

Minutes of the 2005 Annual BAPA Board of Directors Meeting

Date: June 26, 2005

Time: 6:30 -7:30

Location: Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church, Palo Alto, CA

Action 1: Meeting called to order by board president.

Board Members Present (quorum reached, 4 out of 5):

- o Joan Carroll - President
- o Caelyth Sterling - Treasurer
- o Trish McNeill
- o Stan Morest (arrived late)
- o (not present Crystal Black, traveling in England)

Members Present:

- o Liz Lee
- o Walt Main

Action 2: Meeting agenda presented to board:

Agenda for Meeting

Topic 1 - Election of new Board of Directors' members.

Topic 2 - Discussion of options if minimum number of 5 directors is not met.

Topic 3 – Effect of options on BAPA's stated mission and purpose.

Topic 4 - Formulation of strategy for presentation at 2005 Annual BAPA Membership Business Meeting to follow.

Motion: Suspend Robert's Rules of Order to simplify discussion and note-taking.

(Joan)

Seconded by Trish.

Ayes have it.

Topic 1 - Election of new Board of Directors' members.

Summary: Current by-laws require a minimum of 5 directors on the board; BAPA does not have 5 volunteers. Joan's 2-year term is over. Crystal, Trish, and Caelyth are continuing. No additional volunteers have come forward through appeals made on our website, discussion board, or in the newsletter. Jim McCann has indicated he would be willing to serve again.

Topic 2 – Discussion of options if minimum number of 5 directors is not met.

Options include: (1) legal dissolution of BAPA, or (2) a change to the by-laws to allow operation with 4 directors. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the relevancy of

BAPA's historical mission and goals as measured against the reality of the needs of the Bay Area pagan community as it exists today. Joan pointed out this was the same question this particular board had grappled with at their first meeting a year ago. Overall desire was to keep BAPA running while investigating other appropriate business and service models.

Motion: Change by-laws to allow operation with 4 directors. (Joan)

Seconded by Caelyth.

Ayes have it.

Motion: Nominate Jim McCann to serve another term on the Board of Directors.

(Joan)

Seconded by Caelyth.

Ayes have it.

Motion: Temporarily limit organizational activities to key service offerings for approximately 8 months while re-evaluating BAPA's mission and goals. (Joan)

Seconded by Trish.

Ayes have it.

Motion: Board to report back to BAPA membership with recommendations for how BAPA can assist other pagan organizations in enhancing the overall quality of pagan life in the Bay Area. (Joan)

Seconded by Trish.

Ayes have it.

Topic 3 – Effect of options on BAPA's stated mission and purpose. A lengthy discussion by board members and members ensued regarding what BAPA's role has been in the past and what it might be in the future. Key comments summarized by speaker.

(NOTE: At the time of the annual meeting there are less than 25 BAPA members, including the board.)

(NOTE: Board member Stan Morest arrived during this part of the discussion and has verified he will continue as a Board of Director member.)

Joan: Read Article 2 Purpose, Section 1 Objectives and Purpose to assembled group:

- (a) To provide public resources such as newsletters, resource guides, and informational brochures that promote the understanding and acceptance of Pagan religions, including all forms of spirituality that embrace the idea that it is the sacred right of individuals to elect their own Diety or Dieties, and that all moral responsibility belongs to the individual and can not be dictated by another.
- (b) To provide a resource for the public which enables people to meet other like-minded individuals and groups.
- (c) To sponsor regular events involving public instruction and performance of ritual and spiritual practices of various Pagan religions.
- (d) To directly engage in and to promote a place for others to engage in the promotion of Pagan religions, generally.

- (e) To provide trained media contacts capable of educating the news and entertainment industries, schools, church groups, or other interested parties gratis, concerning the true facts as opposed to myths surrounding the various Pagan religions they portray; and
- (f) To provide authorized religious instruction in various Pagan religions.
- (g) To provide social gatherings for its members and for the Pagan community at large, and
- (h) To solicit and raise funds for the purpose of the corporation.

Answers to the question: What has been the role of BAPA in the past?

Trish: A resource to educate and facilitate networking. Gaia's Gateway has always been cited as one of the more important functions of BAPA. We need more volunteers as we are going to keep BAPA operative.

Walt: Education. Cross referencing Gateway attendees with other Pagan service organizations. Website served to help network people. What kind of resources can BAPA continue to provide to the Pagan community that are unique and will justify BAPA's continued existence?

Liz: Monthly Gaia's Gateway meetings gave interested people somewhere to contact others and exposed them to various Pagan religions. Always knew there was "somewhere" to go. The internet has provided an alternate process for people to interact with each other. We need to find out what members want to do. Today other groups are doing the kinds of things that BAPA has historically done. For example, South Bay Circles focuses on "celebrating paganism."

Joan: Gateway's are labor and resource intensive and do not generally attract enough attendees to warrant the time and resources BAPA spends on them. People come to Gateways while they are searching for a discipline, and once they find it they rarely come back. BAPA is not highly visible among other Pagan groups in the Bay Area.

Jim: Gaia's Gateway has always been cited as the best way to expose new people to various trends.

Caelyth: No comments through this portion of the discussion.

Stan: primarily asked questions about proceedings up to that point.

Answers to the question: What should BAPA's role be moving forward and/or how can we determine that role?

General consensus: We do not know what the best role is for BAPA at this time; we need to establish a process by which to figure it out.

Topic 4 - Formulation of strategy for presentation at 2005 Annual Membership Meeting to follow. A lengthy discussion by board members and members ensued regarding the best way to keep BAPA operative over the next several months so that data can be collected to support recommendations for change. Key comments summarized by speaker.

Joan: Stressed need to temporarily simplify activities and operations so that a few key activities can be done well. Suggest not more than 4 activities. Based on review of existing by-law Objectives and Purposes, **suggested that the activities to continue include:**

- (a) Website
- (b) Discussion board
- (c) Mail service
- (d) Hold "Special Gatherings" in place of Gateways on a quarterly basis
(**NOTE:** These suggestions correspond to points (a), (d), (g) and (h) from the by-laws)

Suggest that the activities to be temporarily suspended include:

- (e) Gaia's Gateways on hiatus until early 2006, freeing up resources for other tasks.
- (f) End the newsletter as a separate function; use the website as the primary point through which organizational information is disseminated.
- (g) Cancel the phone line as it is rarely used and rarely checked. Keep the mailbox

Trish: Perhaps we can be an interfaith organization and provide a forum through which other groups can present their rituals (how would this be different from current Gateway's?). Trish offered her home as a potential meeting place for a "Feast of Peace" ritual and potluck, date and time TBD.

Crystal (in absentia): We should focus on issues; for example effect of political decisions/climate on Pagan quality of life.

Liz: Focus on performing rituals. Change the meeting time so that families can more easily attend. Liz offered her home as a potential meeting place for a VEGETARIAN ritual and potluck in August (she will check with her family). Date and time (afternoon) TBD.

Walt: You need to determine if BAPA can offer a service other organizations don't. Suggested a Harvest Gathering in September/October.

Jim: No comments through this portion of the discussion.

Caelyth: No comments through this portion of the discussion.

Stan: We need to find other places to meet other than Palo Alto. Suggest moving the Special Gatherings to East Bay, North Bay, West Bay, and East Bay.

Motion: Recommend to membership that BAPA adopt the 4 suggestions listed above to be continued as a way to temporarily simplify organizational activities.

(Joan)

Seconded by Trish.

Ayes have it.

Motion: Recommend to membership that BAPA adopt the 3 suggestions listed above to be temporarily suspended as a way to simplify organizational activities.

(Joan)

Seconded by Trish.

Ayes have it.

Motion: Adjourn 2005 Annual BAPA Board of Directors Meeting and Convene 2005 Annual BAPA Membership Business Meeting. (Joan)

Seconded by Caelyth.

Ayes have it.

Action 3: 2005 Annual BAPA Board of Directors Meeting adjourned.

7:30pm