

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom
May 17, 2020

Attending: David Novogrodski, Oliver Gerken, Val Liveoak, Danielle Linde, Jim Spickard, David Hayes, Pam Spurgeon, Julia Hitz, James Goslin, Ken Stewart, Stephen Shearer, James Mize, Joni Mize, Julie Crum, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Kellie Price, Laura Claghorn, Greg Koehler, Gretchen Haynes, Peggy Dial

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

Friends had an extended check-in prior to business meeting. Then Friends settled into the Spirit to begin business meeting via Zoom.

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

Balance Sheet

- ✓ A designated contribution of \$11,850 paid for the extensive work by the tree service.
- ✓ Consistent with market trends this quarter, the Friends Fiduciary Corp. Quaker Growth and Income Fund lost \$95,179.86 or -17.56%. This compares favorably to the S&P 500 Index, which lost -19.6%. The Short-Term Investment Fund had gained \$205.38 or 0.56%.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ The \$11,850 for the tree service was charged to Grounds Maintenance. The cost was covered by a contribution in that amount, recorded in the Designated Contributions – General Maintenance account.
- ✓ Contributions for the month are \$530.00 and total \$5480.00 for the year. Thus, about 18% of the budgeted general contributions have been received through 33% of the year.
- ✓ Per Minutes 2020.04.1 and 2020.04.3, the childcare and cleaning service workers were paid at their standard rates although no services were performed. These payments appear on the Statement of Activities in the customary accounts. A letter accompanied each check, stating that this was a gift, thus not taxable income. The letter to the cleaning service worker was in English and Spanish.
- ✓ The CPS charge for April was not paid until May, thus does not appear on the Statement of Activities. Our Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$135.63 against a charge of \$108.69 for CPS-generated electricity. Additional charges for Service Availability, city services and additional products and services gave an account balance of \$4.44 for the April bill. The bill in April 2019 was \$173.69.
- ✓ The leak in the water supply during the November-December 2019 billing period resulted in a charge of \$3,391.52. A request for adjustment was filed and an adjustment of \$2199.15 was made. The invoice for April showed a credit of \$1970.58 remaining after the April bill of \$110.81.
- ✓ The invoice for security patrol from StateWide Patrol, Inc. included \$7.50 additional for holidays, so totaled \$457.50. It was charged to Property Committee, Minor Repairs and Maintenance as this service is expected to be short-term and can be considered preventative maintenance.

Other expenditures were routine or less than typical because of public health measures taken for the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was question about giving via donate button on the website. It was suggested that electronic transfers can be done, and that we can give via the Zelle app. Finance will look at options. PayPal's business practices were not liked by some Friends. Bill Sweet reminded Friends that checks can be mailed to the Meeting House or to Bill directly as well. He deposits by mobile app. Zelle can be used.

It was suggested that committee reports be made available to Friends and attenders online by a central person, such as Recording Clerk. Recording Clerk requested that Jim be the person to take care of this. Jim Spickard suggested just adding the reports to the end of the minutes and indicated that he would be happy to attach them. Friends were happy with that.

Val will speak with Peace and Social Concerns about redirecting the money that was previously designated to the RAICES bond fund to another needed organization. It is money that comes from Friends Fiduciary Fund payments.

Report accepted.

Prior Minutes

Friends approved February 2020 Minutes.

Friends approved the April 2020 Minutes.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Oversight: Val Liveoak

M&O have been meeting bi-weekly by Zoom calls in order to respond to the needs of Meeting and Friends during the COVID-19 crisis.

Currently, worship and check-in, are occurring on Sundays. Wednesday nights we've been holding a Quaker Meet-up but have had somewhat discouraging response. The Religious Education Committee has been in charge of this—and has wondered if it should be continued. We are reaching out personally to Friends who have not attended any of the Meeting Zoom activities to check in with them and are considering how to poll them about what the obstacles are for their participation. We plan to continue to consider when and how we can begin having Meetings for Worship in person while maintaining adequate social distancing and protecting us from infection with COVID19

Our worship times were posted on the South Central Yearly Meeting site, and we have been joined by some Friends living outside our area, which has been a welcome surprise.

We developed a Friends Helping Friends program and have received a few offers and request for help, and we are checking in with those who have requested being held in the Light.

We are working to get the Last Wishes document prepared for computerized use.

The Clerk asked us to consider if holding Meetings for Business could be done at a time other than after Sunday worship. I hope this will be considered at this Meeting for Business.

Two Friends on Religious Education committee reported surprise regarding the Wednesday night Quaker meet-up item. Gretchen explained that when we first started the Wednesday evening meetup, it was at first a substitute for the orientation program that Religious Education had to cancel. It has since evolved to something other than what Religious Education originally envisioned. Gretchen at one point was discouraged because the target audience was not really participating, but it has evolved to something else that is valuable. It might be helpful for Religious Education to meet and discuss whether they want to reframe, etc. It was pointed out that connecting as a religious community is still at the heart of Religious Education.

Friends acknowledge that the report can be set aside.

Report accepted.

Property: James Mize

The committee met by text this month; the following items are in process:

1. Waiting on the estimates so we can prioritize the building maintenance.

2. We are considering a Pest control bid for the property; three options. 1.) One time carpenter ant treatment in the meeting house. 2.) One time facility treatment. 3.) Quarterly treatment plan.
3. We have until the 31st of May to submit a certified letter to have the patrol stop by June 30th, 2020.

The security company has not reported any activity that we should be concerned about. It was pointed out that as restrictions are lifted, there is the possibility that activity may happen that is more expensive than the security company was. Friends are okay with Property Committee making the decision to stop on their own.

Report accepted.

Religious Education: Oliver Gerken

On Friday, the 15th of May, the Friends Meeting of San Antonio Religious Education Committee convened for a called meeting to draft the following minute:

“In response to the COVID-19-related suspension of in-person Meetings, FMSA Religious Education Committee approves paying our childcare worker 240.00 USD for the month of May, 2020.”

For the edification of the Meeting, the subject of this minute will be revisited by the committee on a monthly basis. Friends agreed that MINUTE 2020.4.3 accomplished the same thing as this month’s proposed minute and another action Minute was not necessary.

Report accepted.

Community Engagement: Gretchen Haynes

Members met on May 12 to consider supporting legislation to modernize the national rural health clinics now pending in the Senate Finance Committee.

Report accepted.

Discussion Items:

How long will we be meeting remotely?—This question will be on pause as it’s still too soon.

How can we improve Zoom worship?

How can improve Zoom business meetings?

How can we create other opportunities for interaction and mutual support?

It was suggested that we keep business meeting connected to meeting for worship for continuity, but perhaps with a fellowship and food break before the business section starts.

It was suggested that perhaps forums can take place on the Wednesday night, again for continuity, and might also add vitality to the Wednesday zoom meetup by offering something engaging each week.

There was a question about whether Zoom forums can be recorded and published on YouTube, to which the answers were both yes.

It was offered as an experiment to do business meeting on Sunday from 2 to 3. Jim suggested that Clerk and Recording Clerk meet with M&O to suggest an experiment of one way or the other. Friends were comfortable with this suggestion.

Jim suggested that at least one forum be a discussion of what face to face meetings will look like and when they will happen.

A Friend wanted to invite Friends who chose to attend to their residence for worship in person, but there was uneasiness with Friends who were not comfortable with it appearing that FMISA was sponsoring or encouraging this.

Officers and M&O will start the discussion on improving business meeting and starting the discussion on further steps.

Announcements:

Val has checked in with Peace and Social Concerns members about Transformational Dialogue, but they won't be available until June. Val asked for interested Friends to contact her personally about their interest in Transformational Dialogue.

Closing Worship

Clerk thanked Friends for their patience and then the meeting ended in silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard
Clerk

Kellie Price
Recording Clerk