

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom
July 22, 2020

Attending: Val Liveoak, Pam Spurgeon, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Oliver Gerken, Julie Crum, Laura Claghorn, James Mize, Stephen Shearer, Peggy Dial, Carol Redfield, Gretchen Haynes, Greg Koehler

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

Meeting began with silent worship.

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

Clerk's question: What can Meeting do to help us grow spiritually in this difficult time?

Prior Minutes

Friends approved June 2020 Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

Balance Sheet

- ✓ The semi-annual distribution from the Friends Fiduciary account in the amount of \$5,012.84 was distributed equally between the RAICES Bond Fund and General Maintenance.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Contributions for the month are \$3140.00. Thus, contributions total \$10,360.00 for the year, about 34% of the budgeted general contributions have been received through 50% of the year. Total expenses are on track, with 48% of the budgeted expenses expended.
- ✓ Per Minute 2020.04.3, the childcare worker was paid at the standard rate although no services were performed. The payment appears on the Statement of Activities in the customary account. A letter accompanying letter stated that this was a gift, thus not taxable income. The cleaning service had been similarly paid, per Minute 2020.04.1, but resumed cleaning service in June, thus this payment was for services received.
- ✓ Our Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$211.05 against a charge of \$219.18 in June for CPS-generated electricity. Additional charges for Service Availability, city services and additional products and services gave an account balance of 39.09 for the June bill. The bill in June 2019 was \$358.88.
- ✓ 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 June showed a credit of \$1756.66 remaining after the June bill of \$106.96.
- ✓ The invoice for security patrol from StateWide Patrol, Inc. totaled \$450.00 for services in June. 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 \$349.50 for pest control in the Meetinghouse.
- ✓ Property Committee Grounds Maintenance included \$300 for lawn service and \$640 for additional tree service work.
- ✓ 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 money allotted for the RAICES bond fund. In late 2018, RAICES no longer needed money. A minute around that time approved that the money allotted for RAICES would go to four other

organizations, but that minute was a one time designation. Peace and Social Concerns will meet to determine where that money should go going forward and bring it to business meeting.

Report accepted.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Oversight: Val Liveoak

The Committee met July 10th by Zoom.

1. We considered issues involved in resuming in-person Meeting for Worship. We agreed that we cannot re-open until hospitalization and infection rates are down in the wider community. Even then we will only be able to meet outside and in limited numbers. We are aware that some Friends, perhaps many, will not meet in person until a vaccine and/or effective treatment for COVID-19 exists. The Meeting Clerk reported responding to a query from one of the Buddhist groups using the Meetinghouse to that effect.
2. 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.
3. We worked on preparing the Last Wishes document for use on the Internet and discussed a possible plan for Memorial plaques or other remembrances of past Friends.
4. Because of the need to limit meeting time over Zoom and the possibility of further developments regarding the Memorials issue, we reserved the possibility of calling a Meeting for Business in August.
Val Liveoak, Clerk, Ministry and Oversight Committee

Report accepted.

Property: James Mize

The committee convened on July 17 to discuss the following issues:

1. The security patrol service continues to serve the property well during these uncertain times, the committee submits a minute for your consideration:

MINUTE 2020.7.1: Considering the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, FMSA Property Committee recommends continuation of the security patrol for two more months, through the end of October 2020. Continuation beyond that date will be considered in the September Property Committee meeting and a recommendation for continuance or termination will be presented to the September Business Meeting. Approved.

2. Watering on the property: Volunteers have stepped forward to water weekly as of the 07/13/2020. The committee is grateful for this work and welcomes others to join the weeding and watering by contacting the committee at property@saquakers.org
3. Memorial Garden: See our latest concept on the next page.
4. New Monument sign: bids are being solicited to clear the designated area.

The property has been very clean; no evidence of campfires or people staying at the property. It appears that the combination of signs and patrolling has been working, although it's hard to prove a negative.

Friends who wish to volunteer for watering should contact the Property committee to be scheduled so that watering can be spaced out efficiently.

We've made progress on the monument sign. The designated area will be cleared to make way for the sign.

Re the memorial garden area concept: the current path leading down to the rock seats is dangerous. The concept revitalizes the area and allows it to be used. The committee does foresee the inclusion of plaques with peoples' names on them, potentially on the sign in the picture, but that is not finalized yet.

Report accepted.

Religious Education:

No report, but MINUTE 2020.4.3. is still in place to continue paying our childcare worker.

The payment for childcare is designated as a gift.

Community Engagement: *Gretchen Haynes*

No report.

Peace and Social Concerns: *Katherine Fitzgerald Hernandez*

Approved a \$100 donation to Catholic Worker Tiny House Project.

The donation was approved back in February or March but the group was not ready to receive the donation at the time. The Housing First website is very interesting. Val reports that they are ready to move RV type units to the site for volunteer housing and then they will begin building the tiny houses.

Report accepted.

Announcements:

Looking ahead to future Quaker activities:

— SCYM is beginning to plan for Fall Yearly Meeting sessions online. Information at SCYM.org

— Pendle Hill has various online activities open to Quakers worldwide

Future Forums:

— We have begun discussion forums on the Wednesday evenings when we do not have Business Meeting.

1) What forums would you like to have?

Peggy suggested tapping into other Quaker organizations since we are no longer bound by where we live since we do the forums through Zoom. Greg Koehler suggested two visitors from Arkansas from a few years back, but believed there were several people in our yearly meeting who would be great. (Val updated that Marianne Lockard is ill and Friends will hold her in the Light.) Kellie suggested Jasmine Z. and/or Suzanne Cole Sullivan from SCYM who are both very knowledgeable about anti-racism and racial justice issues.

2) Are there forums you would like to lead?

Kellie offered to lead a forum on reflective journaling as self-care.

Gretchen discussed an article regarding Quakers and inherent racism in the leadup to the civil war. She would be interested in spending some time looking at what the article says and how it relates to us today in terms of questions that have been raised with anti-racism concerns.

Opportunities for Readings:

— Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting had to cancel its March meeting. Scheduling another is only possible if enough Friends are led to organize it. Please see Greg Koehler or the Clerk if you feel led.

Greg indicated that working on Quarterly Meeting does not have to be from scratch, as quite a bit of work had already been done prior to the meeting being canceled.

— Texas and the Federal Government are ramping up executions. We are invited to write letters requesting clemency and/or opposition. Please see the Clerk for how to get information. There is also an opportunity to coordinate letter-writing for the Meeting.

— The Newsletter editor thanks those who have taken on monthly ‘columns’ on topics of their choosing. Peggy is creating “Know your Friends” pages. Julia is writing on FCNL issues and opportunities. Gretchen regularly writes on various topics. Others are welcome to take up topics as well.

Other Announcements

From FCNL:

FCNL’s July Quaker Changemaker event “Advocacy and the Arts.”

July 29 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. EDT We’ve seen how creative advocacy, like singing to senators, has brought imagination and humanity to Friends’ advocacy with FCNL—and how it has led to major breakthroughs in relationship-building with members of Congress. The event will feature Friend Tom Rawson, a folksinger, FCNL General Committee representative, and Advocacy Team member; and Hassan El-Tayyab, a musician and FCNL’s lead lobbyist for Middle East policy. Together, we will discuss music, Quaker advocacy, and FCNL’s lobbying to advance peace in the Middle East.

Discussion Item:

Returning to clerk’s question: How can Meeting help us grow spiritually in this difficult time?

Jim shared a link to the Friends Journal website, talking about the mystical side of Quaker worship and how it can ground us for living in the world. He found himself moved by the article and was reminded why he loves going to Meeting so much. He is looking for ways to enhance that feeling in the current circumstances.

Closing Worship

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard
Clerk

Kellie Price
Recording Clerk