

Camp ONAS Business Meeting, August 25, 2017

Co-Clerks and Co-Recording Clerks- Eliana Colzani and Jacob Hoopes

After opening with a moment of silence, the clerk read the agenda to the meeting and asked for approval. Friends approved.

Report from Discernment committee given by Evie on the topic of permanent nurturer nominations.

Those nominated left the room before their names being read.

Julia Carrigan, Blue Mitchell, Sophy Jarka-Sellers, and Simon Garner were nominated by the committee to be permanent nurturers.

It was also shared that Discernment committee had a few names that came up but were postponed/ not asked to take on that role because of other responsibilities.

The clerk asked if there was approval of these nominations and Friends approved, allowing the return of nominees, now as Perma-Nurts.

Report from Program committee from Julia regarding program for the upcoming year.

“Program committee met Wednesday and Friday. We worshiped together and proposed themes for Christmas, Winter, Swatara, and ONAS gatherings. We have discerned the theme ‘living a peaceful life’ for Christmas gathering, ‘Religious Differences’ for Winter, ‘Mental Health/Ableism’ for Swatara, and a ‘Green Gathering’ for Camp ONAS, focusing on earth care and sustainability. We assigned themes to gatherings by exploring time of year, state of the community, and available programming”

Clerk asked for approval on the upcoming gathering themes. Friends approved.

Report from Sports Bra Rule committee from Kaise following up on the previously proposed change to the guideline.

The committee felt as there was a “yes” to changing the guideline to exempt sleeping. The committee reported on how they felt as though the underlying question was “are young friends comfortable seeing breasts regardless of gender?” The committee proposed that the guideline should now read:

“Except when changing privately, everyone will have the area that can be covered by a sports bra be covered regardless of gender. Swimming and sleeping are exceptions. If sleeping topless, clothes must be within arm reach and it is requested that Friends attempt to keep the area covered by a sports bra covered by a blanket/sleeping bag.”

The committee reported consideration of adding a portion requiring covering up when going to the bathroom at night but felt it would fit under the common-sense guideline.

The opinion of FAPs and possible pushback of PYM was noted but the committee felt YFs should be able to make their own guidelines especially due to promotion of self-leadership.

The Clerk opened the floor to adult perspectives and feedback on the change.

An adult Friend reported on the history of the guideline previously named the “no nipple rule” explaining the rules’ basis in gender equality.

Another noted that the change continues the equality across genders. The value of Young Friends being able to push societal boundaries was noted, but the Friend pointed to the difficulty of adults to be able to maintain safe boundaries with this addition. She informed that this may bring difficulties to recruiting FAPs and asked YFs to deeply consider if we are led to change the rule while evaluating the benefits against risks.

Another FAP shared concern of how this would affect how adults view the situation versus how YFs view each other.

Frustration was shared on the topic of the sexualization of breasts and how it affects the community’s actions and can conflict with Truth of the community.

The clerk then welcomed responses from Young Friends on the topic

A friend shared on the difficulty to decide between to pushing boundaries and recognizing them. She shared how she felt that continuing to abide by social norms about sexualizing breasts only reinforced the issue.

It was noted that YFs would be asleep and it may not become an issue because of that.

A friend pointed out that many already change in sleeping bags.

YF has been a forefront of progression and we are not always conscious of outside norms and if we allow concerns of that type stop us from making change, we may never be able to change.

An adult Friend clarified that they had been worried about safety of young Friends more than comfort of FAPs in response to a report from a Young Friend comparing comfort with family to comfort in YFs with toplessness at night.

A friend shared on the topic of safety of young friends by reminding the group that it is still the choice of a YF as to what they wear even if the guideline is put in place.

A friend noted that YFs should not have to change what they wear to comfort another person. Many agreed.

Clerks ran a blind pole to insure that no Friends were being held back by pressure of the group.

Clerk asked for approval on the addition to the guideline and Friends approved. The group was also reminded that if an issue comes up with the new guideline addition, the committee can be brought back together to re-evaluate.

Clerks asked for feedback on the next guideline to be evaluated. Clerk reminded the group of the decision to evaluate guidelines to keep them consistent with the current community. The goal is to re-evaluate two a year so clerks asked the community for options on what guideline to be looked at next.

Suggestions included:

Common sense

Ouch oops as it is not commonly used

Rule of three- add background information as to why it is in place

Sexual activity – sleeping guideline and tricycle

No Drugs/Alcohol

The tobacco guideline was brought up for consideration due to the observation that less teen smoke. Another friend informed the group that the state of New Jersey has made it illegal to smoke under the age of 21 so it could be valuable to evaluate it to make sure the guideline abides by local law. Various friends noted that they feel it should be under No Drugs/Alcohol guideline. It was also noted that it is not *always* illegal to smoke as a minor.

A friend noted the safety of keeping guidelines as something to fall back on even if they are not commonly used. It can't hurt the community to keep the rules in.

The group approved the tobacco guideline and no drugs/alcohol to be evaluated together next.

The minutes of this Meeting for Business were read of and approved of. The meeting ended in a moment of silence.