

**Minutes**  
**FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom**  
**March 17, 2021**

Attending: Jim Spickard, Val Liveoak, Gretchen Haynes, Joni Mize, James Mize, Laura Claghorn, Pam Spurgeon, Greg Koehler, James Goslin, Oliver Gerken, Bill Sweet

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

The meeting opened with silent worship

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

**Prior Minutes**

Friends approved February 2021 Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

**Balance Sheet**

✓ There are no issues of note.

**Statement of Activities**

✓ Contributions in February totaled \$255.00. Thus, contributions for 2021 were 9.1% of the 2021 budgeted general contributions, at 16.7% of the year.

✓ No invoice for security patrol service, StateWide Patrol, Inc., received in February. Thus, total expenditure for security services in 2021 remains \$907.26.

✓ No bill was received from CPSEnergy by the end of February, so no payment was made.

✓ 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 January showed a credit of \$871.67 remaining after deducting \$110.81. We will resume paying for water in the October-November 2021 timeframe.

✓ The annual premium for insurance of \$4,726.00 was \$26.00 below budget. This is an increase of 8.6% over 2020's premium of \$4350. We had budgeted, based on information from our insurance agent, approximately a 10% increase. The premium in 2016 was \$2179.83. Because of losses from the nearby tornados that year, the company has increased premiums gradually to avoid shock to their policyholders' budgets. It may reasonably be expected that losses from this month's state and areawide prolonged freezing weather will again result in relatively large increases in premiums for the next few years.

✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical, given the current pandemic conditions.

Faithfully submitted,  
William D. Sweet, Treasurer

Report accepted.

**Committee Reports:**

Ministry & Oversight: *Val Liveoak*

The committee met March 2 and 9. All Committee members were present for both meetings. Both meetings began with worship.

On March 2:

1. We met at the request of a member to decide if we were ready for hybrid Meetings for Worship that would include a porch meeting. That proposal was deferred for later discernment in light of the fact that Friends Meeting of Austin had notified us that their members were planning to attend our Zoom meeting for Worship on March 7.
2. A second request by an attender to have a wedding at the Meetinghouse in June was approved with caveats regarding Covid precautions and other details.

On March 9:

1. We revisited the question of a hybrid Meeting for Worship and approved starting March 14 if technical help could be found. Gretchen volunteered to arrive early to set up chairs and hygiene stations.
2. We discussed the process of discernment on resuming worship inside the Meetingroom. We agreed to ask Laura Claghorn to clerk the process with administrative assistance from Gretchen Haynes. We ask Meeting to determine if it will name an ad hoc committee/working group to lead the discernment process or if it prefers to start with a Threshing/Brainstorming session with a goal of being able to meet in the Meetingroom by summer if Covid restrictions allow that, expecting that an ad hoc working group would come out of the Threshing session. We agreed that all sessions discussing the decisions would need to be hybrid sessions.
3. We discussed the final draft of the State of the Meeting report, and asked to see it again before submitting it to MfB.
4. We agreed with issues regarding the Directory, referring them back to Community Involvement for final action.
5. We considered individual Friends' needs and how to contact them.
6. We noted that we hope to resolve issues discovered in the beta testing of the Final Wishes document and advance it to offer to Friends more widely.

Our next meeting is April 13 at 1pm.

**MINUTE 2021.3.1: *FMSA will begin the process of discernment about resuming worship inside the Meetingroom by holding a threshing session this coming Sunday to begin the process.* APPROVED.**

Val indicated an intention to hold a Threshing session this Wednesday, and Greg suggested holding it on a Sunday after Meeting for Worship to increase participation. Jim cautioned against imposing deadlines for us to achieve discernment, but agreed that the Threshing session should take place sooner rather than later.

There was a question regarding what the issues were with the directory were, and Gretchen explained that it pertained to the decision to remove people from the directory, but was determined that this was a decision for Community Engagement.

There was discussion about the State of the Meeting report, which had not been sent to the clerk for business meeting. It will be sent out ASAP and there will be a quick called Meeting for Business on Sunday following worship. Gretchen will send to clerk.

Report accepted.

Property: James Mize

The committee met on March 7<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following:

- We have accepted a bid to refurbish the entrance gates.
- Window screen replacement bid is in work.
- The area for the sign has been cleared, the secondary stump removal work is in process.
- A bid for gutter cleaning and guard installation is in process.
- Preventive maintenance and recharging the fire extinguishers is in process.
- Posting signs on the property for dogwalkers to pick up after their pets.
- Property committee is in unity about keeping security patrols active until we return to in-person meetings.

We had a successful workday on 27 February 2021. We would like to thank all who worked so hard, as the hard freeze gave us plenty of work.

We are scheduling another workday for 10 April because we need another go at clearing plants we were hoping to come back but didn't. Spring is now upon us to better guide our hands.

We also have indoor chores, so don't be bashful there's plenty for all to share in this labor of love, thank you.

Val pointed out that the need for security may be more related to whether there were any groups using the meeting house. There is one, but only one evening a month.

Bill Sweet gave a cautious reminder about the budget. It was noted by the Property Committee members in attendance, and additionally Joni discussed the potential for an in-kind donation.

Report accepted.

#### Religious Education: Greg Koehler

The Religious Education Committee Met on Sunday, March 7th, at 9:00am, via Zoom. Karen Ball, Oliver Gerken, James Goslin, Joni Mize, Gary Whiting, and Greg Koehler [convener] were in attendance.

- 1) Our next committee meeting will be in the morning before Meeting for Worship on Sunday, April 11th [reflecting a delay by one week of the customary first-First-Day trend because of Easter and Yearly Meeting].
- 2) Gary Whiting's worship sharing forum will be scheduled with the clerk according to Gary's leading about the appropriate timing, probably for the semi-customary second-Wednesday evening slot in April [April 14th].
- 3) We will continue to consider possibilities for future forums, and to be available to help facilitate forums to be led by members/attenders from the meeting who are not on the Religious Education committee. Currently there is an opening for Wednesday, May 12th.
- 4) We will continue to consider the possibility of developing dedicated study groups to examine books... including "Faith & Practice" and "The Call to Radical Faithfulness". These are not intended to occupy forum slots with something that requires homework, but rather to be separate study groups for people who are interested in taking the time to read, study, and learn together.
- 5) James Goslin shared some ideas from his time working with Religious Education in years past, including recounting the "Quaker-Light" program and several programs for children.

Report accepted.

#### Peace and Social Concerns: Val Liveoak

The Committee met March 3, 2021. Attenders: Oliver Gerken, Donna Dickerson, and Val Liveoak

1. We considered what we could do, considering COVID restrictions and the state of FMSA. We decided to start with finding opportunities for advocacy by individuals that are associated with Meeting. In order to do that we are planning to invite Friends who have been active or involved with issues to advise and inform us about opportunities for advocacy or action.
2. We brainstormed these issues and Friends who follow them. We are in the process of contacting the Friends involved to establish contact and an information flow. Issues we considered include: Refugee aid/Immigration issues, Death Penalty/executions, Anti-war/Nuclear weapons, Climate action (aquifer protection, CPS issues esp. incentivizing solar), voter suppression, and gentrification.
3. We didn't know Friends who focus on issues coming forward from the Texas Legislature and we remember that we also can anticipate an Election for City Council and School Board (San Antonio) in May. We may want to consider Gentrification and Income Inequality in those elections.
4. We invite Friends with concerns for Peace and Social Concerns/issues to serve as resources to our committee or to contact Nominations Committee about joining it. We also hope that Friends will become more active on these issues if more resources are offered to them.
5. We also discussed our structure and agreed to have a rotating role of facilitator/clerk.

Our next meeting will be April 8 at 6pm.

Community Engagement: Gretchen Haynes

Present: Jim Spickard, James Goslin, Bill Sweet, Gretchen Haynes, convener; regrets Megan Pope

1. Directory: we can inform active members and attenders how to gain access to the Directory on the web by a notice in the April Newsletter.
2. Keeping connected, particularly with newcomers: the breakout rooms following zoom worship seem to be working well. People are willing to stay an extra hour in conversation. Quaker Questions has had 3 or 4 newcomers each week, with others staying in the main room to talk. We would like to encourage these to sign up for the newsletter and notifications so that we can have email addresses for a welcome message.
3. Hatchback evenings: we seek to resume these in April with information from Stephen and Peggy on the coordination. Gretchen will follow up.

Prepared by Gretchen Haynes, convener

Gretchen heard back from Stephen and learned that Peggy was really the one who had coordinated previously. Gretchen's suggestion was to come up with new coordination if she does not hear from Peggy before the next meeting. Aiming for April 8 as the next date. Jim suggested the committee should meet before the newsletter goes out.

Report accepted.

Other Concerns

Upcoming Events:

SCYM Meeting will be March 28-April 4 online

Meetinghouse Workday April 10

April Business Meeting April 21

Announcements:

Calendar/Scheduling: Jim is currently handling the calendar and needs to know when committees are meeting so that we don't double book once our groups start coming back.

Opportunity to help with Meeting outreach or Meeting tech.

Reminder of selling Marian Carter's furniture.

David Hayes asks to be held in the Light; his grandmother is ill.

Greg reminded Friends that quarterly meeting will be responsible for the adult programming for the 2022 and 2023 yearly meetings.

Closing Worship

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard  
Clerk

Kellie Price  
Recording Clerk