

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom
Sept 23, 2020

Attending: David Hayes, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Oliver Gerkin, Julie Crum, James Mize, Val Liveoak, Laura Claghorn, Stephen Shearer, Peggy Dial, Greg Koehler

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

Meeting began with silent worship.

Prior Minutes

Friends approved July 2020 Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

July

Balance Sheet

- ✓ Expenses are exceeding contributions resulting in a negative Operating Cash. The checking account balance remains positive because of the other subaccounts.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Contributions for the month are \$740.00. Contributions, excluding the special contribution of \$1185.00 in April, total \$11,100.00 for the year, about 36% of the budgeted general contributions have been received through 58% of the year. Total expenses are on track, with 57% of the budgeted expenses expended (again excluding the special contribution for tree work).
- ✓ Our Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$277.74 against a charge of \$375.91 in July for CPS-generated electricity. Additional charges for Service Availability, city services and additional products and services gave an account balance of \$120.42 for the July bill. The bill in July 2019 was \$391.23.
- ✓ 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 July showed a credit of \$1649.70 remaining after the June bill of \$106.96, a constant, prorated amount until the balance is expended.
- ✓ The invoice for security patrol from StateWide Patrol, Inc. totaled \$947.52 for services in May and July. StateWide Patrol had failed to bill for May, ostensibly because of an incorrect email address. As before, 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. Also in this account was \$289.80 for HVAC service in the Meetinghouse.
- ✓ Property Committee Grounds Maintenance included \$600 for lawn service in June, billed at the beginning of July, and July, billed at the end of the month.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical because of public health measures taken for the COVID-19 pandemic.

August

Balance Sheet

- ✓ Expenses continue to exceed contributions resulting in a negative Operating Cash. The checking account balance remains positive because of the other subaccounts.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Contributions for the month are \$615.00. Contributions, excluding the special contribution of \$1185.00 in April, total \$11,715.00 for the year, about 38% of the budgeted general contributions have been received through 67% of the year. Total expenses are on track, with 63% of the budgeted expenses expended (again excluding the special contribution for tree work).
- ✓ Our Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$231.00 against a charge of \$330.23 in August for CPS-generated electricity. Additional charges for Service Availability, city services and additional products and services gave an account balance of \$121.41 for the August bill. The bill in August 2019 was \$406.48.
- ✓ The leak in the water supply during the November-December 2019 billing period resulted in a charge of \$3,391.52. An adjustment of \$2199.15 was granted. The invoice for August showed a credit of \$1538.89 remaining after deducting \$106.96, a constant, prorated amount until the balance is expended.
- ✓ The invoices for security patrol from StateWide Patrol, Inc. totaled \$907.50 for services in August and September, both paid in August. It continues to be charged to Property Committee, Minor Repairs and Maintenance as this service is expected to be short-term and can be considered preventative maintenance.
- ✓ Property Committee Grounds Maintenance included \$300 for lawn service in August.
- ✓ Expenses for web domain registration and hosting fees were privately paid and not reimbursed. That expense has been shifted to the Meeting and is shown in Outreach, Website/ New Media. It totals \$185.20 for July and August.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical because of public health measures taken for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Question was posed whether we have a ballpark figure as to what our fee will be for the website, but getting those figures was on the to-do list and will be done. The annual subscription to Zoom will appear in September.

Bill pointed out that the year to date contributions include the amount designated for the tree work. Per religious ed committee, Renata indicated that she did not need the monthly payments we had been sending her as a gift throughout the pandemic, so that was not paid in August.

Report accepted.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Oversight: Val Liveoak

The Committee met several times by Zoom.

1. We considered issues involved in resuming in-person Meeting for Worship.

- We agreed to consider resuming porch Meetings when hospitalization and community infection rates have declined to a ‘Safe’ rate deemed by the city/county. Jim is monitoring these data.
 - When the data supports it, final plans to preserve social distancing, safe use of chairs and toilets, and adding Zoom capacity for Friends and visitors to participate in our Meeting
 - An ad hoc committee is looking into this. When we understand what new equipment will need to be purchased, we will suggest it to Finance Committee first and then it will come to Business meeting—for now we think we can proceed with borrowed equipment and what we already have.
 - We discussed how and when the other groups that use our space could return, and Jim agreed to call all of them to discuss this.
2. We plan to continue the tailgate/hatchback gathering and worship on October 8th.
 3. We also planned 2 Wednesday forums for the month.
 4. We considered individual needs for support among our Friends and attenders and planned how to carry this out. We remind Friends and attenders that if they have unmet needs, please notify a member of M&O committee.
 5. We continued work on preparing the Last Wishes document for use on the Internet.

Val Liveoak, Clerk, Ministry and Oversight Committee

Stephen is on the ad hoc committee but does have a few concerns. First, we should have a headcount of interested Friends so that we don’t go to all of the effort for a very small number of Friends. There may also be a lot of additional strain on those setting up and taking down Zoom equipment; would it make more sense to keep them separate?

In response to numbers: we will do reservations so if the minimum number is not met, it will be canceled ahead of time. There will also be a maximum number. The additional efforts to set up will be kept as simple as possible in order to not overburden volunteers. Work will go in to plan adequately. In person meetings will probably also be canceled for rain.

There was a question about what equipment would need to be purchased, but temporarily, we have enough equipment.

Another question about figuring out reservations, whether there was an app in mind to handle that. Val indicated that the number of people was small enough to do it the old fashioned pen and paper way, but is open to using an app if the person volunteering for coordinating wants to. It has not been worked out what to do in the event that people cancel reservations last minute.

Jim suggested that M&O collect more thoughts from Friends on the topic and to come back to it.

Suggestion for M&O to consider. First, we’ve settled into Zoom meeting for worship. Then we’re adding the porch meeting, and eventually the future of going back to the Meetinghouse. Peggy was concerned about the amount of work being done by the clerk and that he is carrying too much weight. Jim did reveal that M&O told him something similar.

We do need numbers to know who would attend porch meeting. Some Friends may have evolved on the question as well.

Gretchen hopes that we can see our way clear to be able announce porch meetings based on the available data soon.

Jim has concerns about splitting meeting. He likes meeting face to face but can do Zoom meeting just fine. He is worried about not being able to meet the spiritual needs of those who can't or don't do Zoom. Others prefer Zoom meetings because they can actually hear, which is another reason for hybrid meetings.

Friends are comfortable with M&O continuing to monitor and make the call if the recommendation comes before next business meeting.

Report accepted.

Property: David Hayes

The committee convened on September 21 to discuss the following issues:

- The security patrol service continues to serve the property well during these uncertain times, due to the current conditions we would like to submit for your consideration these options:
 - We can end patrol service by October 31st if meeting chooses to do so; our ambivalence for this decision stems from the following:
 - 1 – November 3rd will see our Presidential election take place; its results may create unforeseen conditions nationwide.
 - 2 -- The COVID-19 situation has not significantly changed for us to resume meeting in person nor to return the property to occupancy for our tenants.
 - We can continue patrol service and revisit during November business meeting and continue revisiting monthly according to current conditions.
- Watering on the property: The rains have taken care of a good portion of that and we thank the participation of everyone who has come to look after the unquarantined life.
- During September and early October we will obtain bids for clearing the area for the monument sign.

Finally, the property committee will be on site Saturday 9/26/20 at 11am to survey and prep for upcoming work; if you'd like to join us to pull a weed or two, sweep a hall or vacuum a room (or just show up) we would LOVE to see you! We will be there from 11am until the party is over (probably no more than a couple of hours).
Report accepted.

Friends spoke in favor of keeping at least through November because of the upcoming election and Halloween landing on a Saturday. Friends were easy with continuing and revisiting in November.

Nominating: Kellie Price

In this time of individual and Meeting stress, we on the Nominating Committee are not comfortable trying to conduct our work in the usual way.

We contacted those F/friends who are currently in their final year of service to see who wishes to continue, and who might wish to try a different responsibility. At this time, the essential positions are filled, with two considering a change. Further, we made calls to F/friends who are not now involved with a committee. The goal is to get to know these people, not to suggest that they consider taking a more active role in Meeting at this time.

With this in mind, we propose an Interim Roster for 2021 consisting of officers, Ministry & Oversight, Finance, Property, Nominating, SCYM and FCLN reps.

Further, until we are able to worship and work in person, we propose that Peace & Social Action, Religious Ed, Long Range Planning, and Community Engagement go into temporary “hibernation”. If concerns arise, committees will be able to meet via Zoom to take care of necessities.

All F/friends are encouraged to take actions outside the Roster. Once in person activities resume, Nominating members will return to their more traditional role of completing the full Roster.

Prepared by Gretchen Haynes, Sept 9, 2020

Val pointed out that many Friends meetings around the world consider Peace and Social Concerns to be a vital part of Quaker Meeting. She is concerned about P&SC and Religious Education in particular, because they are responsible for forums. She expressed concern that allowing those committees to hibernate only shifts the weight to others to pick up. While she understands that individuals may have too many burdens, the answer is to resign from the committee if needed. She preferred an empty committee to a non-functioning one.

Peggy expressed gratitude to Nominating for looking at the issue from a different perspective, but agrees with Val and expressed concern that the work continues to fall to the Clerk. We are a community that is supposed to provide spiritual space and shared joys and sorrows. The idea that during COVID when we have ideally more time on our hands, that we are not turning to Meeting for those things, that we have less time for this Meeting worries her and saddens her.

Oliver shared how he has spent hours of work on multiple occasions for a forum that almost no one showed up for, which gave him the sense that people had other obligations. He doesn't want the host of forums to feel as though they've expended energy for nothing. If we're asking Friends to do things for the Meeting, we should try to ensure they be able to see the fruits of those efforts.

Greg reflected on how our lives have been upended by COVID, and it's difficult to both experience that and have the empathy needed to recognize that it's affecting others in the same way. He thinks we can do the work to find the voice of each committee. He expressed gratitude toward the Meeting and how its been

Kellie pointed out that part of the issue is that those

Pat suggested we poll attenders on Sunday to see whether they will attend a forum and when.

Bill noted that some Community Engagement functions need to continue (telephone answering, newsletter, directory, etc). Whether or not the committee needs to meet and discuss it is a different issue, so he's confused as to precisely what hibernation means.

Laura sees the opportunity to delve deep within ourselves and as Quakers and as a community, and that is fundamental to what we are. Our meetinghouse is just a building. Our committees help us to accomplish certain things. But these are unusual times and maybe there are unusual ways to approach this, ways for us to be the people we are called be and do the things we are called to do. So she would like us to continue this conversation at a later time, because who knows where we could go.

Jim pointed out that we are at the six-month mark of a sustained social crisis unlike anything we have ever encountered. And it's typical to hit a six-month “wall” in any tough assignment in a disaster zone. It feels like it has been going on forever and that it will go on forever. Jim shared that he has been very depressed. We are all in the same mess together, and it's hard. We need hope and ministry, and Jim gets hope and ministry from sitting in

silence with us, sharing with us, talking with us. He agrees with Nominating that we can't go on as normal, and with Laura that we need to be creative together. He likes the idea of a forum for eating. He reminds that Zoom fatigue is real. He suggests that we NOT come to a decision as to the proposal but thinks it was important for us to listen to each other, because that at least will be healing.

Val is in agreement with holding over the question, but is hesitant to accept the report if it includes the proposal.

Jim clarified that we are not in unity as to the proposal or any action item, but are in unity that the issues raised are real and important.

Report accepted.

Religious Education: No Report

Community Engagement: No Report

Peace and Social Concerns: No Report

Announcements:

It was Val's birthday, and we sang. The Recording Clerk would like to point out that the Zoom meeting switched between singers at random and it was a hilariously terrible mashup.

Other Announcements

SCYM is this Saturday.

There will be a forum on immigration with Sara Ramey. October 8 is 6:30 is the "hatchback" party. October 14 is a Nominating forum topic.

Closing Worship

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard
Clerk

Kellie Price
Recording Clerk