

**FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**July 15, 2018**

Attending: Kellie Price, Mimi Moore, Suzanne Gaen, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, David Novogradsky, Ken Southwood, James Goslin, Marian Carter, Pam Spurgeon, Carol Redfield, Colin Malone, James Mize, Joni Mize, George Feden

Clerk opened the Meeting with Britain Yearly Meeting Minute 36 (2015): We need to arrive at a place in which we all take personal responsibility to make whatever changes we are called to.

“This minute tells us that as 21st century Quakers, we can taste metaphorical slavery in the sweetness of the world around us—we know the implications of our behaviour on climate change.” Gerald Hewitson, The Carillion, V1, n6

Opening Worship

“May the words of the Spirit be spoken. May the words of the Spirit be heard.”

Agenda was added to: minute from property committee and an announcement. Agenda accepted with additions.

**Clerk’s comments:**

FMSA has received a number of emails regarding the Minute on family separations, that-~~it~~ has reached Friends all over the continent. We received a message from Ontario, Canada. Minute was published on Friends Journal website. We will be bringing up a slight revision on wording. Work on the Minute was appreciated.

There is no Treasurer’s Report, but we have money.

There will be no Meeting for Business in August.

June Minutes: Mimi will include minutes on Facebook page. Minutes were approved.

**Property Committee: James**

1. Persyn Engineering was contracted to perform a structural engineering analysis for the repair of the rotted load-bearing support columns of the Meetinghouse. An engineer performed an on-site inspection. We are awaiting the report.
2. Tommy James contacted the Meeting to suggest an Eagle Scout project on our property. His initial thought was the steps connecting the upper with the main parking lot. Two members of the committee met with Tommy and his Scout Leader on Thursday, 12 July. Options were discussed, but more consideration is needed. We solicit other suggestions from the Meeting. Meeting would be expected to bear up to half the cost, although it could be none of the cost.
3. In the normal course of business, it was noted that the Handbook is inconsistent. In “Annex C. Property Committee Tasks”, Property Committee is responsible for “holding the master copies of the Meetinghouse keys, issuing keys to all Clerks, other committee members as appropriate, outside

organization who use the building(s) regularly, and other who need a key". In "Annex A: Inreach/Outreach Committee Tasks. Use of the Meetinghouse", this committee is tasked to "issue keys to groups meeting regularly for them to gain access themselves". For better security of the property by centralized management of access, Property Committee offers this proposed Minute.

4. Given the interest expressed within the Meeting to "do something" towards ameliorating climate change, and given the information presented in the 12 February 2017 forum on options within our electricity provider's system (CPS Energy), the Property Committee asked the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and the Treasurer to season the proposed minute below. As they approved, Property Committee presents the proposed minute to Meeting for Business.

Of the options presented, some of which were then available and some of which were at that time expected to become available in the reasonably near future, the option appearing to have the fewest disadvantages is buying off-site photovoltaic panels in a commercial array, the CPS Roofless Solar<sup>2</sup> program.<sup>1</sup> CPS Energy has announced (Express-News, various dates; CPS public meeting on 13 June 2018) that they expect to let a contract in June 2018. The date when panels will be available for purchase has not been announced, but soon after the contract is signed is possible. As the last Roofless Solar<sup>2</sup> offer was quickly sold out, FMSA should expect to need to act swiftly if it is to take advantage of this offer, thus this minute is presented to FMSA.

James Goslin, James Mize, Joni Mize, Stephen Shearer, Bill Sweet

The following minutes were approved:

**MINUTE 2018.07.1: To better manage building access and security, amend the Handbook, Annex A, Use of the Meetinghouse, by replacing "Issue keys to groups meeting regularly for them to gain access themselves." with "Arrange with the Property Committee to issue a key giving appropriate access to groups regularly meeting in the property."**

**MINUTE 2018.07.2: FMSA establishes an ad hoc committee to evaluate the exact terms of the upcoming CPS Roofless Solar<sup>2</sup> program (or equivalent off site solar farm, if named differently) according to Friends' principles, including financial stewardship. If this evaluation indicates that FMSA should apply to this CPS program, this ad hoc committee is directed to complete the application (to be signed by a co-clerk) process and commit the expenditure of up to \$40,000 (forty thousand dollars) from an account to be determined by the Treasurer in conjunction with the Finance Committee. The members of this ad hoc committee are 1) the Property Committee, 2) the Treasurer, and 3) Joe**

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<sup>1</sup> Cost Illustration from 2017 forum presentation  
Meetinghouse used ≈21 MWh in 2016, budget \$3000/y = \$250/mo  
CPS website says each panel will produce about \$25/y  
 $\$3000/y / \$25/y/panel = 120$  panels  
Panel cost is \$289  
 $\$289/panel \times 120 \text{ panels} = \$34,680$   
Payback period =  $\$34,680/\$3000/y = 11.56$  y  
For a 20-y lifetime,  $8 \text{ y} \times 120 \text{ panels} \times \$25/y\text{-panel} = \$24000$

***Redfield. FMSA expects that the ad hoc committee will consult with others in the Meeting and with outside experts if and as appropriate.***

It was discussed, but not official, that the money would be drawn from the reserves.

Report was accepted.

**Signage Committee: Joni**

The ad hoc signage committee for Friends Meeting of San Antonio met 6 February 2018. Visual examples of ideas were shared and discussed. The committee then departed for an hour long “field trip” by car and on foot. Noteworthy displays were photographed for future reference. The committee is working on a methodology and timeline for sharing potential sign illustrations with Meeting to garner feedback.

Faithfully submitted,

Laura Claghorn, Peggy Dial, Joni Mize

Committee will meet with Mr. Rolfs on Tuesday to finalize specs and be ready to send out for bids. Anticipate September/October time frame for another presentation to the Meeting.

Report accepted.

**Ministry and Oversight: Val**

M&O met on Tuesday, July 10 at the Meetinghouse. Laura Claghorn, James Goslin, Val Liveoak, and Jim Spickard attended.

We discussed:

- Various Friends needs for pastoral care, including follow-ups from last month’s concerns. We held several Friends in the Light and made plans to meet with them.
  - We hope that people who are in need of Clearness or even just a sounding board will get in touch with us. We are happy to help those in need.
- We received a query from an experienced Friend about whether Meeting could provide temporary housing for a homeless, mildly schizophrenic woman currently living behind a thrift store. She is in danger on the street and unwilling to go to the Haven for Hope Courtyard because of the danger she feels there. The police are checking on her but cannot do much else. Despite the fact that this would be a temporary solution, we were clear that the Meeting was not ready to provide such aid. Among the issues are:
  - We currently have no shower facilities and no room is truly private, though we could decide to build out the shower in the children’s bathroom and install a full curtain.
  - We have no one who could look in on her regularly, which someone in her condition needs.
  - How would we handle keys, to avoid further vandalism?
  - Would she feel safe, being rather exposed to whomever wanders through at night?

These issues are relevant to any effort we would make to provide temporary housing, sanctuary, etc. at our Meetinghouse. If Meeting wishes to be able to do this – and there is much need – we have much talking to do.

- We received the same query from the Meeting’s FCNL record as did the Peace and Social Concern Committee. Please see that committee’s report for details, as we uncovered nothing new.
- We have received several comments about the need for a Quaker 101 class or some equivalent, to help those who are newcomers get a better sense of how Quakers operate and also to increase longer-term attenders’ sense of Quaker traditions.
  - We are interested in doing something along this line starting in the fall.
  - We suspect that a didactic approach would be less helpful than an approach that responded to what people feel they need to know. We are thus thinking about polling members and attenders about what they want to know. Details to follow.
- We wondered what is happening about Quarterly Meeting, which usually happens over Labor Day Weekend. All we know is that it is not happening here. Val will investigate.
- Our representative to the Long-Term Planning Committee has asked to be released from that duty, as she is over-committed. We have done so. We now need to find a replacement from our membership, our resource people, or someone who has longstanding M&O experience. We will proceed as the way opens.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Spickard

Query about temporary housing: the children’s room bathroom was designed and “piped” to accommodate a shower. It was suggested that this should be an issue for the Long ~~term~~ Range Planning committee because of the number of issues involved and long term commitments. The question is whether FMSA feels a need to go forward with a plan for offering temporary housing. There was a concern about both physical and human resources in such an undertaking. Conversion of the children’s room for temporary residents would displace the children. We are also struggling with human resources already to meet our regular functions. It was suggested that FMSA may be more able to provide financial assistance for someone to stay in an appropriate location. It was requested that Pam send a list of temporary housing options to Val to share with the member who originally made the query.

Quaker 101/Orientation: Friends agreed that the class/orientation is a good idea and that a survey to determine what new attenders would most like to know should be developed; M&O should move further on.

Long Range Planning committee: replacing the representative will be handled within M&O.

Report accepted.

**Peace and Social Action: Val**

Jim, Val, and Margaret met at the Meetinghouse on Tuesday, July 10th. We discussed the following matters and wish to submit two concrete recommendations to Business Meeting.

1. We heard a report about current activities of the Interfaith Welcome Committee, RAICES, and other programs working with immigrants. The financial situation has changed greatly in the last few weeks – a fact to which we think the Meeting ought to respond.
  - RAICES has raised \$20 million through a viral Facebook campaign. It is expanding its staff and programs, but it is also directing money to other organizations and to family reunification. The government seems to be taking a cut of that money by hiking fees for reunifications (among other things). News changes daily, so it is hard to get a handle on where the need is greatest.
  - IWC is co-hosting a fundraiser with Sister Denise LaRock for their backpack program. They are trying to raise \$50,000 to fill the backpacks that they give families as they come through San Antonio on their way elsewhere in the U.S. About a fifth has been raised so far. Numbers are up to about 1000 families a month.
  - La Posada Providencia in the Rio Grande Valley is receiving many of the refugees who are being released from detention or who are gathering there seeking their children. They, too, are looking for donations.
  - Pastor John Garland of the San Antonio Mennonite Church has made contact with 15 churches in Northern Mexico that are aiding refugees on that side of the border. He is seeking churches to partner with them, both by providing material support and by developing ongoing relationships.
  - Smaller outfits like Sara Ramey’s Migrant Center For Human Rights are trying to increase their legal caseload but are still short of cash.
  - **OUR RECOMMENDATION:**
    - i. **Given RAICES’ changed circumstances and given our wish to have our contributions make the most difference, we recommend redirecting our currently pending withdrawal from Friends Fiduciary from RAICES to the four local initiatives listed above. This will be a one-time redirection, pending a review during the fall to determine where our future donations will do the most good.**
  - Peace and Social Concerns will monitor the situation. We will also reach out to Pastor Garland, to find out about opportunities for partnering with his coalition of churches on some concrete project (see item #4, below).
  - PS (Val and Jim) An article in the Newspaper says Catholic Charities will be receiving 400 people and housing them while they search for their children.
1. The Property Committee asked P&SC if it would support its draft minute to appoint an Ad Hoc Solar Committee to evaluate the exact terms of CPS’s expected new round of the Roofless Solar<sup>TM</sup> program and to sign up for it if the terms are satisfactory.
  - **OUR RECOMMENDATION:**



Short to Medium Term Social Justice Project: Ideas are Mennonite No Separations Project in Northern Mexico and working with HEB to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags. The committee would like to have suggestions/ideas that would enable the Meeting as a whole to participate. Ideas and suggestions can be brought directly to P&SC.

The report was accepted.

#### **Concern Regarding Minute on Family Separations: Val**

Suggestion to change the last word from “America” to “the United States.” Change was approved and minute was amended to read in full:

***Minute 2018.06-3: Friends Meeting of San Antonio finds the policy of the present administration of separating children from their families at the border to be shameful and contrary to American values. Further, using the Gospel to claim that “God has ordained” such actions is appalling to us as a people of faith. We also insist that our government follow international law and open our ports of entry for people seeking asylum. We call on all government officials, from the President, Attorney General, Senators, and Representatives, to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection to cease and desist separating infants and older children from their parents. Compassion is called for in welcoming those who flee violence, seeking asylum in the United States. Val Liveoak & Gretchen Haynes, co-clerks***

#### **International Peace Day: Gretchen**

International Peace Day (Sept. 21) is on a Friday. Is the Meeting ready to go forward with a movie night? “Where to Invade Next” by Michael Moore was suggested. Gretchen will check into copyright issues. Movie would be shown in the meeting house, as there are no rental groups here that night. Gretchen envisioned it being a free showing with donations accepted, and inviting the four groups who use our space. Gretchen will need help in testing then setting up projector, screen, and sending out publicity.

***MINUTE 2018.07.4: FMSA establishes an ad hoc committee to explore the feasibility of a movie night to observe International Peace Day on September 21. The committee shall ensure the availability of necessary items such as projector and screen and determine any copyright or other legal issues. If the committee determines the event is feasible, FMSA supports the committee taking necessary steps to bring it to fruition.***

Minute was approved.

#### **FCNL Announcement: Bill**

Meetings nationwide are invited to have 3-5 people come together for a local Congressional lobby one time on a date in October on one issue. FCNL will support these groups with information and conference calls. See Bill S. if you want to sign on or if you have questions.

There was a question as to the timing, since so many of our representatives are up for election in November. There was no real answer. However, it is a pilot project, and this can be viewed as a trial run to base future lobbying efforts on.

#### **Announcements**

Request that Friends refrain from putting stickers on the Meetinghouse. Any decoration to the Meetinghouse should be brought to the Property Committee, and an alternative is to utilize the bulletin board.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Val Liveoak, Co-Clerk

Kellie Price, Recording Clerk