

Fall Continuing Sessions 2018 Agenda and Minutes: Young Friends and Middle School Friends

Clerks: Mary Denham and Julia Carrigan

Adult Clerk: Robert Rosenthal

3 Nov. 2018

The Clerk began Business Meeting with a moment of silence. The Meeting opened with a reading over of the Agenda, which Friends approved.

Overview of MfWwATB

The Clerk reminded Friends of the importance of worship and respect during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and added that this is a space for YF and MSF. Adults were reminded that they are guests in the Meeting but are invited to share their thoughts as led, especially during the Ad hoc Nomenclature Committee Decision discussion.

Ad hoc Nomenclature committee decision

The Clerk brought to attention the possible choices of the name for what used to be called Friendly Adult Presences. The choices were: GAP (guiding adult presence), GAP (grounding adult presence), CAP (caring adult presence), FAV (facilitators and volunteers), and FAV (friendly adult volunteers). Friends had the option to bring up a different/new acronym for discussion

A Friend shared that they liked GAP (guiding adult presence), stating that the role of the adults is to guide and keep us on the right track.

A Friend thought that CAP (Caring) seems redundant, for any adult in our community should be caring.

A Friend brought up a recent mispronunciation of GAP that would sound like an ethnic slur.

Friend suggested using an acronym rather than a word, such as G.A.P not “gap” as a pronunciation. A Friend seconded this.

The Clerk wondered if the brevity of the word mattered to the body. A Friend stated that the pronunciation being one syllable or more does not matter, and that the body should still work to find a replacement for F.A.P.

An adult Friend shared that the word “presence” is redundant and slightly weird, as if the adult is ghostly. Friends agreed.

An adult Friend suggested removing the P and just saying “F.A.”. A Friend stated that every adult they come in contact with is friendly, and the term friendly doesn’t give any guidance on what the adult’s role is.

A Friend shared the importance of coming to a single decision on the name, so we can move onto other agenda items.

Friends approved getting rid of CAP.

A Friend said that they like the meaning of “GAP” but did not like the word.

Guiding or Grounding? A Friend shared that “grounding” felt that adults would be trying to calm us down etc, an adult said they don’t like it because of the responsibility of being expected to ground a person.

The body eliminated GAP as in grounding adult presence.

A friend suggested changing “presence” to “volunteer”. Friend said that in the past, volunteer has been pointed out to not include the adult staff.

A friend suggested replacing p with F for friend, as in Guiding Adult Friend.

A friend suggested writing periods in between each letter to avoid mispronunciation of GAP.

An adult friend suggested “youth program support team”. A friend did not like this, wanting the name to be short, easier to say, and include the word “adult”.

Friends approved using the word “guiding” as a part of the acronym. A friend suggested “guiding adult team”, pronounced “gates”. Friends like it. A friend brought up the slang word “gat” which means gun. A friend reminded the body of the possibility of “guiding adult friend”. Friends liked this option.

A friend sought approval for “guiding adult friend”. A friend brought to the body’s attention the term “gaffe” or to err, but friends decided the definition of gaffe was negligible and that the definition would not be detrimental. A friend stated that, in context, GAF would not be related to gaffe. Adult Friends did not voice any complaints, they as a group were unoffended.

Friends approved of the acronym “GAF” to be brought to Youth Programs Staff.

Minute of Concern

Recent violent events (in Kentucky, Pittsburgh, and the “Health and Human Services Proposal” draft on the definition of gender) were explained by the Clerks and the body was given a brief overview of the facts in each case. The Clerk shared what a minute of concern is with the body, and asked the body if they would like to write a minute of concern addressing PYM. Friends settled into silence to allow for leading. The Clerking Team had already written a draft of a possible minute and shared it with the body:

“During Continuing Sessions of Fall 2018, the body of Middle School and Young Friends was led to acknowledge and respond to recent tragic acts of violence, including though not limited to recent shootings in Pittsburg and Kentucky, and a Health and Human Services Proposal which is considering rolling back recognition of and protection of transgender people. In addition to integrating this calling into our own respective programs, we ask the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to hold all those affected in the light with the explicit intention of taking tangible, supportive action.”

The Clerk suggested moving onto the YPAC Discernment and then coming back to the Minute of Concern to allow for Friends to cultivate a leading in one way or the other on the Minute.

YPAC Discernment

The Adult Clerk gave an explanation of what the Quaker Life Council does and a brief history of the Youth Sprint and the QLC-YPAC. The Clerk gave some clearness on what YPAC would do, and asked if Friends had a sense of what the committee would do. The Clerk then asked for 2 MSF-aged nominations and 2 YF-aged nominations.

Friends willing to serve:

Catherine Tobin (YF)

Anjali Surti (MSF)

James Bradley (YF)

Estelle Hegenbarth (YF)

Benjamin Waterhouse (YF)

Adeline Waterhouse (MSF)

William Bradley (MSF)

Friends nominated by friends in attendance:

Sara Carrigan (MSF)

Arley Johnson (YF)

Blue Mitchell (YF)

Friends were brought back to the Minute of Concern Agenda Item.

Minute of Concern Part 2

A friend shared the importance of doing something, and bringing it to the attention of the yearly meeting, this is not the only time the yearly meeting gets together, previous acts of violence have been on people our age, these acts do affect us, it's important that the adults know that we do care about this and that this is important. A friend seconded this opinion.

Friends approved of being called to write the minute.

The Clerk read the minute draft again.

A Friend stated that "the body of MSF and YF" could be replaced with "the combined body". The Friend also stated the importance of adding violent events that are less recent, but are more relevant to us (ie parkland shooting).

The Clerk added the recent shooting at the Stoneman-Douglas school in Parkland.

The minute now reads:

"During Continuing Sessions of Fall 2018, the combined body of Middle School and Young Friends was led to acknowledge and respond to the tragic acts of violence, including though not limited to recent shootings in Pittsburg and Kentucky; school shootings, including at the Stoneman-Douglas school in Parkland; and a Health and Human Services Proposal which is considering rolling back recognition of and protection of transgender people. In addition to integrating this calling into our own respective programs,

we ask the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to hold all those affected in the light with the explicit intention of taking tangible, supportive action.”

Friends approved of the minute of concern.

The body approved of the minutes.

The Clerk closed the meeting with a moment of silence.