

**FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**March 17, 2019**

Attending: Suzanne Wright Crain, Michelle DiGiacomo, Laura Claghorn, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, David Bristol, Lee Teran, Colin Malone, Rick McClatchy, Pam Spurgeon, Oliver Gerken, Margarita McAuliffe, Joni Mize, Benjamin Hernandez, Katherine Fitzgerald, Kellie Price, Val Liveoak, Gretchen Haynes

Opening Worship

“...Participants [in meeting for worship with attention to business] exercise their role by continually reminding themselves that the purpose of meeting for business is not to make a particular decision but to know the will of God for the this group at this time.” Lloyd Lee Wilson, The Quaker Vision of Gospel Order

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

**Agenda preview: Val Liveoak**

No changes made to agenda.

**Clerk’s comments: Val Liveoak**

Thanks from various groups: reminder/announcement that next month because Easter is the third Sunday in April, business meeting will be on April 14. On the third Sunday there will be a worship sharing on Quaker views on Easter, led by Colin. Some will be at Yearly Meeting.

**Clerks and Conveners’ Meeting: Gretchen Haynes**

**Insert report**

Report accepted.

Minutes from February Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were **approved**.

**Treasurer’s report—Bill Wilkinson**  
**Balance Sheet**

- ✓ The Sinking Fund balance was reduced to pay for repairs to the meetinghouse structure in the amount of \$4,506.03.
- ✓ No other significant activity to report.

**Statement of Activities**

- ✓ Expenses exceeded income by \$5,903.95 primarily because the Meeting's annual insurance premium was paid in the amount of \$3,231.00 and repairs to the meetinghouse structure in the amount of \$4,506.03.
- ✓ All other expenditures were routine.

Faithfully submitted,

Bill Wilkinson, Treasurer

There was a question about the average monthly contribution per family. That figure was not known offhand, but it was indicated that if 20 families gave an average of \$150 per month, that would get us to our budget for the year.

Report accepted.

**Nominating Committee: Peggy Dial**

- A) Long Range Committee representatives
  - M&O \*reference M&O report
  - Community Engagement has not yet had a member led to this position
- B) 2019 Roster 1st Reading
  - Religious Education Committee
  - Oliver Gerken – Member

Respectably submitted by Laura Claghorn, Greg Casillas & Peggy Dial

Reminder that individuals can also serve on Long Range Planning Committee in individual capacity and can see Nominating Committee if they feel led to do so.

Report approved.

**Long Range Planning Committee report: Joni Mize**

The Long Range Planning Committee did not meet, but there was a minute held over from February meeting for business.

***MINUTE 2019.3.1: Spirit is moving through the Friends Meeting of San Antonio. Our numbers are growing and our hearts are open. The Long Range Planning Committee sees and hears a need for expansion of the Meeting's presence and physical space. We recommend moving forward with forums and other means of discernment to provide opportunities for all to express where the Spirit is leading regarding a development plan for a multi-functional structure. Approved.***

**Property Committee: Stephen Shearer**

1. The Meetinghouse rear exit door is now usable and a quote for its repair/ replacement is being considered. The quote included assessments and estimates of other doors in need of repair.
2. Midday on March 12, Property Committee was notified of two broken windows. A police report was filed and two glass companies have been contacted for replacement bids.
3. There was a good turnout for the March 14 mini workday.
4. March 16 was a successful work day.
5. A kindly donated slightly used dishwasher is in the community room awaiting installation.
6. The noise problem in our community room has been taken under advisement.

7. Memorial Garden planning is seasoning.
8. Special thanks to Stephen S. and Bill S. acting as “Bringers of Light” for the repair and installation of entry path and children’s room lighting.

The “noise” problem was referring to the rising sound level in the room when there are multiple conversations going on and it’s difficult to hear, especially for those with any hearing difficulties.

Anyone with suggestions for solutions to the window issue be brought to the Property Committee for seasoning.

Report accepted.

### **Ministry and Oversight Committee: Laura Claghorn**

Val Liveoak, James Goslin, Gretchen Haynes, and Laura Claghorn met on March 4. We discussed the following:

1. State of the Meeting Report (See separate handout)

**MINUTE 2019.3.2: *Friends Meeting of San Antonio approves the 2018 State of the Meeting Report.*** **Approved** with understanding that Laura Claghorn will make some changes to style, but not content.

2. Meeting for Worship and Late Arrivals

To be the first person to enter the meetingroom on a Sunday morning can be a profound experience. The room is quiet. There are no sounds of footsteps or the opening and closing of the door. There are no whisperings, removal of coats, or creaking benches. Meeting for Worship has begun. One has centered into the silence, knowing that soon others will be gathering. And when they begin to arrive, the sounds remain peripheral to the inwardness of worship.

We recognize that people may have other commitments and misadventures that can sometimes prevent them from arriving on time, and we welcome and encourage their presence in Meeting for Worship. In order to accommodate people arriving late, several months ago M & O proposed a three month experiment: late arrivals would enter Meeting for Worship together at 10:10 to allow Meeting enough time to settle into silence. However, we now suggest that late arrivals enter when our children leave for their programs. (People, we noticed, are already doing this.) We ask Meeting for its discernment on this idea.

3. Memorial Minutes

Memorial minutes for Ruth Lofgren, Doug Balfour, and Lori Segura will be sent to the Recording Clerk of the South Central Yearly Meeting and read during the memorial session.

4. Membership Request

M & O received a request for membership into the Friends Meeting of San Antonio. Val Liveoak will be forming a clearness committee.

5. M & O Representative for the Long Range Planning Committee

MINUTE: Ministry and Oversight cannot name one of its members to the Long Range Planning Committee at this time. We expect LRPC to continue its work without an M & O member and to make regular reports to M & O for consideration and feedback.

6. Other topics that were discussed or reviewed:

- Final Wishes: We reviewed the information provided by the Pacific Yearly Meeting and will continue this discussion at our next meeting.
- Silent retreat: It was agreed that anyone wanting to attend the silent retreat but encountering some obstacle in doing so could contact members of M & O about helping them find possible solutions.
- Letter: James Goslin discussed the details concerning the e-mails he sent to absent Friends/attenders. M & O will follow up when we begin reviewing our membership records in the future.

There was discussion about the latecomer procedure. Some Friends were concerned about the effect on newcomers, who might be embarrassed and might choose to leave and maybe come back another time. It was suggested that seats near the door be left open for latecomers and also that the Greeter function include explaining the procedure and that someone inside the meeting room go out to welcome the latecomers, especially on days in which we don't have children in Meeting for Worship. M&O will continue to season.

The silent retreat refers to the one here in April.

Report accepted.

### **State of the Meeting Report**

What a difference a few years makes! San Antonio Meeting has become a growing, vibrant community, blessed by new members and attenders who are finding ways to contribute to our corporate life. There is a new, palpable energy. We understand that we are changing and that this will require us to leave behind some of our accustomed ways. We are, however, hopeful that we can follow the Spirit, nurturing each of our strengths while caring for each of us in our travails.

We can highlight three aspects of our corporate life that have contributed to our current state.

1. We have focused on maintaining a deep, meaningful weekly worship, typically followed by either fellowship or by meaningful forums. More Friends are led to vocal ministry than in recent years. More have stepped forward to lead forums. We now have two midweek worships each month, each of which attracts about ten participants. More Friends now attend our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. We are, in short, nurturing our Quaker core. We shall continue to do so.
2. We are hosting more public events. We have had two movie nights, a couple of concerts, a Spring Fair, a book and media exchange, a community yard sale, twice a month yoga classes, and a Christmas Eve worship and tamale party. We have held several work days maintaining our property, followed by communal food; we advertise these as "Meetings for Weeding" followed by "Meetings for Eating". Last year's wish "To have the whole Meeting come alive with laughter, joy, and community" seems to be on our permanent agenda. We have also participated corporately in several marches for human equality. We continue to work with other groups on justice for immigrants and asylum seekers. Several members are also involved in addressing climate change through Climate Action San Antonio, an umbrella group that is focused on climate change.

3. We have changed the way that we conduct our corporate business. Rather than bemoan our inability to fill existing committees, our Nominating Committee has approached its task from the other end. "What would you most like to do for the Meeting? What will bring you joy?" Many people have stepped forward to work on their areas of interest. For example, we have an active Community Engagement group, an enhanced Facebook presence, a new website, and an evolving newsletter/announcement system. A revived Religious Education Committee has taken up some of the tasks that fell to Ministry and Oversight these last few years. We still lack a Treasurer (though we are in the process of reconfiguring that post), and our Property Committee is still overburdened with a building that needs more maintenance than before. But more people are stepping forward to find ways to share their Light

We once again have a small children's program, as several families with children now worship with us. We have committed ourselves to giving parents time off to attend Meeting for Worship. We are still working out how not to overburden those who feel a calling to help guide the children while they do so.

Contributing to our renewal, we welcomed five new members to our Meeting. Joni Mize, Peggy Dial, Stephen Shearer, Kellie Price, and Greg Casillas have felt called to choose us as their spiritual home. We appreciate the energy and skills they bring.

We have, however, also had losses. Ken and Janet Southwood moved to Minneapolis to live near their daughter. We miss them but correspond when we can. (There are photos from their going-away party on our website: <http://bit.ly/2IA3SY3>.) Long-time Friends Doug Balfour and Ruth Lofgren died last fall, and Lori Segura, a steady attender, died suddenly this winter. We also miss several Friends who have taken time off from attending Meeting. In several cases, we recognize that we overburdened them with work. We dedicate ourselves to welcoming them back as the Spirit leads them and to not overburdening others.

This is an important matter. Our annual forum on the state of our Meeting raised several concerns about how much we have depended on a relatively few people. Though attendance at Meeting for Worship is higher than in years past, not everyone is led to be involved in the full life of the meeting. This is as it should be. Yet we need to find ways to let Friends' enthusiasms feed our community while not depending so much on them that enthusiasm turns to drudgery. One Friend used a farming metaphor in a forum last summer on envisioning our future: We have to build the barns that will keep the farm working, but doing so results in more barns to maintain. We are seeking the right balance as we move forward.

In short, we are a growing community, centered in hope, attempting to live in the Spirit, and caring for one another as best we can.

In Peace,

signed by the Clerks of Meeting

Approved via Minute 2019.03.2 above with understanding that some changes will be made to style, but not content.

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Val Liveoak**

Members in attendance - Val, Katherine and Greg

"Conduct is more convincing than language."

~ John Wollman 1720 - 1772

Val gave a brief history of P & SC with regard to the committee involvement in local, global and Quaker causes & organizations. We decided that continued identification of causes and organizations is what the Meeting has encouraged us to do as indicated in our January forum.

We talked further about group activities and determining what may be of interest to Meeting. Katherine spoke of her recent experience with Ben, while attending a legislative session regarding juvenile justice and sentencing standards. Katherine, on behalf of Ben, will begin to inform FMSA of any impending legislation, discussion or public forums we may consider attending.

A discussion about FMSA continued support of the Raices bond fund led to the committee discussing opportunities to fund local organizations that are providing direct assistance or are engaging directly with the immigrant population. We will research and determine if any organization exists and if they may benefit from FMSA support.

P & SC will continue to consider our ability to write a Minute regarding climate change. We have been holding this In the Light as we continue to receive information about local policies, as well as state and US policies impacting this ever changing situation. We are determined to finalize this in the coming months.

The committee will be asking for an FMSA attender or member to become our contact person with IWC. Margaret is no longer acting in this role.

P & SC concerns recommends that FMSA become a sponsor for the Alternatives to Violence Project workshop in June. This commitment would consist of being listed as a sponsor in collateral information, disseminating information about the workshop via our website and social media channels, and potential in home hospitality to attenders and facilitators.

Thus we are submitting this Minute to Meeting for Business for consideration:

**MINUTE 2019.3.3: *Friends Meeting of San Antonio approves sponsorship of the Alternatives to Violence Project workshop June 7-9, 2019. Approved.***

P & SC is not asking for any additional funding in relation to the sponsorship.

**Community Engagement Committee: Kellie Price**

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

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.

~ Isaac Penington, 1667

We discussed the process of populating the Hospitality Calendar and discovered that we were working from an old calendar. We have since edited the calendar to reflect correct days and responsibilities that need to be filled. Most of these needs are on the second Sunday for opening, closing and greeter.

Community Engagement has established an Instagram account, Next Door will be established in the coming week as Greg needs to open a second account. Kellie and Jillian are sharing the Facebook responsibilities. We have seen a marked increase in Facebook visitors and those “liking” the FMSA page.

James has made an initial mailing that requested updated information for those on his contact list regarding the newsletter and directory. The request asked if those in receipt would like to continue to be in contact with FMSA. This letter has produced results for both continued communication and some that have requested to be removed for various reasons.

We had an update from Gretchen regarding the Spring Fair. The responsibility sheet is filling up nicely. Direct updates from Gretchen will be presented as time draws near.

The interest of a “Spotlight” conversation with Members and Attenders for the newsletter is growing. We are seasoning on questions and topics that could be a part of the conversation. We will seek guidance on the frequency of these “Spotlight” conversations.

Community Engagement is interested in hosting a movie night on a variety of topics. We believe that we should also host movie nights specifically focused on children and youth.

The committee will also work to make Meeting aware of community events that may be of interest. For example Gay Pride events, science marches and other opportunities for FMSA to attend or participate.

Community Engagement will assist Katherine and Ben on behalf of Meeting with regard to any needs they may have of FMSA for the upcoming wedding celebration on May 25

We ended the meeting with peace and gratitude.

There is a desire to try to make the neighbor children feel invited and a suggestion of inviting a food truck, perhaps on potluck day. Other recollections were on discussions of food truck for the fair. Community Engagement will receive this concern and discuss it.

Suggestions for Community Engagement Committee can be sent to Greg Casillas as [geeinsa@gmail.com](mailto:geeinsa@gmail.com)

Report accepted.

#### **Religious Education Committee: Colin Malone**

**Insert report.**

Report accepted.

#### **Other Concerns:**

#### **Spring Fair update: Gretchen Haynes**

**Insert Report**

Report/update accepted.

Upcoming Forum: Rick

The forum is on the “nones,” those who do not identify with any particular religious group and their spirituality. Rick suggests watching a TED talk by Leslie Hazelton in preparation for the forum.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Val Liveoak  
Co-Clerk

Kellie Price  
Recording Clerk