

**Minutes**  
**FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom**  
**April 19, 2020**

Attending: Gretchen Haynes, Oliver Gerken, Val Liveoak, Tessa Pollack Martinez, Laura Claghorn, David Bristol, Lee Teran, Carol Redfield, Danielle Linde, Gary Whiting, Greg Koehler, David Novidgrowski, Jillian Randles, James Mize, Joni Mize, Julia Hitz, Julie Crum, Katherine Fitzgerald-Hernandez, Ben Fitzgerald-Hernandez, Pam Spurgeon, Rick McClatchy, Suzanne Crain, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Karen Ball

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

After some technical adjustments, meeting opened in silent worship.

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

Jim thanks Friends for experimenting with Meeting for Business via Zoom. He is pleased that Meeting for Worship is growing and committees have been active, and this is one more step towards finding our way.

February minutes were held over until next month. The minutes for the called Meeting for Business in March were approved.

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

**Balance Sheet**

- ✓ The Balance Sheet for March is unremarkable.

**Statement of Activities**

- ✓ General contributions to date are roughly 2/3 of the prorated budget. Depending on the extent of the stay-at-home orders and other public health measures taken for the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic conditions, contributions to General Contributions and income from Facilities Use might be expected to decrease for the year.
- ✓ The electricity generated by our photovoltaic (solar) panels credited \$110.38 against the charge for CPS-generated electricity of \$113.13, or net charge of \$2.75. Additional charges for Service Availability, city services and additional products and services gave an account balance of \$33.82 for the March bill. The bill in March 2019 was \$192.32.
- ✓ 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 March showed a credit of \$2,081.39 remaining after the March bill.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical because of public health measures taken for the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have not yet received requests for extensions or refunds on facilities use yet, but that is possible. It should be about a year before we have to pay water bill again due to credit on the account.

Report accepted.

**Committee Reports:**

Property: *James Mize*

The committee had a video meeting April 14, 2020 to discuss the following issues:

1. Getting bids on painting maintenance of buildings.

2. Ideas for the Memorial Garden.
3. Committee unanimously agreed to pay the cleaning worker for the month of April, which requires a minute for Meeting to consider.

**MINUTE 2020.4.1: *Considering the ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in keeping with Quaker ideals of Integrity and Equality, FMSA approves continuing to pay the cleaning worker's monthly salary. Approved.***

There was discussion as to how long to commit to payments. Some Friends felt strongly that the right thing to do is to pay those who have served us whether they perform the service during this time or not as long as we can afford it, which Friends believed that we could. There was question about whether we treat the amounts paid while services are not rendered as a gift or donation rather than income, if it may make a difference in taxes. Finance committee may take up that question if they feel moved.

4. In response to reports of "partying" and other trespass on Meeting property during the early days of the lockdown, the Committee consulted with Meeting officers and engaged a security service to perform daily "once a night" inspections of the property at the rate of \$450.00 a month. The service began on April 1st.

NOTE: The contract ends on the last day of the month after we notify the service of our wish to terminate. E.g.: a decision in June to terminate will end the service on July 31.

**MINUTE 2020.4.2: *FMSA approves the hiring of a security service to perform daily "once a night" inspection of the property at the rate of \$450 a month. FMSA affirms that the service may continue through July, unless Property Committee decides it is no longer needed or useful. Approved.***

Since the security service has begun to check the property, there have not been any signs that people are staying on the property. The agreement includes that any actions or inaction of the security company does not fall to us for liability purposes. The security service does not bring any weapons on the property.

A Friend proposed ending the service at the end of May rather than the end of July. It was pointed out that we will not really know until June what continued restrictions will look like and when it will be safe or what the new normal will look like. The way the minute is drafted authorizes FMSA to continue employing this service but also to terminate without having to return to Business Meeting to do so. After discussion, Gretchen withdrew her proposal, but urged Friends to revisit at May business meeting with Property committee's input.

Report accepted.

Religious Education: Oliver Gerken

On Thursday, the 16th of April, the Friends Meeting of San Antonio Religious Education Committee convened for a called meeting to draft the following minute:

**MINUTE 2020.4.3: *In response to the COVID-19-related suspension of in-person Meetings, FMSA approves continuing to pay our childcare worker's monthly salary for Sundays. Approve.***

For the edification of the Meeting, the subject of this minute will be revisited by the committee on a monthly basis.

Oliver explained that Renata's pay varies month to month depending on how many Sundays there are in the month. The committee's intent was to revisit each month to ensure she is paid as she would have with in-person meetings. It was suggested to tweak the minute to simply allow her to be paid as normal.

Report accepted.

Ministry & Oversight: Val Liveoak

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

FMSA created a Zoom account with the assistance of Oliver Gerken a week previously and started Zoom Meetings for Worship on Sundays at the usual Meeting time, 10 am. Following an outdoor Meeting for Worship on the same date, and the Governor's call for an end to meetings of more than 10 people, M&O decided, with regret, to hold all Meetings for Worship and Committee meetings via Zoom. Various people were asked to be hosts for these meetings in order to assure an adequate response to the possibility of interference in the meetings by a person with malicious intent which has happened to other groups' Zoom meetings.

Currently, worship, check-in, and discussion of a topic or query have been offered on Sunday mornings. The Course in Miracles is offered on Tuesday evenings. The Quaker Orientation group segued into a Meet-up on Wednesday nights. We are reaching out personally to Friends who have not attended any of the Meeting Zoom activities to check in with them.

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.

We collaborated with Property Committee on the decision to hire a Security guard to check the property regularly, and have forwarded to them a request to finalize plans for a Memorial Wall or Garden.

Pending projects include getting the Last Wishes document prepared for computerized use and possibly establishing a more organized way to hold people in the Light.

We have received ten offers for help and two requests for help. We urge Friends to consider making requests. We have lots more Friends willing to help than who feel they need help. One request for help was backup pet care in case someone takes ill with COVID-19. If any Friends can provide that, Val can put them in contact with the pet owner. Val expressed concern that more Friends have not requested help. Tessa offered that we should give it time. There was discussion about more regular phone calls and check-ins as some Friends simply want to make sure other Friends are okay.

Report accepted.

Nominating: Laura Claghorn

Second readings:

1. Mary Tyska for Community Engagement
2. Veronica Gard for Peace and Social Concerns
3. John Tyska for Property
4. Bill Wilkinson Clerk of Long Range Planning Committee
5. Danielle Linde for Religious Education

Second readings approved.

Other Reports:

Ideas for building our community:

Friends offered the following ideas: Oliver reminded everyone that COVID-19 is not spread through food and food can be shared with proper social distancing.

Exchanging of recipes and Story Corps type interviews with other Friends. Emily has wanted to include a page of Quaker recipes on the website. Austin meeting has a Circle of Light, which would sometimes meet in person and together hold people in the Light. That's a possibility for a prayer circle type activity. We might consider forming a Facebook Group (rather than page) that we could share in a way that's not putting it out there for everyone.

Ideas for caring for each other:

A small group of 6-8 people that checks in with a set number of people might be a way to incorporate a type of prayer circle. Sort of like Friendly 6s/8s, but without the in person fellowship. Some meetings have Meeting for Worship with Attention to Healing. The healing could be for each other and really everything that is happening right now.

#### Announcements:

Oliver offered loquats to anyone who wants them.

Hold Karen's sister in law Angela in the Light. There is COVID-19 in her facility but not her floor.

#### Closing Worship

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard  
Clerk

Kellie Price  
Recording Clerk