

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom
June 24, 2020

Attending: Gretchen Haynes, Oliver Gerken, Val Liveoak, James Mize, Joni Mize, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Ben Fitzgerald Hernandez, Katherine Fitzgerald Hernandez, David Novogrodsky, Greg Koehler, Julia Hitz, Pam Spurgeon, Von Keairns, Laura Claghorn

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

The clerk described one deviation from our normal agenda: moving two discussions that were raised in committee reports to last part of the meeting, so we would have more time for reflective discussion.

The May Business Meeting Minutes were approved with one minor spelling change.

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

Balance Sheet

✓ There are no issues of note.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Contributions for the month are \$1740.00. Excluding the special contribution for tree service work of \$11,850, contributions total \$7220.00 for the year. Thus, about 24% of the budgeted general contributions have been received through 42% of the year. Total expenses are on track, with 40% of the budgeted expenses actually expended.
- ✓ 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 paid in May. The amount shown is for both April and May. Our Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$140.92 against a charge of \$153.94 in May 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 and \$35.16 for May, for a total of \$39.60. The bill in May 2019 was \$217.05.
- ✓ 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 May showed a credit of \$1863.62 remaining after the May bill of \$106.96.
- ✓ The invoice for security patrol from StateWide Patrol, Inc. totaled \$450.00. 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.

Faithfully submitted,

William D. Sweet, Treasurer

There was a question about the email address for Zelle. It's treasurer@saquakers.org (and Oliver is the one to ask questions about Zelle).

Prior Minutes

Friends approved May 2020 Minutes.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Oversight: *Val Liveoak*

The Committee met May 29th and June 19th.

1. We considered issues involved in resuming in-person Meeting for Worship.
 - The Clerk reported on signing the pledge with City of San Antonio to require face masks of attenders, make hand sanitizer available, enforce social distancing and limit attendance—The City supplied some of the equipment to assist with these goals, including signs.
 - We agreed that all face-to-face meetings for the foreseeable future would be outdoors, probably on the porch in front of the meeting room, where efforts will be taken to maximize airflow to the outside.
 - At the May meeting of the committee we agreed we were not yet ready to re-open, and at the June meeting we considered the possibility of doing so in August, with a limit of 15 attenders (adults only for now) and availability of continued simultaneous Zoom participation.
 - We believe that, at minimum, we will need to add a computer with speakers, projector, and stand microphone to our equipment to facilitate distant participation. Several members will need to train themselves to help monitor/facilitate the integration of in-person and Zoom participation.
 - If we are able to begin meeting in person in August, we think adjusting the meeting time to 9am due to seasonal heat would be advisable. We would discourage gathering to chat or socialize before or after worship, not open any of the rooms for use beside the bathrooms (and provide extra cleaning efforts in them and instructions on post-use cleaning.)
 - We will revisit this consideration prior to the July Meeting for Business to finalize plans.
2. In May, we considered the need to have a place to announce social and political actions—e.g., the action Community Engagement Committee urges Friends to take regarding the bill in the Senate to support Rural Health Centers. We minuted our support to create a special web page where Committees or the FCNL representatives can post such information. The “New Issues” page has been posted on our website.
3. 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.
4. We continue to seek ways to advance or resolve issues regarding the Last Wishes document and Memorial plaques or other remembrances of past Friends.

Val Liveoak, Clerk, Ministry and Oversight Committee

Report accepted.

Property: James Mize

The committee met by Zoom on May 22 and June 15. The following items were discussed:

1. As the result of a Member’s alert, HVAC services inspected and addressed a drainage issue on May 28. An invoice for this work is in negotiation based on our maintenance contract. We are seeking other bids to replace the current provider when the contract expires.
2. The final gutter adjustment was completed May 28. (Original work done August 2019)
3. Pest control service for Phase I and Phase II was completed June 4.
4. Given ongoing conditions and committee unity, the nightly patrol service is currently scheduled to continue through August.
5. Based on an inquiry, housekeeping resumed June 18 for one cleaning per month until further notice.

6. A SAWS water usage monitor offer was set aside for further discernment.
7. An additional invoice for stump grinding (separate from March tree service) will be forwarded to the Treasurer.
8. The committee anticipates welcoming a new member soon.
9. Current information about the Memorial Garden project is attached separately.

Faithfully submitted,
David Hayes
James Mize
Joni Mize
Pam Spurgeon

Addendum: The Property Committee is providing this overview for information purposes only.

Two years ago a Memorial Garden was suggested with an emphasis on cremains, plaques, and stewardship. A range of concepts have been considered and some research has been completed. Different ideas included –

- designating a space for interment of cremains.
- creating a new garden area at the south end of the existing stone wall and mounting plaques to the wall.
- installing a small walking labyrinth adjacent to the arbor.
- paving the area beneath the arbor with personalized bricks.
- refurbishing the upper cross pieces of the arbor and mounting plaques to them.
- some combination or variation of the above.

Considerations:

- Initial costs, environmental impact, ease of maintenance, durability, and longevity, as well as susceptibility to potential damage are important considerations.
- Interring cremains requires a dedicated area which becomes a limiting factor.
- A garden at the end of the wall or a labyrinth by the arbor would require professional landscaping to include plant removal and grading, plus possible plumbing work for water line relocation. Some specialized skills, tools, and hardware would be necessary to attach plaques to the stone wall.
- Placing bricks along the ground beneath the arbor would require skilled labor. The digging and grading necessary for initial installation could impact the root systems and existing vines. Removing one brick at a time, sending it away for personalization and reinstalling it could become problematic.
- Putting plaques on the upper arbor cross boards would make them less visible.

As much as possible, to maintain consistency of resources or materials with an eye toward future caretaking, whatever is created must be simple.

There was a question regarding dark dust by the back door. It was from pest control and has since been cleaned up.

It is recommended that the nightly patrol continue and revisit in July. The reason for the nightly patrol is due to initial report that the property was being used for all night parties, camping, campfires, grilling and lack of people on the property due to pandemic. One Friend indicated that another church is having similar problems. Given the cost of correcting damage to the property (broken windows, graffiti), the Property committee believes that cost of the nightly patrol is worth the expense.

Report accepted.

Religious Education:

No report other than wishing to continue child care payments.

Report accepted.

Community Engagement: Gretchen Haynes

1. Rural Health Care Action

Community Engagement reviewed the proposed legislation, HR 2788 and S 1037 "Rural Health Clinics Modernization Act," and decided to get opinions from various health professional organizations. If these are positive, we will proceed to present the project to the Meeting for Business. If there are negative positions, we will call another meeting of this committee. There is a statement by Dr. Barrasso, co-sponsor of the Senate bill that we will add to our informational links. We seek to network with Peace & Social Action to co-sponsor an action Minute for Meeting For Business.

Following our meeting, Gretchen reviewed the professional organizations and found:

1. Texas Nurses Association: summaries only, no opinion [referred to congress.gov/bill]
2. American Nurses Association: same results
3. American Association of Nurse Practitioners: Lists both bills with no comments.
4. American Academy of Physician Assistants: need to log in for further search on bills.
5. American Medical Association: No results found on either bill number.

Proposed Minute: Friends Meeting of San Antonio calls for passage of HR 2788 and S1037 "Rural Health Modernization Act" to address the lack of health care facilities caused by the closing of rural hospitals throughout the country. We will network with other Friends Meetings, faith based, and health care organizations to lobby our congressional delegations.

2. Sending Announcements

There are two ways to communicate with F/friends: the Newsletter list of 239 names around the country and the Announcement list for local names. Further, committee clerks and conveners keep lists of their members and communicate directly. We reaffirm the original policy of keeping the first two list for their specific purposes. We seek to minimize communication so as not to overburden F/friends.

3. Telephone Messages

Jim Spickard and Bill Sweet receive the messages from the Meeting telephone and have responsibility for answering. Usually they identify which will respond. This system works well.

Gretchen Haynes, convener

Report accepted.

Peace and Social Concerns: Katherine Fitzgerald Hernandez

Called Peace and Social Concerns Mtg. in Response to the Murder of George Floyd and Public Outrage in Response to Ongoing Instances of Police Brutality in the US

June 5, 2020, 2:30: In attendance: Katherine Fitzgerald Hernandez, Ben Fitzgerald Hernandez, Val Liveoak, Gretchen Haynes

Items:

P and SC is considering multiple congressional bills concerning the healthcare crisis resulting from Covid19. We encourage Friends to send comments and concerns to peace@saquakers.org.

Peace and Social Concerns is co-sponsoring a minute in support of action to further S.1037, The Rural Health Modernization Act. Info on this bill can be found on the Emerging Issues page on the FMSA website.

In keeping with the Quaker testimonies of Peace, Equality, and Integrity, P and SC suggestions the following as ways F/friends may consider expressing solidarity with the BLM movement:

1. Monday night demonstrations along the perimeter of the Meetinghouse to express solidarity with local and national protests. Individuals interested may email peace@saquakers.org.
2. Drafting a Social Media post as a preliminary statement from Friends Meeting of SA.
3. Friends can add a link to anti-racism resources as a signature on emails. A suggestion: "Find Anti-Racism Resources here." This is the link: <http://bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES>
4. Creating a "Group for Support, Learning, and Action" which would discuss relevant peace and social concerns topics and identify ways the meeting can act. The Group would begin convening immediately with discussions on anti-racist articles and literature and ways we can act in response to these things. Day and time under review. Friends are encouraged to comment.
5. Donating to Black Lives Matter
6. A discussion forum on July 8th on anti-racism and ways to act in support of BLM and police reform.

Bill Sweet brought attention to FCNL's highlight of certain Congressional bills that can be supported and more info can be found on the FCNL website.

Report accepted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Face-to-Face Services:

Resuming face-to-face Meetings for Worship requires us to answer at least three separate questions. They are:

1. How much is SARS-COV-2 currently spreading in the San Antonio area?
2. How safe is an activity like Meeting for Worship for people of various ages and with various preexisting health concerns?
3. What adjustments to our normal Meeting for Worship are necessary and possible to prevent it from endangering the participants and those with whom they would come into later contact?

These questions are sequential. If the community rate of spread is high, then face-to-face Meeting for Worship is not safe for anyone. Once the rate of spread is low, we can consider for whom Meeting for Worship is safe and how to organize it to maximize safety. It behooves us, however, to begin planning the changes we will have to make. This will let us open in a limited way sooner than would otherwise be possible.

Here is some background about coronavirus transmission:

- The virus is most easily spread by air, either in large droplets from sneezes or coughs, or from smaller aerosols from talking, singing, shouting.
- It can be spread through feces and from touching infected surfaces and then touching one's nose or mouth, but these are secondary routes, not primary ones.
- An unknown percentage of those infected are asymptomatic carriers. Thus, the absence of active disease does not protect others.

- Wearing masks has two benefits. It protects the wearer from inhaling droplets, and less so, aerosols, and it protects other people from droplets and from some of the aerosols that the wearer emits. The latter also minimizes the risk that asymptomatic people pose.
- That said, “wearing a cloth mask does not protect you much if you’re in close contact with someone who is COVID-19 contagious. It may give you 20 minutes, instead of 10, to avoid contracting the disease.” *A direct quote from Reading #5, below.*
- Keeping physical distance also protects both parties, because both droplets and aerosols are less concentrated the farther they are from their source. Keeping six feet apart (or one caribou, six ravens, one adult kangaroo, four trout, two sturgeon, or a pool noodle) minimizes the danger, though it does not eliminate it.
- The time spent interacting with others matters too: it affects the amount of virus that one either gives off or absorbs. Shorter interactions mean fewer virus particles. Like many things, the danger increases with the dose.
- The specific activities also make a difference. The virus infects the deep lungs, so deep breathing and exhalations increase the amount of virus one absorbs or gives off. Talking is thus better than singing. Walking is better than dancing or other aerobic activity. Sitting quietly is best of all.
- Outdoors is better than indoors – by a lot. Wind disperses all means of transmission.

In sum, the safest activities occur outside, in sanitized environments, with relatively few people who all wear masks, sit quietly, do not touch surfaces that might have been touched by others, and stay six feet apart. That sounds like a Quaker Meeting for Worship! Unfortunately, it’s not that simple. (See Jim’s report for additional text.)

Joni pointed out that Friends are adaptable. For her the idea of returning on the porch with all of the considerations in Jim’s report is very appealing. How will we decide which 15 people can attend in person? She worries this may lead to exclusion by way of health considerations. Being together through Zoom is still important connection. The spirit is still present, even online.

Kellie and Oliver both indicated a reluctance to return to in person meeting even with precautions until it can be safe for all people.

Gretchen indicated that she misses meeting in person and also pointed out that we have enough outside space to accommodate those who wish to participate. She urged Friends to consider the proposal and make the commitments to return.

Val brought up her concern to healthcare workers who have to treat us if we all get sick and would like us to include hospitalization rates in making our decisions.

Katherine asked what infection rate we should be looking for before being able to return. Jim suggested 1.1 and recommended the CDC guidelines. We need widespread testing (which San Antonio has now). Jim suggests that we will likely always have Zoom meeting options going forward.

Bill is worried about those who regularly attended in person meeting but who do not attend Zoom meeting. There has been some reaching out to those who don’t attend Zoom regularly. Right now connection and reaching out in the Meeting has been relatively informal.

Rural Health Clinic Modernization Act

Gretchen explained that the bill allows for greater use of nurse practitioners and physicians assistants and adjusts reimbursement.

MINUTE 2020.6.1. Friends Meeting of San Antonio calls for passage of HR 2788 and S1037 “Rural Health Modernization Act” to address the lack of health care facilities caused by the closing of rural hospitals throughout the country. We will network with other Friends Meetings, faith based, and health care organizations to lobby our congressional delegations. Approved.

There was a question regarding what specific actions Friends would need to take in adopting this minute. Gretchen responded that she would like the clerk to write letters to representatives on FMSA letterhead. Gretchen would also like to draft a sample letter and encourage individual friends to write. She would also like to involve South Central Yearly Meeting and perhaps look into involving FGC and Friends Journal.

Oliver suggested a scheduled “write-in” where Friends gather virtually at a designated time to draft and send letters together.

Announcements:

Meeting for worship on Sunday on Zoom at 10:00.

Question about status of the sign. It’s pending verification of the boundaries by the “head of the property” (clerk of the meeting). The elusive piece of paper for Jim’s signature is in an unknown location, but Jim and James will follow up with Peggy and get the ball rolling again.

Question about the status of the memorial garden: Joni responded that because of the pandemic, it’s difficult for the committee to reach unity on the concerns stated in the property committee report addendum. Friends can reach out to Property committee if they wish to give input.

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