

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
October 21, 2018

Attending: Bill Wilkinson, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Lee Teran, Carol Redfield, Joni Mize, James Mize, Jillian Randles, Jim Spickard, Pat Osoria, Marian Carter, Gretchen Haynes, Katherine Fitzgerald, Benjamin Hernandez, Michelle DiGeacomo, Kellie Price, Val Liveoak

The Meeting opened with the following quote: "The right conduct of our meetings for [worship with attention to business] depends upon all to them with an active, seeking spirit, not with minds made up on a particular course of action..." Quaker Faith and Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting, 3.05

Opening Worship

"May the words of the Spirit be spoken. May the words of the Spirit be heard."

Clerk's comments:

We received a note of appreciation from Sandy and Nate Balfour for the Memorial Meeting for Doug Balfour.

We received a response letter from Rep. Joaquin Castro regarding our letter on family separations at the border.

We received a note of thanks from Sister Zita Telkamp of La Posada Providencia.

Minutes from July 2018 were approved.

Minutes from September 2018 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Wilkinson

Balance Sheet

- ✓ The balance sheet was reduced by \$2,854.15, which is the difference between operating income and expenses during September.
- ✓ No other significant activity to report.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ YTD Operating Income in terms of General Contributions is lagging the budget by about \$1,600.
- ✓ YTD Unbudgeted Designated Gifts now total \$12,826. Although these expenses are included on the Statement of Activities they are supported by direct contribution (e.g., Festival proceeds) or obtained from non-operating assets (e.g., FNCL contribution from FFC investment).
- ✓ When removing Unbudgeted Designated Gifts from expenses, the Meeting has spent \$32,265.44 during the first three-fourths of the year against an annual operating budget of \$28,425.
- ✓ Unbudgeted Major Repairs and Grounds Maintenance (Tree Removal/Trimming) account for \$9,476.13 and \$2,920.00 of the overspend, respectively. When these items are removed, Operating Expenses for the year equal \$19,869.31 and are well within expectations.

- ✓ The September CPS bill of \$600.76 is for August and September.

All other income/expense categories were routine.

There was a suggestion that CPS bill for Meeting be paid automatically.

Report accepted.

Property Committee: James Mize

1) The Property Committee has met with and received bids from two contractors, regarding assorted rotten wood at the back of Meeting House. We are reviewing the bids.

2) from Property Committee report: We had a successful workday on October 6th and were joined by several Insight Meditation folks, one Celebration Circle member and a master naturalist. We also had a mini workday before soup and worship on October 11th.

3) The Property Committee discovered extensive insect damage to the emergency exit door in the Meeting House. We are exploring our options to replace or repair it.

Report accepted.

Ministry and Oversight: Jim

The Ministry and Oversight Committee met on October 12th at the Meetinghouse. All committee members were present (Laura, James, Val, and Jim), joined by Gretchen as co-Clerk. We considered the following issues:

1. Illnesses:
 - a. Ruth is in hospice at her apartment in the Incarnate Word Village.
 - Bo Tep is with her and a team of her friends and Meeting representatives visit her frequently.
 - Laura and Jim have worked with Bo and her friend Pam to coordinate Ruth's arrangements with her trustee and her next-of-kin.
 - We will need to plan for a memorial service. The Clerks and M&O are/will be discussing whether to hold it at the Meetinghouse or at another location that has room for her many non-Quaker friends.
 - b. Please hold Mimi and Ken and Janet in the Light as they deal with their medical concerns.
2. We received 3 requests for Meeting membership. We have appointed members of M&O to work with them to form Clearness Committees.
3. James & Joni wish to renew their wedding vows during last 15 minutes of the October 28th Meeting for Worship. M&O considered and approved this request. We will have a smooth transition from Meeting for Worship. They plan to use the new wedding chairs.

4. At the September Business Meeting, we promised to bring a minute about creating a Memorial Garden at the Meetinghouse and about burying human cremains:

Memorial Garden Proposed Minute:

FMSA approves the establishment of a Memorial Garden along the south end of the limestone wall (the area currently overgrown with plants) or in another place proposed by the Property Committee. We intend this to be landscaped in such a way that we can remember Friends, attenders, and those otherwise associated with Meeting who have passed on. M&O will receive requests for this remembrance.

We approve the installation of small memorial plaques on the wall or in another permanent location approved by the Property Committee. We approve the burial of human cremains, so long as it is done in an environmentally sensitive manner – for example by the use of buffering compost in a biodegradable container or in a hermetically sealed container. Requests for biodegradable containers holding permanent plants in this Garden are subject to the approval of the Property Committee. Requests for biodegradable containers holding permanent plants elsewhere on the property may be submitted to Property Committee for possible approval by Business Meeting.

5. We continue to work on the Website and the announcements and newsletter lists. We are making progress. We now have a system for people to sign up to receive announcements and our newsletters. We also have a secure location online in which to store Meeting records.
6. Unfinished business:
 - a. As-needed WiFi for the Meeting property.
 - b. A system for allowing members and attenders to record their last wishes, next of kin, and other information needed in case of death or illness.
 - c. Revising the directory and getting in touch with long-absent members.
 - d. An M&O appointee to the Long-Term Planning Committee
 - e. What name to use in place of “Oversight”
 - f. The status of Quarterly Meeting

There was a concern about whether Friends should write an obituary for Ruth Lofgren. We have access to a wealth of information to be able to write one. It was suggested that Friends should check with the Executor first. There was a reminder that Friends Journal and Yearly Meeting will be looking for Memorial Minutes for both Doug Balfour and Ruth Lofgren.

Report accepted.

Memorial Garden Proposed Minute

There was a concern about the length of the proposed minute, but it was explained that the reason for the length is so that it is clear what is approved so that it doesn't have to be brought back to Business Meeting in the future.

It was suggested that the Minute be incorporated into the handbook for procedures for future reference.

It was suggested that perhaps the Minute should be held over until Property Committee is able to consider the details.

MINUTE 2018.10.1: *The meeting approves the spirit of the proposed minute on the Memorial Garden and anticipates addressing this issue at the next business meeting, where the details will be a draft amendment to the handbook and property committee will have had a chance to discern various aspects of the proposal.*

Nominating Committee—read by Gretchen Haynes

Item 1.

Mimi Moore and Elizabeth Pitts have asked to be released from their respective Committee positions, effective immediately. Nominating has accepted their requests and determined that their positions will be left open until the 2019 roster is posted. Jim Spickard has agreed to facilitate the Newsletter for November and December, as well as, train others on the new set up.

Item 2. The Nominating Committee has met on September 17th, October 3rd & 17th. Through an equal balance of care, conversation and silent worship, we were led to set aside our preliminary report for October. We feel called to continue the process of deep listening to the life and spirit of our Meeting and to the leadings of our individual members and attenders.

Respectably submitted by Laura Claghorn, Greg Casillas & Peggy Dial
Report accepted.

Other Concerns

Outreach: It was suggested that FMSA hold another movie night during MLK week and show the movie *Selma*. Jim Spickard can forward information regarding the renting of the equipment. Friends were supportive of this idea. It was suggested that FMSA inform the MLK Commission to see whether it can be included as a recognized event. Friends approve of clerks authoring a letter to the MLK Commission.

Media Exchange: It was asked whether book exchange on first Sunday in December would still take place as is custom. It was decided at a prior business meeting that Friends still wanted to do a media exchange in December. Friends decided to explicitly take steps to schedule and publicize the media exchange.

Need of Keys: Property committee is in charge of keys. Bill Sweet is the person to see if Friends have a need of a key.

Birthdays: it was announced that a birthday sign up sheet will go out in order for Friends to volunteer for birthday months to get cards, cake, etc.

Newsletter/Announcements: Request that about 4 Friends volunteer to be trained and given access to handle the electronic portions of outreach. This would be an ad hoc group, as it is not an official position/committee. Four Friends have volunteered.

Financial Contributions: Bill Wilkinson reminded Friends that FMSA has not yet given its usual contributions from Operating funds and suggested that we give the same amounts as last year. Peace and Social Concerns had previously decided to remove the amount given last year to Cops Metro. FMSA has budgeted an additional amount over last year's amount. The additional amount will be held in abeyance so that Peace and Social Concerns can have some wiggle room to be able to respond to emerging issues. Peace and Social Concerns will consider options for the additional \$1100 and bring it to Business Meeting.

MINUTE 2018.10.2: We approve issuing checks for donations to the groups that we supported last year with the exception of COPS Metro. We charge Peace and Social Concerns to bring a proposal at the next Business Meeting for donating the remaining \$1100 which we have budgeted.

Reminder to committees to send the Recording Clerk committee reports in Word or .doc format for purposes of editing the Minutes.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Val Liveoak, Co-Clerk

Kellie Price, Recording Clerk