

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
November 18, 2018

Attending: Michelle DiGiacomo, Pam Spurgeon, Greg Casillas, Carol Redfield, Pat Sweet, David Novogrodsky, Debbie Passey, Colin Malone, James Mize, Katherine Fitzgerald, Ben Hernandez, Jillian Randles, Greg Koehler, Juan B. Velez, Marian Carter, Stephen Shearer, Peggy Dial, Kellie Price, Gretchen Haynes

The Meeting opened with the following quote: "Participation in the community of faith may be a witness to God's new order of love, peace, and justice coming to birth in the world. At the same time, such participation provides major avenues through which God's transforming presence may continue to touch our lives." *Gospel Order: A Quaker Understanding of Faithful Church Community, Sandra L. Cronk*

Opening Worship

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

Clerk's comments:

Clerk had no additional comments.

Minutes from October 2018 were approved with the following amendments: Under subsection 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. On Page 4, Nominating Committee Report change "lead" to "led."

Treasurer's Report: Pat Sweet

Balance Sheet

- ✓ The balance sheet improved by \$13,558.65 primarily due to increase in the Meeting's investments with Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC). Additionally, operating income exceeded expenses by \$925.27.
- ✓ No other significant activity to report.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ YTD Operating Income in terms of General Contributions is lagging the budget by about approximately \$2,250.
- ✓ The uptick in interest rates has resulted in Bank Interest far exceeding the budget.
- ✓ Facilities use contributions is tracking well against the budget.
- ✓ Refreshments stock was purchased in bulk resulting in a \$138.00 expenditure.
- ✓ All other income/expense categories were routine.

Faithfully submitted,
Bill Wilkinson, Treasurer

It was pointed out to Meeting that the contributions towards Immigration Aid came from the Community Garage Sale.

Report accepted.

Reminder that our Treasurer is stepping down at the end of the year, and that position is not yet filled.

Property Committee: Stephen Shearer

1) The Property Committee met 5 November 2018. We reviewed bids from two contractors for repairing water damaged and rotting wood on the east side of the Meetinghouse. Each of the proposals indicated completion would be according to engineering specifications provided by Persyn Engineering (31 July 2018).

Based on cost considerations, the committee chose Malitz Construction for the work at an estimated range of \$3,500 - \$4,500. They will replace the wooden beam under the Northeast stairs with a Glulam Beam and remove rotten wood at columns on Northeast and Southeast corners and repair per engineering report, then paint all new surfaces to match.

2) The Property Committee also began discussions about a Memorial Garden at the Meetinghouse.

3) We had a successful mini workday before Soup and Meeting for Worship on November 8th.

James Mize, Joni Mize, Stephen Shearer and Bill Sweet

Report accepted.

Ministry and Oversight: Jim Spickard

The Ministry and Oversight Committee met on November 5th at the Meetinghouse. Three committee members were present (Laura, Val, and Jim). We considered the following issues:

1. Memorial for Ruth Lofgren:

- a. As we all know, Ruth Lofgren was very active in San Antonio and had a large number of people who cared about her. We considered the best way to hold a memorial service, recognizing that our Meetinghouse would not likely hold everyone who would like to attend. **After much deliberation, we decided to have a memorial service in the style of Friends at the Meetinghouse and to take part in any memorial that other groups propose to hold in other venues.**
- b. The best available time for our memorial is on Sunday, December 2nd, from 2-3pm. It will be listed in her obituary and open to the anyone who wishes to attend.
- c. We have since learned that the Esperanza Center, which had expressed considerable interest in hosting a memorial, is unable to do so. They will join us at our memorial as the way opens.

2. Memberships

- a. The Clearness Committee for Joni Mize enthusiastically recommends that she be approved for membership.

MINUTE 2018.11.1: *Friends Meeting of San Antonio welcomes Joni Mize into membership of the Religious Society of Friends.*

- b. We received an additional request for Meeting membership – making four in the last month. We have appointed a member of M&O to work with him to form a Clearness Committee.
- c. The committee distributed copies of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s Faith and Practice to each of the four.

3. Weddings

- a. We have received a request from Katherine Fitzgerald and Ben Hernandez to be married under the care of the Meeting next May. We will work with them to form a Clearness Committee.

4. Held-Over Business

October Meeting for Business postponed consideration of our proposed minute to create a Memorial Garden at the Meetinghouse with guidelines about burying human cremains. Meeting wished to have short minute, with the details to be placed in the Handbook. Kellie has provided the following draft proposal:

MINUTE 2018.11.2: *FMSA approves the establishment of a Memorial Garden to remember Friends, attenders, and those otherwise associated with the Meeting who have passed on. The guidelines for the Memorial Garden will be incorporated into Part 3, Annex G of the Handbook.*

ANNEX G: MEMORIAL GARDEN

This section contains information relating to the Memorial Garden approved by the Meeting in 2018.

1. Location: The Memorial Garden will be located along the south end of the limestone wall or in another place proposed by the Property Committee.
2. Landscaping: The Meeting intends to landscape in such a way that we can remember Friends, attenders, and those otherwise associated with the Meeting who have passed on.
3. Memorial Plaques: Small memorial plaques may be installed on the wall or in another permanent location approved by the Property Committee.
4. Burial of Cremains: Burial of human cremains is to be done in an environmentally sensitive manner, by the use of buffering compost in a biodegradable container, hermetically sealed container, or similar environmentally sound methods.
5. Process: Ministry and Oversight Committee will receive requests for remembrances. Requests for biodegradable containers holding permanent plants in the Memorial 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 the Property Committee for possible approval by Business Meeting.

5. State of the Meeting Report:

- a. We will have a forum to consider the State of the Meeting on January 27th. This will give us plenty of time to prepare the report, as Yearly Meeting is much later than usual this year.
 - b. At that time, we will ask those present to consider whether to continue the experiment of having late-comers enter Meeting for Worship at 10:10 rather than trickling in beforehand.
6. We are aware that the joy and burden of the children's program has fallen on a scant few individuals. We encourage other Friends to step forward to shoulder part of that joy. We want to make sure that parents are free to sit in Meeting and feel welcome to bring their children to all Meeting events
7. 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

The Minutes were approved and the Handbook proposal was held over until next month in order to allow Friends to read the proposal in this month's Minutes.

Greg Koehler volunteered with the children today and let Friends know that it was a great joy and encouraged Friends to volunteer in this manner. He also suggested a training for Friends who wish to volunteer in this way, in order to make sure we are up to date on safety measures and other topics relevant to interacting with children. Greg also discussed the possibility of combining the inclusion of children at the beginning of the Meeting with the bringing in of Friends, Attenders and visitors at 10:10.

Peggy Dial indicated that the volunteering with the children is also something that Nominating Committee has been considering as well.

The concern about whether to use first and last names in the minutes was also to be considered by M&O, and Jim Spickard added it to his notes under Unfinished Business.

Report accepted.

Peace and Social Concerns: Jim Spickard

Margaret, Jim, Val, and Greg met at the Meetinghouse on Monday, November 5th. We considered the following issues:

1. Contributions to Quaker and to Local Organizations for the 2019 Budget: Following the Meeting's decision to tithe our annual budget, we have \$2,600 to distribute. We propose the following:
 - a. Quaker Organizations:
 - i. The first seven are identical to last year:
 - AFSC \$100
 - FCNL \$100
 - FGC \$100
 - FWCC \$100
 - Friends Journal \$100
 - Quaker Voluntary Srv \$100
 - Friends Peace Teams \$200 (for the general program)
 - ii. We propose adding:
 - Friends Peace Teams \$200 (for the Central America) program
 - b. Local Organizations:
 - i. The principles for donating to local organizations remain the same: they should work on issues that match Quaker principles, and they should have a relationship with Meeting, usually through a member or attender of Meeting who is engaged with them.
 - ii. We propose continuing our contributions to the following organizations, with some adjustment of figures from last year:
 - Esperanza Center \$200 (last year: \$300)
 - Peace Initiatives \$100 (last year: \$300)
 - Interfaith Welcome \$500 (last year: \$200)
 - Catholic Worker \$100 (last year: \$100)
 - iii. We propose adding the following:
 - Thrive Youth Center \$300
 - Migrant Ctr for HR \$300
 - RAICES \$100
 - c. We propose carrying over the unused portion of our 2018 Emerging Concerns Fund, putting it to the same use in 2019
 - d. As we see how the migrant/refugee crisis unfolds, we will consider whether to advise the Meeting about best how to direct its semi-annual contribution from our investments to that issue.
2. We considered the current needs of migrants being released from the Karnes and Dilly detention centers. There are various ways we can help. Margaret will get an update at the next Interfaith Welcome Coalition meeting on Thursday, Nov 8th. She and Val will present some of these at the forum on migration planned for Nov 11th.
 - a. We spoke about finding ways that we, as a Meeting, might respond to this issue besides simply giving money. We are aware that there are opportunities to help prepare backpacks for families. We will see how the way opens.

3. We were asked (by a non-Quaker activist) to support the "Off Fossil Fuels Act". We read what information we had, including a communication from FCNL, which supports the idea behind the act but does not find it sufficiently bipartisan to push at this time. We postponed any decision until we do more research.
4. We considered news from Baltimore Yearly Meeting about its proposed minute supporting transgender rights. Meeting has previously minuted our opposition to the Texas Legislature's attempt to pass a bathroom bill and our support of human rights for all persons. The time may soon come when we need to reaffirm that minute. Greg will lead a forum on gender identity and transgender issues in the next couple of months.
5. We received a Minute from the Atlanta Friends Social Concerns Committee. It is a "call to action" in support of participatory democracy, against consumerism and economic privilege, and for supporting candidates "with values that can build the basis for a compassionate, inclusive, and sustainable world". We were not led to any specific action.

-- Jim Spickard

Report accepted.

Nominating Committee: Peggy Dial and Greg Casillas

Item 1. In an effort to continue the breath of life that we are currently feeling within Meeting, the Nominating Committee would like to offer the following Committee name and structure change. This shift in name change and structure, is not just about doing things, but about doing things differently. Motivating change through its members and the abilities they possess.

A) Inreach/Outreach Committee would become Community Engagement Committee.

Realizing the responsibilities of this committee within Meeting and outside of Meeting, "Community Engagement" is intended to encompass all. Engaging the "community" that exists as visitors, attenders and members, as well as the "community" within our reach would be the goal of this committee. This name change reflects this goal.

MINUTE 2018.11.3: *FMSA approves the change of name in the Handbook from "Inreach/Outreach Committee" to "Community Engagement Committee."*

B) Community Engagement Committee will function has a committee with members.

I/O has been functioning as a collection of related but independent functions, a choice made some years ago to meet the conditions then. Recently the members of Nominating have become aware that this set-up has resulted in missed communication and missed opportunities for promoting the growth - spiritual , functional and numerical - of the Meeting.

Nominating Committee believes shifting the current individual responsibilities to committee responsibilities allows its members to be supported, to flow into areas of interest within the committee and to develop communication channels with other committees that may not exist at present.

MINUTE 2018.11.4. FMSA strikes the following language from the Handbook: “Some or all of them (responsibilities) may be undertaken by individuals or groups of individuals rather than by the committee or its members.”

Item 2. The Nominating Committee submits for 1st Reading the following 2019 Roster.
See handout.

Item 3. The Nominating Committee continues to work, as lead, with individual Friends such that all may have an opportunity for the growth which comes with service to the Meeting.

Respectably submitted by Laura Claghorn, Greg Casillas & Peggy Dial

There was discussion about the intent behind the committee name change and the striking of the language referring to individuals. The intent was to make the committee function more as a group and to improve communication within the committee and bring it back more towards the original intent. The Minutes were approved.

As to the First Reading of the Roster: it was clarified that Bill Wilkinson, who will be on the Finance Committee, would not be “ex-officio,” as he is stepping down as Treasurer. The new Treasurer would be the “ex-officio” member as required by the Handbook. It was discussed that “Resources” would be left off of the Roster as there was a concern that it left confusion regarding people’s level of commitment. After committees are formed, the information of those willing to serve as resources for the committees will be shared with those committees. It was explained that Long Range Planning Committee was left off, because Nominating Committee does not nominate the members.

There is still a need for a Treasurer. Peggy Dial added that Nominating is continuing to talk to individuals for the positions that are still open.

The Roster in its First Reading format will be enclosed with these Minutes.

Report accepted.

Signage Committee: Peggy Dial

Ad Hoc Sign Committee Report for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business November 18, 2018
Working with the two sign designs that came out of our Forum on March 25th, the Ad Hoc Sign committee has:

- *Consolidated the information into two working designs
- *Finalized a visual and structural design for each
- *Contacted five sign companies and received two bids. One company, however, could not construct one of the signs according to our specifications. Therefore, we have chosen to moving ahead with Budget Signs.

We will be posting the final designs and their proposed cost in an Announcement format for all Friends to view and comment on. It is our intention to bring a final design and bid to the December Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Respectfully submitted ~ Laura Claghorn, Joni Mize & Peggy Dial

Report accepted.

Other Concerns

Free Movie Night: We have been accepted by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission as the first evening activity of Dream Week, Friday January 11. We will be showing *Selma*. Gretchen Haynes has been asked to do the Interfaith activity at the Cathedral again this year.

Budget Requests: every committee should give their funding requests to the Finance Committee within the next week. It was due in September.

Seat cushions: Pam Spurgeon has suggested that the seat cushions be stacked near the door so that people who want them can grab them and be returned to the stack at the close of Meeting. Bill Sweet suggested that the shawls/wraps also be included near the door. It was also suggested that at the rise of Meeting that Friends be reminded to return the cushions.

It was appreciated that reports have been coming in Word format. It was requested that the standard heading on the Reports be modeled after the Treasurer's Report, example:

Friends Meeting San Antonio Committee Report Month Year

This makes it easier for the Recording Clerk to keep track of reports and files on her computer.

Pam Spurgeon asked whether Friends want to participate in the Women's March in January. Pam Spurgeon will research and prepare something for the newsletter.

It was suggested that perhaps we have a forum in January regarding making and storing one's final wishes with the Meeting.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Gretchen Haynes, Co-Clerk

Kellie Price, Recording Clerk