

**Minutes**  
**FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom**  
**November 18, 2020**

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

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

Meeting began with silent worship.

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

Jim shared the sad news that Marian Lockhart passed away.

Jim went over the agenda. No additions.

**Prior Minutes**

Friends approved October 2020 Minutes.

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.
- ✓ The change in value of the second quarter Friends Fiduciary Corp. accounts was not recorded in the Balance Sheet. This Balance Sheet reflects the value of the accounts at the end of the third quarter. The distribution from the account in June was properly recorded; equal portions being credited to the RAICES and General Maintenance accounts.
- ✓ In the third quarter, Friends Fiduciary Corp. Quaker Growth and Income Fund gained \$25703.51 or +4.88%. The Short-Term Investment Fund gained \$52.89 or 0.09%.

**Statement of Activities**

- ✓ Contributions for the month totaled \$425.00. Contributions, excluding the special contribution of \$11850.00 in April, total \$14,890.00 for the year. Thus, about 49% of the budgeted general contributions have been received through 83% of the year. Total expenses are somewhat below the pro rata, with 73% of the budgeted expenses expended (again excluding the special contribution for tree work).
- ✓ An in-kind contribution of equipment to enable virtual (Zoom) participation with those Meeting on the porch, valued at \$1157.62, was received and credited to Building and Grounds.
- ✓ Our Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$205.44 against a charge of \$127.85 in October for CPS-generated electricity. Additional charges for Service Availability, city services and additional products and services gave an account credit balance of \$55.20 for the October bill. The bill in October 2019 was \$268.71.
- ✓ 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 \$1321.12 remaining after deducting \$106.96, a constant, prorated amount until the balance is expended (November 2021).
- ✓ Spectrum has raised the monthly charge for telephone and internet from \$82.01 to \$99.98.

- ✓ The invoice of \$457.26 for security patrol service, StateWide Patrol, Inc., in November was received and paid in October.
- ✓ The monthly website hosting charge of \$1.99 is charged to Outreach, Website/ New Media.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical because of public health measures taken for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Report accepted.

Finance: Pat Sweet

Finance does not have a 2021 budget to present this month.

We have heard from most of the committees.

Peace and Social concerns and Religious Education asked that their budgets remain the same soon after the most recent request for committee budgets.

The Property Committee responded early but had to make some changes recently to reflect changes in the costs of the utilities. The Solar Panels have lowered the electricity costs and our credit with SAWS will pay our monthly bill through most of 2021. They have also added some to Grounds (what is really, Preventative) Maintenance to allow for Security if it continues to be necessary.

The Community Engagement Committee has just requested increases in its budget to cover Website and Internet/Zoom costs.

We will work on adding all this to the 2021 budget and balance it as possible. We will present it in December.

There was a question as to whether a second reading of the budget would cause issues for the treasurer, but it is not expected to.

Report accepted.

Jim wished to open discussion about what it will cost to open the Meeting House sometime in 2021. Friends need to consider audio/visual equipment to continue to have hybrid meetings. Friends need also to consider the purchase air filters/purifiers. The report and recommendations have gone to finance committee.

There was a question as to whether we should consider a UV light as well. Oliver mentioned in his own research that the types of UV machines that would actually properly disinfect are currently only available to hospitals and we should assume that anything available to the general public may not work as desired.

Joni expressed a concern about installing equipment permanently in the meeting room. Jim indicated this is an important concern and reminded Friends that this is just the beginning of this conversation and Friends' ideas are welcome.

### **Committee Reports:**

Ministry & Oversight: Val Liveoak

M&O Committee met on Tuesday November 10, with all members attending as well as the clerk.

We discussed hybrid meetings and believe that it is still safe to hold them because we are complying with physical distancing and mask-wearing guidelines. The clerk believes it would not be safe if weather becomes cold and damp. We also noticed a rising Community spread which is worth continuing to monitor.

It seems that some of us do not feel that the hybrid meeting is truly one meeting, but one friend commented that they are getting more used to it. Last week 7 people attended on the porch. While we were pleased that three people now know how to set up the technological aspects for the porch/Zoom connection, we also noted that clerking is difficult. When the clerk is on the porch he cannot easily see the Zoom attenders. If the clerk were on the Zoom he could not easily see the porch attenders. Using the microphone on the porch works well for Zoom attenders but not for porch attenders. We continue the RSVP request in part because we may decide to cancel a porch meeting the Friday before that Sunday, due to weather or developing Covid19 totals. We are monitoring the city guidelines regarding public activities and if the city dashboard shows an increase from low or moderate to a higher level of danger in the community or if the weather is cold and damp we will probably need to cancel that week's porch meeting. We still need a wider circle of set up helpers for the porch meeting.

One idea for resolving some of the difficulties in the hybrid meeting would be to hold a porch meeting in the afternoon while keeping a Zoom meeting in the morning. We would like feedback from meeting regarding that idea.

We considered our proposal to finance committee, and while M&O has a budget line for Friends Journal subscriptions and copies of Faith and Practices for new members, as well as a line for emergency assistance, we do not see a need to change that from the 2020 budget.

We discussed personal issues that friends or attenders may have and planned following up on those issues.

The organizers of Dream Week asked if we wished to put on a virtual event as part of their celebration. (It will be virtual this year.) Gretchen was interested in organizing, and we agreed that she could ask Pamela Boyce Simms if she would be interested. [*Pamela has since replied "yes".*] Gretchen will need Friends' assistance in this effort.

One Friend indicated a feeling that the hybrid meetings felt unifying. Another Friend asked whether Friends on the porch could come waive at the camera when they arrive so that those on Zoom can see who they are. Another Friend said that those furthest away from the camera appear so small on screen that it reduces the sense of unity.

Friends were not easy with splitting into two meeting times. Val did point out that other meetings do have two different worship times on Sunday. Val suggested returning to the practice of going around and introducing ourselves at the rise of meeting. David Hayes suggested typing the names of porch attendees as they arrive into the chat box for Zoom attendees. Joni reminded Friends that seeing each other even on Zoom is important, and it's important to at least try to have a unified meeting rather than splitting into two.

Report accepted.

Property: David Hayes

The property committee met on 11/7/2020.

The following Committee members were present: Pam Spurgeon, Joni Mize, James Mize and David Hayes

**Continuing business:**

- a. Double-sided deadbolt request from Jim Spickard in Children's room: scheduled workday on 11/14/20 from 10am to 1pm to clear storage room to store equipment for hybrid meetings and avoid deadbolting children's bathroom due to security and optics concerns.

- b. Winter watering of new trees: property will rotate weekly watering starting with David on 11/8/20 followed by self-selection.
- c. Meeting with Jesus Villegas about clearing corner lot for sign, pending clarification of where the sign goes. (met with Peggy on 11/12/20 and Prop Comm and clearing was understood.) David to contact Jesus for quote.
- d. Work to be completed by Luciano was rescheduled to 11/9/20 – revised 11/12/20 for 12/7/20 – Joni and Pam to contact and agree to terms with Luciano
- e. HVAC contract up for renewal and possible replacement – David to contact and meet with Schmidt Mechanical for new service agreement quote – to compare and contrast – revised – David met with Troy from Schmidt on 11/12/20 pending quote.
- f. Budget proposal for Business Meeting 11/18/20 Joni to send previous year’s budget request to David for updates – revised – Prop Comm met and discussed, David to submit proposal to Prop Comm 11/12/20 to send to Finance Clerk 11/14/20

Report accepted.

Religious Education: *Oliver Gerken*

On Monday, October 26th 2020, the Religious Education Committee convened at 5:30pm via Zoom. Greg, Gary, Karen, and Oliver were in attendance. The committee discussed the following topics:

1. Item for the Newsletter regarding Forums: Co-clerk Oliver circulated a draft request-for-comment to the committee. The draft addressed a call from Clerk of Meeting for ReEd to summarize their need for feedback from the Meeting regarding forums. The item was approved by the committee members and subsequently submitted to the Clerk of Meeting on 10/26/2020.
2. Forums: In response to M&O’s request that ReEd supply two forums for the upcoming months, the committee arrived at unity on the following topics:
  - a. Quaker (Non-violent) Responses to Political Unrest (November 11, 7pm). Proposed as a joint project between Religious Ed and the Friends who have attended the Choose Democracy training, this forum will educate Friends on what we can do to resist in the event of a coup following the 2020 election, being mindful of the pandemic as a backdrop. Oliver and Karen to facilitate, with Karen providing input on “Move to Amend.”
  - b. The Nativity and Quakerism (December 9<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, w/ Gary).
  - c. The committee continues to enthusiastically affirm its commitment to the work of supplying topics, but asks that Friends read, reflect, and respond to the request for comment included in the newsletter.
  - d. Gary’s proposed series of forums centering on the reading "The Call to Radical Faithfulness" by Douglas Gwyn remains queued. The intention of the committee is to support Gary’s leading and only move forward with this multi-part forum once we are meeting regularly in person.
  - e. Oliver proposed a series of forums studying and discussing the 2018 version of our book of discipline, “Faith & Practice.” This would require a reading commitment on the part of Friends, but might serve as a unifying experience. This forum series would take place in 2021.

Friends discussed a few ideas for possible forums, and Religious Education committee members stressed their leading that forums should meet the needs of the community. Friends should indicate whether they want forums that require some reading ahead of time or whether the need is for forums that do not require any work ahead of

time. Val suggested forums that are formatted with very little reading ahead of time and worship sharing and perhaps a book club as a separate activity.

Report accepted.

Nominating: Kellie Price

First reading of the 2021 Roster.

Under monthly meeting: Jim Spickard returning for a full two year term as clerk. Kellie Price returning for a one year term as Recording Clerk or until someone else is led to take up recording clerk duties. For Ministry and Oversight, first readings for David Bristol and Joni Mize. For Property, David Hayes for a two year term as clerk. Peace and Social concerns, first reading for Donna Dickerson as Interfaith Welcome Committee representative, and Oliver Gerken as committee member. Religious education, Joni Mize and Ben Hernandez continuing for two year terms. The clerk positions remain vacant at this time for Community Engagement, Peace and Social Concerns, and Religious Education.

Report accepted.

Community Engagement: No Report

Peace and Social Concerns: No Report

Other Concerns

Val urged Friends to continue holding central America in the Light as they have been victim to multiple disasters.

Announcements:

SCYM representative meeting takes place this Saturday.

Newsletter editor would love contributions.

Forum on nativity and Quakerism on Dec. 9.

Dec. 10 hatchback meeting.

Business meeting December 16.

Someone from public library looking for LGBTQ+ members who would be willing to participate in a talk on the intersection on being a person of faith and LGBTQ+.

Gretchen raised whether we should be thinking about an alternative event for Christmas Eve.

Closing Worship

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard  
Clerk

Kellie Price  
Recording Clerk