

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
January 20, 2019

Attending: Kellie Price, Gretchen Haynes (M), Peggy Dial (M), Stephen Shearer (M), Michelle DeGiacomo (M), Greg Koeler, Margarita McAuliffe, Pam Spurgeon, Greg Casillas, James Mize, Carol Redfield (M), Jillian Randles, Joni Mize (M), Pat Sweet (M), Bill Sweet (M), Oliver Gerken, Debbie Passey, Colin Malone, David Hayes, Marian Carter (M), Laura Claghorn (M) (The M designates formal membership in the Religious Society of Friends, for the purpose of the Meeting of the Corporation).

The Meeting opened with the following quote: The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” Martin Luther King, quoting the 19th century clergyman, Theodore Parker

Opening Worship

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

Agenda Preview: Gretchen Haynes

Signage Committee report was removed.

Clerk’s comments:

We have a thank you from Po and a notice of event on Gender Diversity, a flyer on lunch and learn on building mental health ministries, letter from Mary Montemayor thanking us for welcoming her. All will be posted in the foyer.

Citywide Interfaith today, 2nd Baptist Church, Commerce St. 4:00

MLK March, from St Philips College parking lot, 9:30 Jan 21

Welcome to new members, Feb 3 Pot Luck

Clerks’ Meeting Feb 16 –

New Class in Feb A Course in Miracles; 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7 pm in Library by David Hayes

South Central Yearly Meeting – on the theme of “Lift Hearts and Spirits to

the Light” at Greene Family Camp, Bruceville, TX, from Apr 18 to 21; [Easter weekend]; financial assistance is available.

FGC Gathering – See fgcquaker.org for list of workshops and speakers.

June 30 to July 6 at Grinnell College, Iowa. Funds for financial assistance particularly for first time attenders & families.

Nominating Committee: Peggy Dial

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

A)The Nominating Committee continues to work with the Finance committee toward filling the position of Monthly Meeting Treasurer, which is also Trustee Treasurer.

B) Suzanne Wright Crain has removed her name from 2nd reading as a Member of M&O.

C) It is our sense that a representative of our Meeting's youth should be involved with discussions regarding opportunities for a children's spiritual growth program; therefore, we have added a "Youth" Member to the Religious Education Committee. The amount of involvement and a replacement, when needed or warranted, would both be determined by the committee. The latter in conjunction with Nominating.

D) Nominating requests the following committees submit their Long-range Planning Committee representatives by February's Meeting with Attention to Business: Property, Finance, M&O and Community Engagement

E) This roster does not include resources. It is the sense of Nominating that all members and attenders act as resources to our Meeting. If members or attenders would like to offer specific abilities to a particular committee, they will contact the committee clerks aware about their intentions.

Respectably submitted by Laura Claghorn, Greg Casillas & Peggy Dial

Readings approved and report accepted.

Meeting of the Corporation: Carol Redfield

Trustees were approved (see Roster).

Minutes from December 2018 were **approved** with a correction of spelling of "guidance" in quote, and change "increase" to "increasing" under Treasurer's report. Clarification that Yearly Meeting would be consulted regarding possible bookkeeper to see what other meetings do, not that some sort of authority was required from Yearly Meeting.

Finance Committee Report: Pat Sweet

In response to the report of the Nominating Committee at last Meeting for Business, the Finance Committee has been working to determine the type of "bookkeeper" to hire, what else would be needed if we do this and gathering suggestions for possible people to approach. We have also contacted other Meetings in SCYM and a couple of small churches to find out how they handle this.

We have not yet been able to meet face to face but have been in constant contact.

We would like more Guidance from the Meeting as to what you think the "bookkeeper" should be. We would also like suggestions to be given in writing, with contact information and qualifications. Possible candidates should understand that this is a position that requires about 8 hours work per month.

All scenarios to date require an on-site person to accept donations, receive receipts for reimbursement, and disburse checks. In proper process, we leave discernment of this on-site person to the Nominating Committee.

The Finance Committee

Pat Sweet, Carol Redfield, Bill Wilkinson, Joe Redfield

Greg Koehler can put finance committee in touch with some small Episcopal churches. There was a question as to whether a job description had been drafted; it was explained that this is why Finance committee wants more input and direction from Meeting. To clarify, we're looking for two people who do the job that Bill Wilkinson had previously been doing. Until a new Treasurer can be found, Bill Wilkinson will continue to act as Treasurer, but that should not be taken as a sign that we don't need to fill this position quickly. Nominating gets the sense that the position feels daunting to members due to the level of responsibility and the fact that Bill Wilkinson does it so well. Some members have indicated a willingness to fill the position "if they have to," but this would mean they couldn't serve where they *want* to. The sense of the Meeting is that a bookkeeper would suffice and a CPA is not necessary.

Report accepted.

Treasurer's Report and Final Reading of the Budget: Pat Sweet

Balance Sheet

- ✓ The Meeting's Balance Sheet improved by \$739.45 since December 31, 2017 because of unusually high contributions in December 2018.
- ✓ There has been no unusual expense activity.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Contributions were extremely high during December.
- ✓ The Meeting received a distribution check in the amount of \$4546.07 from Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC).
- ✓ Childcare expense was \$100 higher because the Meeting agreed to provide Renata with a holiday bonus in that amount.
- ✓ The Migrant Center, Interfaith Welcome Coalition, and La Posada Providencia each received contributions from the Meeting FFC distribution in the amount of \$568.26, respectively.
- ✓ There was a \$4.00 bank charge for a contribution check that was returned because the account had been closed.

2019 Proposed Budget

- ✓ The total budget of \$37,290 includes all requested items and an increase to Sinking Fund from \$2,400/year to \$6,000/year. This budget represents a an increase of 31.2% over the 2018 budget; but only a 12.9% increase over the actual contributions received toward operating costs in 2018.
- ✓ \$50 was added to the M&O budget for the purchase of new member Faiths & Practice.
- ✓ Childcare was extended from a 40 week/year budget to 52 weeks.
- ✓ \$800 was added to a new line item for Religious Education called "Materials & Activities" to be split between child and adult religious education in a manner to be determined by the committee.
- ✓ Last year, the Meeting agreed to have the Meeting Contributions to Others and SCYM benchmarked at approximately 10% of contributions, respectively. This decision is reflected in this budget.
- ✓ The majority of the increased budget is expected to come from contributions by Meeting members and attenders. This could be a challenge given the Meeting has lost critical contributors. Through the end of December, 85.8% of contributions came from 14 individuals and families.

Faithfully submitted,

Bill Wilkinson, Treasurer

The report was accepted.

As to the budget, there was a concern that the number of main contributors to Meeting had gone down to 14 individuals and families. There was a question as to whether contributions can be made electronically through an auto draft, and it is possible to do electronic fund transfers. Bill Wilkinson can provide the information.

It was requested that someone come up with a suggested average contribution amount. It was suggested that this could be added to the newsletter or in the next budget report. Community Engagement Committee will reach out to Bill and follow up.

There was a reminder that it's important to attend Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business so that we can discern our capacity to participate in the financial stewardship of this Meeting.

Oliver Gerken pointed out that it might be beneficial if Friends made it abundantly clear that all attenders are encouraged to come to Business Meeting, and that a pamphlet with information on how to contribute electronically would also help.

2019 Budget approved with gratitude.

Property Committee: James Mize

1. On January 10, a successful mini work day was accomplished. We thank all participants.
2. Also on January 10, the final maintenance check of Phase I HVAC (included with installation agreement) was performed. Service of system is now covered by contract we have with A/C Technical Services.
3. Malitz Construction completed necessary repairs to Meetinghouse. Invoice is anticipated.
4. Memorial Garden development is a work in progress.

Stephen Shearer, James Mize, Bill Sweet, Joni Mize

A full workday will happen sometime soon to prune the trees. The big workdays are always on a weekend day.

Report accepted.

Community Engagement Committee: Greg Casillas

Members in attendance - Kellie, Gretchen, Jillian, Debbie, Bill, Jim and Greg

I look not to myself, but to that within me, that has to my admiration proved to be my present help, and enable me to do what I believe of myself I could not have done.

Elizabeth Fry: A Quaker Life

We decided to conduct our committee meetings the first Monday of each month immediately after yoga. Since some members have children, we will make every effort to hold ourselves to 60 - 75 minute maximum meeting time.

We discussed the previous individual responsibilities of the committee members and how we could now incorporate those into group efforts. We realized that some items would continue to require special attention and feel comfortable with those remaining with individuals.

Gretchen asked to be released from Hospitality scheduling and from hosting on the 2nd & 3rd Sunday. The committee will assume responsibility for scheduling and will ask Members and Attenders to fill these hosting duties.

We talked about the reach of social media outlets, FMSA website, Facebook, Instagram and the importance of the timely distribution and consistent information about Meeting, Forums and events happening at FMSA

Individual member responsibilities, Marian - Supplies, Bill - Directory & Handbook, Gretchen - Email & Scheduling, James - Webmaster, Jim - Newsletter production & distribution. Although these items remain with individuals, with committee help and support, we believe requests and decisions regarding these items will be easier and provide thorough communication within committees.

Jim introduced an internet based workspace that is easily utilized by our committee. We are able to add committee tasks to be completed weekly and monthly, assume responsibility for the tasks and provide updates.

We will collect newsletter content and submit to Jim by the 26th of each month, with Jim retaining editorial privilege.

Bill will share Ken's catalog of Quaker information with Kellie, who will in turn, share articles, quotes and links that can be published on our webpage, facebook and instagram sites.

We ended the meeting with gratitude and appreciation.

Report accepted with joy.

Religious Education Committee: Colin Malone

The religious education committee met for the first time on January 6. Present: Gretchen Haynes, Colin Malone, Joni Mize, Gary Whiting, Liam Randles; regrets: Ben Hernandez & Greg Koehler

The committee undertook a brainstorming session to generate ideas and areas of focus for Adult and Children's religious education.

1) Children's program: Liam Randles joined the discussion as a representative of first day school students to contribute his ideas for the children's programs. Items he suggested included additional activities, having more books to be read to first day students, planting a tree, and the potential for a

future playground or play area at meeting. The committee also discussed the possibility of the kids helping with a community garden, potential future field trip locations, and educational topics for first day school.

2) Adult education: The committee generated many promising ideas for future forums, and set out forum ideas and dates for the next three months. The committee also discussed taking over the Quaker Questions box and brainstormed ideas for future adult field trips.

The committee will continue to develop these ideas and move forward in the coming weeks and months.

Respectfully, Colin Malone

Greg Koehler was interested in some type of process for teaching and sharing Quaker traditions and etiquette.

Greg Casillas suggested the idea of a living book that documents conversations with members who have been here awhile. He would also like FAQ answers to be shared with Community Engagement so that the answers can be passed along to the community.

Margarita indicated an interest in restarting a book of the month club.

Report accepted.

Ministry and Oversight: Laura Claghorn

Jim Spickard, Val Liveoak, James Goslin, Suzanne Wright-Crane, Gretchen Haynes, and Laura Claghorn met on January 3 at the Meetinghouse, where we discussed the following items:

1. Memberships

Clearness Committees for Greg Casillas and for Kellie Price enthusiastically recommend that they be approved for membership.

MINUTE 2019.1.1: Friends Meeting of San Antonio welcomes Greg Casillas into membership of the Religious Society of Friends. Approved.

MINUTE 2019.1.2: Friends Meeting of San Antonio welcomes Kellie Price into membership into the Religious Society of Friends. Approved.

2. Marriage

The Clearness Committee for Katherine Fitzgerald and Ben Hernandez is pleased to recommend that their marriage be taken under Meeting's care.

MINUTE 2019.1.3: The Friends Meeting of San Antonio will take the marriage of Katherine Fitzgerald and Ben Hernandez under its care. Approved.

3. Other items discussed during the meeting

- a. a support group for a member
- b. a request about burial of cremains from an attender who has moved away
- c. a forum on the State of the Meeting for January 27
- d. a discussion on coordinating forum topics between Religious Education and Peace & Social Concerns Committees
- e. a suggested topic for a forum on February 24: Advanced Directives/Final Requests; Religious Education will follow up

- f. reviewing past directories for names of long-lost members and former active attenders and drafting a letter to contact them.

Report accepted with gratitude.

Peace and Social Concerns: Greg Casillas

Greg facilitated a forum based on collecting thoughts and concerns members of Meeting would like the committee to address.

The forum began with the statement of Self, Family, Community, World and how we as individuals hold on to and present our values?. Focusing on SPICES, how do we see ourselves as Quakers being involved and promoting change?

There were some wonderful ideas and P&SC will work to create a plan to incorporate the wide range of topics to move into action. Attached is an excellent recap of the forum by Gretchen.

Report accepted.

Other Concerns

Proposal for Spring Fair: Gretchen Haynes

Proposal for Spring Event

1. Do we want one? YES
2. Combine Quaker Fair & Garage Sale
3. Sat, May 11, 10- 2:00
4. Flat fee of \$10 per parking allotment for garage sales, and 10% of gross for vendors. Payment of \$10 with reservation for both.
5. Bouncey House; \$80 + delivery all day; supervision by FMSA, divided by age, shoes off.
6. SNIPSA puppies [Stephen] YES
7. Personnel advance: over-all coordinator, Gretchen; site coordinator, Joni; Cash master, Bill S; publicity, Greg C; Signs – make Pam; put up, all; bake goods {Thurs} Jillian, Gretchen, Karen H, + 2; contact guest garage salers, Peggy; Organizations, Val & Karen B; Meeting groups, GH; Vendors OOO.
8. Tables, chairs used by FMSA people free; others bring their own, or reserve if available \$5 {Carol has extra tables}
9. A planning committee will be formed of the persons named above, under the Community Engagement committee, and will report back to the next Meeting for Business.

Respectfully presented, Gretchen Haynes

Friends were interested in combining a garage sale with Spring fair. Friends preferred switching to a bouncy house over a pony ride.

Preliminary proposal accepted.

Memorial Plaque: Gretchen Haynes

Gretchen is looking into plaque designs. Friends agree what when memorial garden is ready, a plaque for Ruth Lofgren should be the first one.

Regular Committee Meetings – time and dates: Gretchen Haynes

Committees should decide their regular meeting days and let Gretchen know so a master calendar can be created.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Gretchen Haynes, Co-Clerk

Kellie Price, Recording Clerk