

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
June 16, 2019

Attending: Bill Wilkinson, William Lewis, Laura Claghorn, Greg Casillas, Pat Sweet, Carol Redfield, Judith Grant, Greg Koehler, Bill Sweet, Julia Hitz, David Hayes, Joni Mize, James Mize, Val Liveoak, Marian Carter, David Novogrodsky, Stephen Shearer, Peggy Dial, Hannah Zesch, Tessa Pollack, Colin Malone, Debbie Passey

This Month's Query: Am I honest in all that I say and do even when compromise might be easier or more popular?

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

Agenda preview: Jim Spickard

Treasurer's report: Bill Wilkinson

Balance Sheet

✓ No unusual activity to report.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ The Festival earned \$862.45. Expenses of \$283.15 were covered by an in-kind donation to the Meeting. This is recorded as both income and expense (Festival In-Kind) and results in a "wash" on the Statement of Activities.
- ✓ There was not payment for childcare services in May because of a timing problem. Next month will reflect payments for May and June.
- ✓ Cleaning services for April and May were paid in May.
- ✓ Major repairs principally consisted of the cost to replace the shattered window in the meeting room.
- ✓ All other expenditures were routine.

Faithfully submitted,

Bill Wilkinson, Treasurer

Report accepted.

Special Discussion:

***What are our parameters for our aid to the homeless people
who have been frequenting our property?***

1. We will share what we have learned about our visitors, potential sources of aid, legal and insurance matters, the limits of our ability to help, etc.
2. We will attempt to discern our collective leading and what lines we need to draw.

Laura Claghorn reported speaking to the insurance agent, and he was concerned about liability issues. He indicated that if we were not requesting them to leave, they were not trespassing, and it increases

our exposure and could potentially lead to our insurance being dropped. The need to speak to an attorney regarding legal liability and what proper notice looks like.

Some friends were not aware of the issue. A gentleman has been staying here on the property. He hangs around, he's respectful, he's quiet, he's a slight deterrent for young people looking to vandalize. But then some additional people started staying here, leaving trash, building a fire, storing their items in open view. There was a fight between one of the individuals and an ex-paramour. The gentleman who had been staying here understands our need to protect our property and was also disturbed by the fight.

Gary and Vivian spoke to the group who was staying here and their plans. The sense is that they may have moved on following the fight, but it is not clear. David Hayes reached out to Haven for Hope, who agreed to send someone from their outreach committee and that they would follow up with any updates, but David has not yet received an email. Haven for Hope did advise that they have an open courtyard for those who do not wish to enter in the shelter with a safe space to sleep, shower, and eat. They are happy to send someone over if people need rides.

Greg Casillas confirmed the services available from Haven for Hope.

Peggy Dial spoke with an attorney friend with the usual disclaimers. We can cover our insurance requirements with a posted a statement. Suggested: "Friends, you are entering private property owned by the Religious Society of Friends. We welcome you to use the grounds for silent contemplation from sunrise to sunset. No camping or overnight stays. No weapons. We are Quakers and follow the principals of Integrity, Peace, Simplicity, Equality, Stewardship, and Community. Thank you for your respect while visiting." By posting it where we know people enter the property, that should stand as notice. Friends were supportive of this wording.

Greg Casillas reminded us to be mindful to steer homeless visitors away from incarceration.

Bill Wilkinson talked about the need to look into sexual misconduct rider for insurance policy and discuss further. His organization is an entry point for homeless youth between 18 and 24 and can provide assistance and resources for those age groups. The finance committee will discuss the insurance needs further.

Friends were supportive of including a plexi box with lists of community resources.

Greg Koehler suggested that this is more than an ad hoc issue and perhaps a standing committee is necessary or a subset of a standing committee. He also suggested seeing how other meetings have addressed this issue.

Friends are comfortable telling potential campers that they cannot camp on the property. Friends are comfortable with signage with insurance-worthy notice describing that people cannot camp on the property. Friends are comfortable making it clear that people are welcome during the day to enjoy the contemplative atmosphere of the grounds if they come in peace (no weapons). Friends are comfortable telling people that they may not store belongings here. Friends are comfortable placing a sticker with a date telling people they cannot store those belongings and then after a certain period of time donate it to charity after going through and catalogued by more than one person so that ID, meds, etc are not disposed of.

MINUTE 2019.6.1. FMSA approves of the creation of an immediate temporary sign that indicates at minimum that that overnight stays or camping is not allowed, and that weapons are not allowed. FMSA approves the use of dated stickers to keep track of property that has been stored here, and approves the cataloging and donation of any property left on the grounds after the date indicated on the sticker. FMSA approves of the creation of a permanent sign once the proposed language has been approved by our insurance agent. The permanent sign will include the parameters that peaceful, contemplative, daytime use is allowed. Approved.

Gretchen will go to have the temporary sign made today. Gretchen will use her discretion for the temporary signs regarding number and placement. Sign committee will discern the same for the permanent signs.

Community Engagement: Greg Casillas

Community Engagement Committee Meeting - June 3, 2019

Members in attendance, Gretchen Haynes, Jillian Randles, Kellie Price, Bill Sweet, James Goslin & Greg Casillas

“Quakers almost as good as coloreds. They call themselves friends and you can trust them every time.”
Harriet Tubman 1822-1913

We decided to recommend to Meeting these 5 “contact us” tabs to be added to our website; Facilities Use, Property (for issues regarding property or grounds), Community Engagement, Peace & Social Concerns, Clerk of Meeting. With regard to use of the facilities, we will create a short form to be completed by the requestor indicating, dates, times, number of people, purpose and organization name if applicable. This form would be directed to the “scheduler” for follow up.

Greg Casillas is scheduling meetings with organizations supported by FMSA and will have more information for the July MfB.

We decided against a “Welcome Letter” but instead to re-introduce the use of our postcards. We feel that we can be more intentional with our immediate conversations to welcome new attenders and visitors.

Jillian Randles gave an update on phone/internet possibilities, but we are still in the research phase of this and will have more to present at the July MfB.

We discussed the Directory and Bill Sweet has produced a working Directory that may be distributed to Members and available to long time Attenders.

James Goslin is working to update the newsletter and electronic mailing list onto the website. There will need to be a FTP (file transfer protocol) that will enable the updated/corrected list of names to the website for easy distribution of the newsletter.

Our next meeting will be July 1, 2019

Jim Spickard will be consulted in the discussion regarding the website updates.

Report accepted.

Finance Committee – Nothing to report

Long Range Planning: Nothing to report.

Ministry and Oversight: Laura Claghorn

Nominating Report: Gretchen Haynes

Second reading for property committee member, David Hayes. Approved.

We are concerned with the prolonged service of Bill Wilkinson in the Treasurer's position. We have scheduled a meeting with Finance committee to explore options.

Peace & Social Concerns: Greg Casillas

Peace & Social Concerns had no pending items for discussion. With the majority of the committee traveling, Greg Casillas sent an email requesting committee approval of Gretchen Haynes and Greg Casillas to officially represent FMSA at the Pride Interfaith Service to be held at Madison Square Presbyterian Church, 319 Camden Street, SATS on June 23, 2019 @ 4pm. It is sponsored by PRO SA (Progressive Religious Organizations San Antonio)

Val Liveoak, Katherine Fitzgerald-Hernandez and Ben Fitzgerald-Hernandez responded in favor, therefore, P&SC presents this Minute for approval...

MINUTE 2019.6.2. FMSA approves Gretchen Haynes and Greg Casillas to formally represent FMSA in the Pride Interfaith Service to be held on June 23, 2019. Approved.

Our next meeting will be July 11, 2019.

Property Committee: James Mize

June 2019

1. A mini-workday was held on the 13th of June, accomplishing some landscaping and building maintenance. Seedling trees were removed and the function of watercourses was improved in about 5 worker-hours by the two who showed up for regularly scheduled workday on the 15th.
2. The majority of the renovation of the Community Room was finished, to general acclaim and gratitude. Also on the 15th, roughly a dozen worker-hours by three people continued the Community Room renovation, including installation of a new sink and faucet.
3. A two-part bid from Alamo Gutters was received and is being evaluated. Part I is to clean, level, and add a support bracket to the courtyard gutters for \$375. Part II, costing \$2832, consists of two tasks: (1) add gutters to the porch roof to minimize reoccurrence of the recently repaired water damage and rot and (2) replaces the rusted-through gutters on the back of the Phase I building.
4. Etter Tree Service will remove tree limbs downed by storm and remove tree limbs lying on the roof of the Phase I building. The work is scheduled for Monday the 17th at a cost of \$425.
5. The insect- and water-damaged porch door is being repaired by Dan Guarjardo. Depending on the extent of damage, the cost will be between \$400 and \$775.

Stephen Shearer, James Mize, Joni Mize, Bill Sweet

The committee has not yet met to decide whether to request money from Meeting for the items above.

Report accepted.

Religious Education: Gretchen Haynes

Religious Education Report, June 2, 2019

Present, Colin Malone, Joni Mize, Gary Whiting, Karen Ball, Oliver Gerken, Gretchen Haynes, clerk;
regrets Ban Hernandez

We reviewed plans for the Quaker Orientation [6x8@ 7-9 in 9 &10] and agreed that asking F/friends to “confirm” would not mean judgement if one could not attend all 6 weeks. Life events do come up. The dates are Wednesdays Sept 11 & 18, skip Mid-Week Worship; Oct 2,9,16 & 23. Gary will facilitate *Meeting for Worship*, leaving *Quaker Process* open at this time. Those facilitating each session will come up with appropriate readings. Colin & Oliver will arrange for the readings to be sent to emails of those registered.

Forum on 6/30 will be *Disability Advocacy* with Lauren Gerken who will include sensitivity training of obvious and less obvious conditions. Forum July 28: Gary on *Jungian and Quaker Sensibilities*. Aug 25: Oliver on *Ethical Eating* [e.g., why almond milk is not the best alternative.]

Respectfully submitted, Gretchen Haynes

Report accepted.

Other Reports:

AVP Report: Val Liveoak

The workshop had 10 people signed up to attend and 8 finished the entire workshop. One of two that came from McAllen became sick and she and her friend did not attend on the final day.

The meeting supported the workshop in various ways. Margarita Mccallif served as registrar, and besides her, three other meeting attenders or members attended the workshop. Two people from Roy Maas also attended.

Our team of three facilitators believe we had a good workshop and a good diversity of a participants. The participants also evaluated the workshop as a valuable experience.

Report accepted.

Sign Report:

Laura C. and Peggy D. met with Paul Rolf of Budget Signs on May 28 to discuss the next steps for our monument sign. We determined an exact location for the sign and discuss the permitting process. Paul followed up with us on May 29th with added cost estimate for graffiti laminate to one side of the 6 flat aluminum panels, \$150.00. Budget Signs has cleared the City utilities and it looks like we are free of any encroachment. We will now work with Property committee to determine the location of any utility or electrical on our side of the meters.

Gretchen had a concern about he gold text color. Peggy will bring in the color chips.

Report accepted.

Other Concerns

Clerk's Comments: Jim Spickard

Jim is still compiling newsletter content, but will be out of the country. Volunteers for creating content for July is wildly welcome. Jim is also looking for someone to ultimately take over the newsletter or any portion of it.

We now have combined the announcement list for email blasts with the announcement list on the website, so there will be one list going forward. Jim shouldn't be the only one who knows how to do it, so he would like to train about three other people to do it.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Price, Recording Clerk

Jim Spickard, Clerk