

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

December 17, 2017

Attending: Ken Southwood, Janet Southwood, Laura Claghorn, Bill Wilkinson, James Goslin, Gretchen Haynes, Bill Sweet, Marian Carter, Stephen Shearer, Peggy Dial, Pam Spurgeon, Carol Redfield, Jim Spickard, Joni Mize, Val Liveoak

"We have a common purpose in seeking God's will through waiting and listening, believing that every activity of life should be subject to divine guidance."

- *Faith and Practice*, Britain Yearly Meeting, cited in *A Sustainable Life*, by Douglas Gwyn.

Meeting began in silence at 11:51am.

1. Clerk's Announcements

Thank you notes received for FMSA donation: Quaker Volunteer Service, and the American Friends Service Committee.

2. Minutes from November Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. **Approved.**

3. Treasurer's report: Bill Wilkinson reporting. **Accepted.**

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Treasurer's Report & Proposed 2018 Budget November 2017

Balance Sheet

- ✓ The balance sheet has improved primarily because of investment performance with Friends Fiduciary Corporation.
- ✓ The Sinking Fund continues to recover. Unused money from the "Minor Repairs" fund will be added to the Sinking Fund at Year-end close.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Monthly expenses in November were typical. There was a timing issue for cleaning services that resulted in two payments in November.

2018 Proposed Budget

- ✓ The budget of \$28,225 represents a slight decrease over 2017. Assumptions are stated as “notes”. The general contribution budget could be made easily if we have 25 individuals/families giving approximately \$80/month, 20 giving \$100/month, 15 giving \$130/month, or \$10 giving \$220/month.
- ✓ Expense categories have been adjusted slightly to reflect our 2017 experience. This is mostly to balance the budget to the expense categories.
- ✓ The Meeting only “lost” money as a result of the HVAC repair. Otherwise, we would have ended the year in the black.
- ✓ Childcare assumes we will direct contract with childcare worker(s) for no more than 40 weeks /year.
- ✓ This budget is presented for seasoning and will be submitted for acceptance in January 2018

Faithfully submitted,

Bill Wilkinson, Treasurer

Treasurer is waiting for instruction from P&SC on RAICES donation. P&SC will set up deadline for making donation in June. This is the distribution of funds to local and Quaker groups. RAICES is not budgeted as part of the operating budget because contributions comes from Fiduciary account.

Discussion regarding donations made by the Meeting to outside groups included suggestions to increase amount currently given and that Meeting individuals may contribute to organizations as they see fit.

The Finance Committee is asked to take this discussion under advisement and discern the way forward and bring discernment to January Meeting for Business.

4. First Reading of 2018 Budget: Bill Wilkinson reporting.

Recommended 2018 operating budget of \$28,228 is down \$800 from prior year. Had it not been for HVAC repair, meeting would have been in the black. Very little adjusting was needed therefore for this budget. Childcare will be approached after January 1st, reduced amount of budget. 40 weeks of coverage, no coverage over summer months. Childcare line item reflects 40 weeks of coverage without coverage over the summer months. The remainder budget is static; basically the same budget as last year.

5. Ministry & Oversight Report: Jim Spickard reporting. **Accepted.**

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO
Ministry and Oversight Committee

Report for December Business Meeting

Two of the three remaining members of the Ministry and Oversight Committee held a brief meeting before Midweek Soup and Worship on Thursday, December 14th. We discussed:

- Our impression of the state of the meeting.
- The status of an application for membership.
- Upcoming forums.
 - on this matter, we agreed that the 4th and 5th Sunday be devoted to fellowship this month, given the dates on which they fall (Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve respectively).
 - Jim will lead a Forum/Discussion on Quaker/spiritual matters on January 28th. This is to be the yearly discussion on the State of the Meeting.

James Goslin will continue to seek monthly Queries, which will be considered and approved via email.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Spickard, Clerk

6. Peace & Social Concerns: Jim Spickard reporting. **Accepted**

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

December 17, 2017

Peace and Social Concerns met on Thursday, December 14th, before Midweek Worship. All three members of the committee (Jim, Val and Margaret) were present. We discussed three topics.

1. First, we may have an opportunity to host a concert by Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, the authors of the songbooks Rise Up Singing and Rise Again. They will be attending (and leading music at) South Central Yearly Meeting from March 29th – April 1st, and will be holding a concert at Austin Meetinghouse on one or the other end of that visit. Longtime Friends – Mount Toby at (Massachusetts) Monthly Meeting – they use group singing to empower, build community and have fun – in lots of different settings.

- We would likely have to pay them, either for themselves or for whatever cause they are currently touring. They are famous enough to draw an audience. We could ask attendees for donations.
- Val is investigation how much they would need and whether they are available on a date when the Meetinghouse is available. We are looking at either March 28th (Wednesday) or April 1st (Easter Sunday) evenings.

(Item #2 removed prior to verbal report)

3. We also discussed a recent suggestion that the Meeting join the emerging coalition SA Climate Action. This coalition includes several environmental, social justice, community, and religious organizations. It is dedicated to supporting those groups' actions on climate change and also to pressuring the City to give a stronger weight to people's voices in the development of the City's Climate Action plan.

- We decided that we needed more information about this group. One of our members had heard of such a coalition but did not know if this was it, or was a competing “coalition”. (such things happen.)
- We also wanted to make sure that it included social justice organizations, not just environmental groups.

Information gained later that evening indicated that this was the coalition the member had heard of, that there is only one such coalition forming, and that it does include many social justice organizations (Esperanza, SW Worker’s Union, Black Lives Matter, etc.).

We also learned that Meredith McGuire, a member of FMSA, is very active in this coalition. We have asked her to present a forum on the coalition on January 14th, to inform the Meeting of the issues and of the coalition’s make-up and activities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Spickard, P&SC Co-Clerk

Discussion regarding Item #2: Jim Spickard read aloud from a letter sent to a member Friend from a RAICES representative about the current activities of RAICES. Letter said in part:

Thank you for reaching out to me about this, and I apologize that you received incorrect information from one of my staff. We are extremely grateful for the engagement and generosity of the Friends Meeting of San Antonio, particularly with respect to its significant donation towards the payment of immigration bonds.

RAICES still pay bonds. Although requests for bond assistance have slowed over time, I cannot recall having turned down a request for bond payment assistance.

After starting the bond fund in 2014, we have since expanded our fundraising efforts on behalf of this community to also include funds for legal representation, filing fees, transportation costs to be with family or attend hearings, medical assistance and the myriad of other unmet needs that the families have. Additionally, we recognized that we also needed to be able to pay bonds for individuals who were not detained in family detention centers, including fathers who were separated and detained elsewhere, children who were sent to adult detention on their eighteenth birthday, asylum-seekers and others.

Starting in 2016, we began using the language “Family Defense Fund,” rather than “Family Bond Fund,” in our outreach and fundraising campaigns both to reflect this wider set of unmet needs that detained/released families have and to widen the community of families we could help to include ones that are separated and/or negatively impacted by detention. To be clear, however, we only use donations such as those from the Friends Meeting that are designated for bonds for that restricted purpose.

To that end, I checked with our accountant today and can report that we have made twenty thousand dollars in bond payments so far in 2017. We paid fifty-nine

thousand, five hundred dollars in 2016; and in 2015 we spent one hundred, seventy-thousand dollars. Overall, we have spent quite a bit more on bond payments than we have raised in donations that were designated for bonds. Nevertheless, we continue to raise funds through the Family Defense Fund and use that funding to pay for bonds and the other unmet needs referenced above.

Meeting may want to decide at a later date if RAICES is still where we want to put the Fiduciary funds that are distributed twice a year.

Bill Sweet may have interest in being representative to Texas Coalition on Climate Change. Meeting will have a forum on participation.

7. Property Committee: Bill Sweet. **Accepted with Gratitude!**

Property Committee Report

17 December 2017

1. Additional proposals for repair of the rotten roof deck are actively being solicited.
2. The water fountain was replaced by SA Top Tech on Tuesday, 12 December.
3. The wind or snow or both on 6 and 7 December broke limbs on the huisache tree at the entrance walk and a hackberry tree on the Eisenhower Road side of the buildings. Some other, less urgent trimming was done as well. Etter Tree Service did the work on 13 December.
4. A key cabinet was purchased and installed in the Meetinghouse HVAC closet, to organize and secure the keys for the several padlocks and other, non-building door locks. Extra building door keys are kept elsewhere.
5. The HVAC installed in the Phase 1 building in September was tripping a circuit breaker when the heat was on. It was repaired by the installer, Texperts Cooling and Heating, the evening of Friday, 8 December.
6. We have received notice of other, minor issues, which are being worked into the schedule.

James Goslin, James Mize, Stephen Shearer, Bill Sweet

8. Second Reading of Nominating Committee for 2018 Positions. Peggy Dial reporting for Nominating Committee.

Names listed in blue are the second reading, red are first reading. Three open positions are listed in green.

Meeting has not had an audit in two years. The Meeting Handbook was referenced for how to proceed in appointing auditors and it was discovered that it is not addressed. This will need to be added to the Handbook in the future.

Currently there is no functioning Inreach/Outreach committee or clerk. Nominating Committee has not found discernment on this topic, but suggested that it may be beyond the scope of the committee. An Info/Tech Group is proposed by the Nominating Committee (perhaps later to morph into a committee) as a way to organize common tasks from the In/Outreach committee.

Approval of black and blue names: Approved.

Red names will have second reading in January.

9. Other Concerns

- Former editor expressed concern that Newsletter does not properly address Meeting activities and that the new editor should be given help to ensure this happens in the future.
- Meeting of Corporation announced to take place at the rise of Meeting for Business in January (21st).
- MLK Day March. We have t-shirts. Peggy Dial will announce a plan for Friends to meet up for the March on January 7th and 14th.
- Meeting expresses gratitude to Ken Southwood for his long and faithful editorship of the monthly Newsletter.

Meeting ended with silence at 1:12pm

Val Liveoak, Co-Clerk

Alice Partain, Recording Clerk