

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom
January 20, 2021

Attending: David Hayes, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Julie Crum, Joni Mize, James Mize, James Goslin, Greg Koehler, Pam Spurgeon, Val Liveoak, Julia Hitz, Gretchen Haynes

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

The meeting opened with silent worship

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

Prior Minutes

Friends approved December 2020 Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

Balance Sheet

- ✓ Contributions this month of \$9981.64 plus the transfer of \$5,061.05 from the General Maintenance account to Operating Cash returned this account to positive.
- ✓ Per established procedure, the unspent portion of Ministry & Oversight, 62140 Relief Fund budget was transferred from Operating Expenses to 10030 Relief Fund.
- ✓ The annual expenditure on Property, Minor Repairs & Maintenance of \$8,0085.67 exceeded the budget of \$2,500 by \$5,585.67. Per established procedure, when actual expenditure exceeds the budget, money in the amount of the overage is transferred from General Maintenance to Operating Cash. Because the over-expenditure is greater than the amount in General Maintenance, the whole of General Maintenance was transferred. The General Maintenance account was \$524.62 less than the over-budget expenditure.
- ✓ The year-end statements from Friends Fiduciary have not been received. These accounts will be updated next month.
- ✓ Linear depreciation over 25 years was applied to the Big Sun photovoltaic panels. The original cost of \$39,420 yields a reduction in value of \$1,576.80 annually, in December.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Contributions for the month totaled \$9981.64, which is similar to the end-of-year contributions in 2018 and 2019. Contributions, excluding the special contribution of \$11850.00 in April, total \$25,681.64 for 2020. Thus, contributions were 83.65% of the 2020 budgeted general contributions. Total expenses are 105% of the budgeted expenses (again excluding the special contribution for tree work).
- ✓ The December distribution from the Friends Fiduciary Growth and Income Fund is \$5,109.26, which was divided equally between the RAICES Bond Fund and General Maintenance accounts (\$2,554.63 each).
- ✓ The invoice of \$457.26 for security patrol service, StateWide Patrol, Inc., in January was received and paid in January, thus does not appear on this month's statement of activities. Total expenditure for security services in 2020 is \$4,123.55.

- ✓ Our Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$148.67 against a charge of \$123.46 in December for CPS-generated electricity. Additional charges for Service Availability, city services and additional products and services gave an account credit balance of \$143.15 for the December bill. The bill in December 2019 was \$173.39. Our panels generated 21.44 MWh (21,439.57 kWh) in 2020 plus a few days in 2019.
- ✓ 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 December showed a credit of \$1,089.44 remaining after deducting \$106.96, a constant, prorated amount until the balance is expended (November 2021).
- ✓ The \$3000 contribution to South Central Yearly Meeting was paid in December.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical, given the unusual current conditions.

Faithfully submitted,
William D. Sweet, Treasurer

Val asked how much do we have in the relief fund, and it was explained that it's just a paper transfer and the money is still there for relief if needed. The amount was given in answer, but the Recording clerk did not catch the exact amount for these notes.

Report accepted.

Finance: Pat Sweet

The second reading of the 2021 budget. Friends have had a chance to look at it and communicate with finance.

A Friend suggested that the security payments should be clearly delineated in its own line item, but it was explained that it was a software function that once an item is added, it will be there in perpetuity even if we're no longer using that. Val asked whether the treasurer can include in his narrative report the security amount and year to date going forward, and Bill Sweet said that yes, he can do so. Joni explained that the security service was never meant to be permanent and we look forward to stopping it as soon as we can, and did not think it a good idea to create a permanent line item for a temporary service. The sense of the Meeting is that a permanent line item is not needed.

2021 Budget Approved.

MINUTE 2021.1.1: *Given the current lack of use of the RAICES Fund, the current addition to that fund of 50% of the Friends Fiduciary distribution, paid in June and December, will be added to Operating Cash in 2021. This change is for 2021 only. Continuing current practice, the remaining 50% will be deposited to General Maintenance. Approved.*

MINUTE 2021.1.2. *Given the substantial balance in the Sinking Fund, addition to this Fund, which has been \$500 per month for some years, is suspended in 2021 only. Approved.*

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Oversight: Val Liveoak

An M&O Meeting, was held Jan. 12, via Zoom. New M&O members, David Bristol and Joni Mize were welcomed and Gretchen Haynes and Val Liveoak attended. Clerk Jim Spickard sent regrets.

We reviewed our experience with recent Zoom Meetings for Worship. Concerns about ministry and orienting newer attenders were addressed with the following actions suggested:

Write a reminder about the desired quality of spoken ministry in the weekly announcement.

Offer a post Meeting Breakout for those with any questions about our Meeting, Quakerism or such topics, to be facilitated by members of M&O.

Announce with the weekly announcement for the Sunday Meeting for Worship that there will be opportunities for sharing outside of worship.

Offer a Forum on Spoken Ministry in Feb. Suggestions included a flowchart/graphic, videos from QuakerSpeak and other resources.

A Friend reminded us that public eldering, if directly undertaken, could stifle ministry.

Adaptations of Meetingroom for worship (later)

We recognized that the ad hoc committee on this issue had not been convened.

Friends expressed reservations about possible intrusions into worship in the Meetingroom by both technology and visitors via Zoom, issues which need to be taken up by the ad hoc committee.

Clerks and Convenors Meeting: The Clerk is in charge of the content. Val repeated her promise to email an invitation to Clerks and Convenor as listed on the Nominating Committee Report. 2 committees, Religious Education and Peace and Social Concerns lack named convenors, and the entire committee will be included in the invitation.

Concerns re: Members and attenders were discussed and several Friends offered to contact the Friends mentioned.

Last Wishes project: We continue to hope that this gets to a point where the document can be offered to Friends.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 9 3:00pm via Zoom. Please let us know if you have any concerns for us to consider.

The date and time of the clerks and convenors meeting is on the calendar (January 27). Greg Koehler will serve as convener of Religious Education for the first two months.

Jim pointed out that we need more people to test out the form on the website for last wishes. Friends can fill out the form with crazy info, just to test out the form. It was pointed out that Friends should try to "break" the form so that it can be tested properly.

Report accepted.

Property: David Hayes

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

As previously discussed, the Security Patrol service is up for review this month. As a committee we continue to be thankful for the service provided, and the safety of the meetinghouse. Unfortunately we continue to find ourselves in the same situation that made us procure said service: The property continues to be vacant due to staggering cases of COVID-19 and the sociopolitical situation of the country remains unstable pending inauguration. We have a 30-day arrear notice for termination of service if the meeting finds this move pertinent, otherwise the service

continues through the end of February. All feedback regarding this valuable service is welcome and would thus continue through March 2021 unless otherwise decided.

Faithfully yours,

Pam, Joni, James and David

Friends will revisit the security service at the March business meeting.

Report accepted.

Religious Education: Greg Koehler

Religious Education committee met via zoom at 9:00am on Sunday, December 20th. Oliver Gerken [co-clerk], Joni Mize [co-clerk], Gary Whiting, and Greg Koehler were in attendance.

1) Committee Clerkship - We discussed sharing clerking responsibilities amongst members for the time being [while members continue to discern longer commitments for leadership]. Greg Koehler volunteered to take a turn organizing the committee meetings and plans as convener for the first two months of 2021.

2) Upcoming Forums -

A) The committee will continue to seek guidance from the Meeting [and from M&O] about the desire of the meeting to have forum-type events. In light of slim attendance at 2020 Wednesday evening events, we are being sensitive to the leadings of the spirit (or lack thereof) when it comes to presenting additional events in the Zoom meeting era. The committee encourages anyone in our Friends community who feels led by spirit to propose and/or lead Forums. We are prepared to help.

B) In response to a discussion by M&O, we are considering scheduling a Forum regarding "Ministry during Meeting for Worship" ... Jim Spickard has potentially volunteered to present and lead discussion on this topic on the evening of Wednesday, February 10th.

3) Dedicated Study Groups - We continue to develop the idea of dedicated, committed study groups interested in taking up the study of a text or subject. Included in this idea is a continued discernment of how and when to present a study of "The Call to Radical Faithfulness" by Douglas Gwyn, and of how and when we might examine the "Faith & Practice" manual.

James Goslin offered to be a resource to religious education committee.

Report accepted.

Peace and Social Concerns: No Report

Community Engagement: Gretchen Haynes

Welcome & check in; present Bill Sweet, James Goslin, Petra Ramirez, Megan Pope, Jim Spickard, Gretchen Haynes, convener

Preparing for MLK event 1/22

1. Zoombombing: Oliver and Jim will be cohosts and attend to this security issue
2. Breakout rooms for feedback sessions are an option. GH will check with Pamela B S if she wants breakout rooms or just to call on people. [Pamela prefers to call on speakers.]

Following up MLK event 1/22

Depending on the interest for “What do we do on Monday,” GH can organize if fewer than 10 people in metro SAT, otherwise she will need help.

Connecting to members/attenders

1. The committee hasn’t done much lately, but a charge is to build/maintain this community.
 - a. Quaker Happy Hour on Zoom for informal chats with breakout rooms. Megan will poll via Facebook to see if there is interest, and what evening is best.
 - b. Movies can be screened on Zoom and discuss/chat about after. Documentary, silly, activist, drama...
 - c. Hatchback party, perhaps later in year a socially distanced potluck
2. Techniques for handling situations of conflict, political dispute, etc. GH will check with Val to see if she would be interested in leading a zoom workshop based on AVP. [Val agreed, asking for 3 hours for all steps, break out rooms and commitment from 8 to participate.]

Connecting to the wider community [This for after pandemic lockdown/social distancing.]

1. Engage elementary kids in the neighborhood for 6-week programs: e.g., tutoring with perhaps hired HS kids, local boy or girl scouts or other volunteers; Veronica and her group on how to do story telling.
2. Just plain fun – games on zoom. Ask Katherine.
3. Computer basics [we would need volunteer lap tops and instructors]
4. Techniques for handling situations of conflict, political dispute, etc. See above.
5. Forgiveness workshop led by Peggy.
6. Could any of these ideas be modified for zoom lessons?

Next committee meeting: Monday, Feb 1, 7:00 for a review of the MLK response & Clerks/Conveners meeting [which GH will attend for CEC].

There was a question about “what do we do on Monday”—essentially what is it. Gretchen explained that it is a way to follow up with participants from the MLK event.

Val clarified that her offer to lead a program on handling situations of conflict is based in non-violent communication, not AVP.

James clarified that what he wanted to see was something more like a discussion forum on how to deal with difficult people.

Report accepted.

Other Concerns

Gretchen brought forward question about who should be included in the directory and who it should be distributed to, but Jim thought it more appropriate to be handled within committee. Bill Sweet indicated that Community Engagement had previously determined criteria for inclusion and distribution.

Announcements:

1. Peaceful conversation regarding national events January 21 in the zoom room through calendar link.
2. Dream Week Dialogue January 22
3. Clerk’s/Convener’s Meeting January 27
4. Documentary viewing on community calendar on the website.

5. Neil Redfield is putting on a one-person live digital performance on community bulletin board section of the website.

6. January 21 FNCL programming about what FCNL has on its mind. Every other Thursday at 3 CST

Closing Worship

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard
Clerk

Kellie Price
Recording Clerk