentencing for all of those individuals who are currently sentenced to death in San Mateo county. We ask the Clerk to sign the Joint Statement on behalf of the Meeting.

- iii. Rita Comes Whitney updated us that Harvest Festival will be Saturday, October 23. We still need 3 more volunteers for 2 hours. Contact Matt Levine to donate baked goods. We also need a small portable freezer.
- f. Naming Committee –Eric Sabelman
 - i. Eric read the names of 3 persons—**Anne Hruska, Kristin Lorraine, and Carol Chatfield--** for a 2nd reading for Nominating Committee. Note that Linda Lingane and Janet Murphy are continuing in their 2nd year as Nominating Committee members. This is the first reading of **Linda Lingane and Janet Murphy** as co-clerks.
- g. Presiding Clerk’s Report – Robin Severns
 - i. The memorial for Arden Pierce will be held online on Saturday, November 6, maybe 2:00pm. Current plans are that the family will host a Zoom event. This is still a work in progress but the updated date is noted here.
 - ii. October 31 needs a greeter. Please volunteer if you are not “scared.” We also acknowledge that other weekly meeting functionaries, for example Zoom hosts Pam and

Andrea, are carrying a heavy burden. A Friend noted that a great way to learn Zoom Hosting is to shadow by logging in early.

- iii. There was a shoutout to the First Day School Committee for using our technology to keep First Day School going. It is truly appreciated. Hearing from PYM, not all meetings are doing this.

5. JOYS AND SORROWS

- a. A Friend shared that they were grateful for PAFM for keeping our process, and also noted that when Quaker process is working well, listen with love, and maintain our approval process, a business meeting is also truly a meeting for worship. They also shared they do not wish to lose this. Another friend shared the joy to be here in person with Friends and also expressed joy derived from P&F and B&G for work during the working day. Another Friend shared that it was good to be back after four weeks in Vermont.

6. CONCERNS

- a. A friend wondered when groups who previously (pre-pandemic) met in our meeting house will be able to come back in person.

7. CLOSING WORSHIP

Meeting rose at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Severns, Presiding Clerk

Linda Kamas, Co-Recording Clerk

Arden Pierce

*Memorial Minute, approved by Ministry & Counsel Committee, November 3, 2021
Palo Alto Friends Meeting, Palo Alto, California*

Arden Elaine Pierce, loving and beloved member of this Meeting since 1964, died at her home in Palo Alto on September 20, 2021, at the age of 93.

Arden was born March 13, 1928, in Mount Kisco, New York, the only child of Earl and Alice (Humphreys) Fish. She spent her childhood in Westchester and Dutchess Counties, NY, and in New York City itself. An early illness that nearly killed her planted the dream of becoming a doctor when she grew up. Her father was always very supportive, but their financial situation and society's expectations were not.

During WW II her mother had to go back to work and at age 15 Arden was sent to boarding school at Northfield School for Girls in Massachusetts. In 1945 she entered Swarthmore College, graduating in 1949. There she became "somewhat acquainted" with Quakerism.

The family was churchgoing. In Bible study at boarding school Arden got the idea that Jesus was not born divine but was able to allow God to become fully manifest through him. At Swarthmore she met returning veteran Richard Cordray and, with special permission from the college to marry without either of them having to drop out, they married in 1947. Richard had rejected his Catholic upbringing but agreed to attend Quaker meeting, so that's what they did.

Daughters Alix and Virginia were born in Philadelphia in 1951 and 1953. A series of moves took the family to New Jersey; then out to California to Sierra Madre near Pasadena, where daughters Gail and Jacqueline were born in 1955 and 1957; to Chico, where son Edmund was born in 1960; and finally to Palo Alto. By this time the marriage was deteriorating and ended in divorce in 1961. Arden and Richard found they could be very good friends once they didn't have to live together.

Following her divorce Arden investigated returning to school to become a doctor. The obstacles were great, but "guidance from somewhere" led her from one opportunity to another. She ended up earning a physical therapist license from Stanford. She worked as a PT at El Camino Hospital for 18 years followed by about a decade for the Visiting Nurses Association. It was a career she loved. She often commented that it was amazing she could get paid for doing something she loved so much.

During this period Arden also discovered international folk dancing which became an important part of her life and a family activity. She met Hiram Pierce at folk dancing, and they married on March 29, 1968, under the care of Palo Alto Meeting. They were a great team and inseparable until Hiram's death in 2016. They bought land in the Santa Cruz mountains and ran a folk dance campout there (Planina) for many years.

Arden was always a "people person," known for her warmth and compassion. She opened her house to one and all, including numerous people who lived there for short periods. She also invited "strays" and visitors to family celebrations, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, and

encouraged her children to do the same. She loved socializing and would talk to just about anyone for as long as they were willing to talk.

In a 2015 interview Arden described some formative spiritual experiences she has had. Early on at Orange Grove Meeting in Pasadena she witnessed a contentious business meeting which seemed to be getting nowhere until the Clerk called for a period of silence. Out of the silence someone spoke “How about thus and so?” and everyone agreed. The listening process impressed her deeply.

Another experience occurred on a trip to London, when two street hawkers infuriated her by their persistent pushiness. She described how the next day in a meeting for worship someone’s vocal ministry “grabbed my emotions and turned them around. I thought ‘What a terrible way to have to make a living, having to accost people and persuade them.’ My feeling of annoyance melted away. It was a profound experience.”

In that same interview she described the strong impact the book “Man’s Search for Meaning” by Viktor Frankl had had on her. From it she learned that “I have control over my attitude. I can’t change other people but I can change myself.”

After receiving help from Planned Parenthood as a young, married woman, Arden donated and volunteered for the organization for the rest of her life.

In Palo Alto Meeting Arden found caring support during the difficulties of her divorce. She became a member of the Meeting in 1964. Early on she served as Recording Clerk and taught in the First Day school. Over the years she served the Meeting in countless ways including two 2-year stints as Presiding Clerk, 1982-84 and 1997-99, and clerking various committees including the Oversight, the Nominating and the Harvest Festival Steering committees. She also served on Buildings and Grounds, managed the directory, was newsletter editor, Representative to Pacific Yearly Meeting, and the list goes on. Less visible was her work corresponding with and visiting prisoners and her frequent service on clearness committees for memberships, marriages, memorials and personal concerns. Many Friends have spoken of how much her support for them made a difference in their lives.

Later in life, and especially after 9/11, Arden says she struggled to believe in God. How could a God let people do this? She often attended meetings of the Humanist Society with Hiram.

Arden is survived by her children Alix, Gail, Jacqueline and Edmund; eight grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Hiram in 2016 and her daughter Virginia in 2021.

	<u>2019</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>6/30/2020</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>9/30/20210</u>
Meeting Income					
Bequest Income					\$ 15,067
Meeting Contributions	\$ 45,835	\$ 47,531	\$ 13,812	\$ 47,000	\$ 14,879
Use of Meeting Houses	\$ 4,446	\$ 1,192	\$ 640	\$ 1,600	\$ 100
Interest Income	\$ 2,953	\$ 1,933	\$ 1,159	\$ 1,000	\$ 386
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 53,234	\$ 50,656	\$ 15,611	\$ 49,600	\$ 30,432
Meeting Operations					
Operations	\$ 1,573	\$ 307	\$ 27	\$ 900	\$ 98
Maintenance/repairs (ongoing)	\$ 10,776	\$ 6,763	\$ 5,458	\$ 10,500	\$ 3,498
Major Mtce - Capital Replacement	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500	\$ 7,120	\$ 9,500	\$ 25,488
<u>Actual Expense</u>	8454	7120			
<u>Transfer to Maj. Mtce, Reserve</u>	1046	2380			
Newsletter	\$ 1,733	\$ 1,466	\$ 665	\$ 1,700	\$ 850
First Day School	\$ 2,214	\$ 964	\$ 665	\$ 1,500	
Hotel de Zink		\$ 400		\$ 400	
Hospitality	\$ 185	\$ 256	\$ 255	\$ 600	\$ 57
Library	\$ 400	\$ 472	\$ 242	\$ 475	\$ 340
Adult Education	\$ 323		\$ -	\$ 100	
Insurance/Taxes/Legal	\$ 5,259	\$ 5,002	\$ 4,464	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,691
Travel for Meeting Reps	\$ -			\$ 100	
Nursery School	\$ 120	\$ 120		\$ 120	
Information Technology	\$ 1,337	\$ 1,036	\$ 564	\$ 1,000	\$ 868
Teen-Age Group	\$ -			\$ 100	
San Mateo Worship Group	\$ 250			\$ 250	
Meeting Retreat, net	\$ (616)			\$ 1,000	
<u>Income from participants</u>	1221				
<u>Costs</u>	605				
Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 3,613	\$ 2,117	\$ 223	\$ 3,500	\$ 219
PYM Quota	\$ 10,492	\$ 10,248	\$ 10,248	\$ 8,200	\$ 8,036
Total Meeting Operations	\$ 47,159	\$ 38,651	\$ 29,931	\$ 45,445	\$ 44,145
Meeting Outreach					
Quaker Org. Donations - Regular	\$ 6,275	\$ 13,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Additional reflecting last year finances			\$ 4,500		
Work in the World Domnations					
Peace & Social Action Donations	\$ 700	\$ 2,200		\$ 1,000	
Community Service Donations	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050		\$ 750	
Total Meeting Outreach	\$ 8,025	\$ 16,250	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,750	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 55,184	\$ 54,901	\$ 36,431	\$ 49,195	\$ 44,145
Transfer to (from) reserves	\$ (1,860)	\$ (4,245)		\$ 405	