

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom
October 21, 2020

Attending: David Hayes, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Oliver Gerkin, Val Liveoak, Kellie Price, Gretchen Haynes, Laura Claghorn, Jim Spickard, Julie Crum, Joni Mize, James Mize, Julia Hitz, Greg Koehler, Pam Spurgeon

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

Meeting began with silent worship.

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

Jim read a passage by Schlomo Carlbach:

"The hardest thing in the world is this: while you serve God, you have to be in paradise. You have to be aware that the world is so holy, so beautiful, so deep. There is no evil in the world. Then there are moments where you have to realize that there is evil, and you have to help get rid of it. In kabbalistic terms this is the difference between the weekdays and the Sabbath. On the Sabbath I am living in the world that is completely holy. During the week I am aware that there is evil in the world and I have to clean it out. If you live only in paradise and ignore the other six days of the week, you'll go crazy because it's not true. But if you live only in the six days of the week, you're never aware of how beautiful the world is. If you can't see that beauty behind all the ugliness then you're not the one to clean up the world."

Jim went over the agenda. No additions.

Prior Minutes

Friends approved September 2020 Minutes. Recording clerk will delete runoff sentence referenced by Jim because she does not remember the comment.

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

Balance Sheet

- ✓ Contributions exceeded expenses this month, thus the negative balance in Operating Cash was reduced. The checking account balance remains positive because of the other subaccounts.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Contributions for the month were \$2750. Contributions, excluding the special contribution of \$11850.00 in April, total \$14,465.00 for the year. Thus, about 47% of the budgeted general contributions have been received through 75% of the year. Total expenses are slightly below the pro rata, with 64% 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 \$231.68 against a charge of \$249.24 in August for CPS-generated electricity. Additional charges for Service Availability, city services and additional products and services gave an account balance of \$39.68 for the September bill. The bill in September 2019 was \$365.71.
- ✓ 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 September showed a credit of \$1428.08 remaining after deducting \$106.96, a constant, prorated amount until the balance is expended (November 2021).

- ✓ The security patrol, StateWide Patrol, Inc., for services in August and September was paid in August. The invoice for October was received and paid in October. Thus, no expense was recorded in September.
- ✓ The Zoom on-line meeting service was paid privately and reimbursed. An annual subscription for the Meeting was purchased for \$128.02. The annual renewal of the domain name, quakersinsanantonio.org and one month's hosting charge totaled \$19.51 to IONOS by 1&1. These expenses are charge to Outreach, Website/ New Media.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical because of public health measures taken for the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was a question about our yearly amount that we give to South Central Yearly Meeting. Bill explained that our usual contributions to others have not been made either. Bill asked how much of the contributions to others we should pay given where we are in terms of the budget. Val pointed out that the organizations we give to are probably doing worse than we are. We have money in the bank and since we budgeted it, we should pay it. If it means reducing next year's budget, so be it. Friends seemed easy with paying as budgeted. The sense of the Meeting was to go ahead and pay the contributions as budgeted. Friends were easy

MINUTE 2020.10.1: *FMSA directs the Treasurer to pay the Contributions to Others and to SCYM as budgeted.*
APPROVED.

There was a reminder from Pat that committees need to submit their budgets to Finance committee.

Report accepted.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Oversight: Val Liveoak

The Committee met several times by Zoom.

We considered issues involved in resuming in-person Meeting for Worship. 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 have been developed. We await one piece of necessary equipment, expected to arrive before MfB, with a likely start of hybrid meetings of attenders on Zoom and on the porch at the Meetinghouse Sunday October 25.

We also discussed Wednesday forums for the November. Religious Education Committee has a series in the works, but it has not scheduled any of those Forums.

A Friend volunteered to organize a virtual pot luck on Oct 28, with recipes for a possible Meeting cookbook. We approved.

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.

We agreed that Val will represent M&O on the ad hoc Quarterly Meeting planning group.

We continued work on preparing the Last Wishes document for use on the Internet.

There are three issues for Business Meeting to consider:

What the hybrid meeting will look like: Jim showed a model of the setup including the chairs, hand sanitizer, camera, screen for Zoom, bathroom needs, table with masks, sign in sheet for contact tracing, and a poster with instructions. People will pick up their own chair and carry it to where they wish to sit. Ideally people who arrive first will sit furthest away to leave room for others to fill in. The idea is to have a seamless meeting for

both in person and Zoom attendees. The instructions were reviewed. There will be an RSVP notice that goes out ahead of time. There is space for 18 chairs, and additionally people can set up in the courtyard if they desire. Pam brought up that today's report indicated that daily cases in San Antonio are up above 200 again today.

Need for help setting up: Gretchen reported that Gary Whiting, David Hayes, and Gretchen for set up on October 25. There will be a set up run through on Saturday for setup.

What happens if COVID 3rd wave hits San Antonio? Val suggested we follow the county advice for schools to determine our safety thresholds. Oliver suggested that the school guidelines may be overly cautious given the low risk nature of our activity. Val suggested that if the school guidelines are too strict, we should pick the metric that most closely matches our setting and follow that one. Pat suggested following the guidelines for churches.

M&O did discuss what was the minimum number of RSVPs to make the setup worth the effort? Friends should set the number and keep it week to week. Friends felt comfortable that eight RSVPs (including setup volunteers) would be the minimum.

Greg reminded friends that we don't have to set permanent policy because of the fluid nature of the situation.

The sense of the Meeting was to move forward and start with this Sunday.

Report accepted.

Property: David Hayes

10/21/20

The Property Committee met on 10/10/20 and 10/19/20 please find our updates below:

10/11/20 saw the planting of three evergreen sumac trees in the back of the property. Debbie Reid, Pam Spurgeon, Stephen Shearer, James Mize and David Hayes completed the work, the big one is named Eva, another one is Elliot and the baby remains unchristened.

On 10/19/20 we have accepted a bid to get our light pole out front painted, fix the hallway light fixture, paint the metal railings in the back porch of the meeting house along with the wooden frame below. We look forward to seeing the completed work!

We continue working on the bids to clear out the area for the monument sign and our security patrol service remains active as previously discussed.

Report accepted.

Religious Education: Oliver Gerken

On Sunday, October 4th 2020, the Religious Education Committee convened at 8:45am via Zoom. Joni, Greg, Gary, Danielle, and Oliver were in attendance. The committee discussed the following topics:

1. Meeting in person: the topic of returning to in-person committee meetings was raised for discussion. After some discernment, the sense of the committee was that remaining on Zoom for the time being is more inclusive. Several committee members were also unable to attend, so RelEd will allow this to season until everyone has a chance to participate in the process. The committee's decision is also likely to be informed by how the Meeting as a whole tackles this question.
2. Forums: M&O requested that RelEd supply two forum topics for the upcoming months. When this topic was raised by the co-clerk, the following concerns were raised by Friends:

- a. it is the strong preference of RelEd committee members that any forums be held on Wednesday. There was some discussion at Meeting for Business about moving Zoom forums back to Sundays to try and boost attendance, but committee members were not easy with this.
- b. Given this, RelEd asks that M&O (re)confirm the dates of the forum slots that need to be filled by RelEd.
- c. Currently the committee does not have topics to supply for the upcoming October/November slots, and the committee asks M&O's help in discerning the appetite for forums. However, the committee enthusiastically affirms its commitment to the work of supplying topics.

Gary has proposed a series of forums centering on the reading "The Call to Radical Faithfulness" by Douglas Gwyn. To do the reading justice, the committee members will all need to complete the full reading and then discern how many forum sessions will be needed to do the work of reflecting on its message. Gary has offered to lead this project with the support of RelEd, and would prefer to only move forward when the Meeting resumes in-person worship so that these forums can be held on Sundays. RelEd will continue to work on preparing the project for Meeting in the interim."

Religious Ed wanted feedback as to what the appetite was for forums in this time.

Report accepted.

Nominating: Julie Crum

— Present: Julie Crum, Oliver Gerken, Kellie Price, Gretchen Haynes, convener, Guests, Kalia, Mandelbrot & Zelda [of the feline persuasion]

— After check in, we reviewed our contacts in the preceding month, discussed the need expressed in the last Meeting for Business for filling more of the committee vacancies, and prepared for the Workshop on Committees next Wed., 10/14. We will present the first reading of the Roster at the November Meeting for Business.

Report accepted.

Community Engagement: No Report

Peace and Social Concerns: No Report

Other Concerns

It was Joni's birthday, so we did hilariously terrible Zoom singing again.

Announcements:

Newsletter contributions wanted.

October 28 forum for the virtual potluck.

November 12 hatchback party?

Business Meeting Nov. 18

Val announced her involvement in Choose Democracy and other groups who are worried about the possibility of a power grab/coup and the need to commit to nonviolent response to such actions. Val has taken the training and

the training for trainers. Val can put on a training for Friends if enough are interest. The Choose Democracy training can be done online easily.

Several Friends announced their intention to take the training.

Closing Worship

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard
Clerk

Kellie Price
Recording Clerk