

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom
April 21, 2021

Attending: Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, James Mize, Joni Mize, Gretchen Haynes, Val Liveoak, Julie Crum, Greg Koehler, James Goslin, Rebecca Cole Sullivan, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Peggy Dial, Stephen Shearer, Julia Hitz, David Hayes

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

The meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

A query to keep in mind for tonight: What are we doing to keep Spirit in the center of our life together?

Prior Minutes

Friends approved March 2021 Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

Balance Sheet

- ✓ The only issue of note is that the value for Operating Cash in February has been corrected. The correction is explained in "Statement of Activities".

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Because of a copying error on the check for the GuideOne Insurance policy premium in February, the corrected Statement of Activities for February is shown here along with March. The February report (incorrect in this one item) stands as published. The additional payment correcting the erroneous underpayment was made in April and will appear on the April report.
- ✓ Contributions in March totaled \$2705.00. Thus, contributions for 2021 were 18.9% of the 2021 budgeted general contributions, at 25% of the year.
- ✓ The invoice for security patrol service, StateWide Patrol, Inc., was received and paid in March. Total expenditure for security services in 2021 is \$1357.26.
- ✓ Because of the state-wide freezing weather and disruption of the electricity supply, no invoice from CPS Energy was received in February. Invoices are usually received around the 22nd of the month. The February invoice was received on 09 March. Electricity generated by our Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$259.56 against a charge of \$236.91 in February for CPS-generated electricity. Additional charges for Service Availability, city services and additional products and services gave an account credit balance of \$105.18 on the February bill. The March bill, received and paid on 23 March, was \$136.90 for electricity. Additional charges brought the bill to \$54.08. No credit for photoelectric generation was applied to this bill.
- ✓ 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 March showed a credit of \$772.41 remaining after deducting \$103.11. We will resume paying for water in the October-November 2021 timeframe.

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

We met on April 13 with all members and the Clerk in attendance.

We considered how our hybrid meetings are going, observing that new attenders who seem to be ready to get more involved with the Meeting continue to attend—4 agreed to help with the Fair in May.

We also considered how to have a more centered experience before worship on Zoom. Currently the whole group engages in chat until a few minutes before 10 am. One member said she does not find this practice useful to helping her get centered. We will consider various ideas at our next meeting.

We considered the Threshing Session on returning to the Meetingroom for worship. Logistics to help the hybrid Threshing Session were discussed, and the Clerk planned to bring a projector and use the AV screen we have at meeting. We discussed how to introduce the process and Gretchen volunteered to take notes on the different ideas expressed. We also decided to record the Zoom input for capturing the Threshing Session.

We reviewed the situation of the other groups using our Meetingroom and believe none of them will want to use it in the near future, although some plan to or are already meeting on the porch or grounds.

We reviewed plans for the Silent Retreat May 8. It will be an in-person event only. David, Joni, and Gretchen will handle logistical arrangements.

We still need Friends to test the Last Wishes form (<https://sanantonioquakers.org/last-wishes-form/>), even with created data, so that it can be more widely offered. To beta-test it, we ask Friends to report problems or failures they encounter to Jim and Pam so they can de-bug it.

Our next regular meeting is May 11 at 1pm.

As a follow up to the April 18th Threshing Session, the committee met on April 19 to discern the next steps to advance in this process. We discerned the following objectives:

- restore in-person Meeting for Worship and activities at the Meetinghouse to the center of FMSA life
- minimize health risks to participants and visitors
- minimize disruption to the Meetinghouse and to Meeting for Worship
- make it possible for everyone in the Quaker community to attend
- make it possible for everyone to give and receive ministry
- facilitate everyone's full participation in worship
- facilitate everyone's full participation in forums and business
- make it possible to clerk the above activities

We recognized several possible problems and anticipate that unexpected challenges will arise in the process. We hope the Meeting will unite with these objectives. We plan to invite Friends to review the notes from the Threshing Session, (at: <https://sanantonioquakers.org/Docs/Notes%20from%20the%20April%2018th%20Threshing%20Meeting.pdf>) and to add their thoughts, concerns and wishes to the notes at ministry@saquakers.org BY NO LATER THAN MAY 10, before M&O's next meeting.

Jim reminded Friends that the Last Wishes form is for Friends who desire to share their last wishes with the meeting.

Jim shared that the link above is available on the Post-COVID resources page on the website. Pat pointed out that we need staff to enable the objectives. Jim shared that there are some additional resources on the Post-COVID resources page.

Report accepted.

Property: David Hayes

The Property Committee met on April 11, 2021 with all members present.

1. The April Work Day was a success!! Thank you to all who participated in maintaining the property beautiful. Continuous landscaping work: weed-pulling, trash-pickup, watering; interior upkeep, gutter cleaning, sweeping and storage organizing were all accomplished.

-- Our next workday is scheduled for Saturday, May 15th from 9am until 1pm.

-- **All are welcome** ☺

2. The area agreed upon for monument sign placement has been professionally cleared of plants and debris and is ready for forward movement.
3. It is time to review continuing the Security Patrol service on the eve of the occupancy of the meetinghouse. **The property committee suggests terminating service. If approved, a letter will be sent to end the contract as of May 31, 2021.**
4. Our first HVAC service with Schmidt Mechanical was completed on 04/15/21.

We continue to vigorously ask all members and attenders to secure and double-check doors or else.

Peggy and David will coordinate to meet with the sign company at the property to move forward on the sign.

Peggy suggested possibly rekeying and keeping a log of who has keys. Joni indicated that there is a list of key holders. Property will discuss whether there is a need to rekey.

MINUTE 2021.4.1: FMSA approves terminating the Security Patrol service to end on May 31, 2021. Approved.

Report accepted.

Religious Education: Greg Koehler

The Religious Education Committee Met on Sunday, April 11th, at 11:30am, via Zoom AND in-person on the Meetinghouse porch. Karen Ball, Oliver Gerken, James Goslin, Joni Mize, Gary Whiting, and Greg Koehler [convener] were in attendance.

We discussed the following calendar items and ideas to keep in mind for the future:

1. Worship Sharing led by Gary Whiting, Wednesday, April 14th, 7:00pm via Zoom.
2. Religious Education Committee Meeting, Sunday May 2nd, 11:30am hybrid via Zoom and in person on Meetinghouse Porch
3. Developing Forum Session with Joni Mize, Wednesday, May 12th, 7:00pm via Zoom.
4. Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting for Yearly Meeting Program Planning - May 29th

On our Vision Board: - Quakerism reading list, future orientation-related events for new attenders, 2nd Wednesday evening zoom gatherings?

Val gave an update on Cielo Grande. Most of the people who attended the quarterly meeting planning meeting, most were from San Antonio, so the first objective is to increase participation from the other meetings that make

up Cielo Grande. This is because Cielo Grande is responsible for planning the adult programming for SCYM in 2022 and 2023. Next meeting is May 10.

Report accepted.

Peace and Social Concerns: Val Liveoak

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee met on April 8. Oliver Gerken, Donna Dickerson and Val Liveoak attended.

We reviewed the issues/concerns that we have asked Friends to be resource persons for:

gentrification/urban issues; National and state legislation; immigrant assistance; death penalty; climate crisis. We welcome input from Friends who are active with other concerns. We plan to help Friends post announcements of events and actions related to these issues, and to discern if and how the Meeting should respond to these issues, to bring to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

One member of P&SC suggested we consider how Friends can individually discern what their leadings are. One idea would be to form a mutual support group with a focus on discernment and social action.

We reviewed FMSA's 2020 donations to local and Quaker organizations in preparation of making a recommendation to Meeting regarding donations in 2021.

We suggest the following Minute:

MINUTE 2021.4.2: FMSA approves re-categorizing the current RAICES Bond Fund as an Immigrant Assistance Fund, which would allow disbursements to various organizations and individuals to assist immigrants, with 50% of the current fund of \$10,468.78 being available for disbursements starting in July 2021.

We also recognize that some of the money in this fund was donated for the purpose of providing bonds for immigrants and if any donor to the fund would prefer to withdraw their donation from the Immigrant Assistance fund, notice should be made to the P&SC committee and the Treasurer by June 10. Approved.

Our next meeting will be May 6 at 6pm at the Meetinghouse. Friends who wish to attend over Zoom should inform the committee in advance.

The Recording Clerk asked whether the part about letting people know they can request their donation from the fund by May 15 needed to be formatted as a specific minute. Rebecca pointed out that we have to let people know that we are changing where the money is going and Suzanne indicated that there is precedent that putting it in the Minutes might count as being publicly posted. Val volunteered to check the individual donations against the disbursements as it was possible that the amounts disbursed have already covered the individual donations. Val also suggested that we could adjust the dates for donors to respond. The minute was amended to change the dates.

Community Engagement: No Report

Ad Hoc Fair Working Group:

The essential pieces are in place for a scaled down Fair. We have donations of baked goods from Broadway Daily Bread, Panera Bread, Trader Joe's, and Starbucks. We need more books, which Friends can bring to Meeting on Sunday or on the day. Where volunteers are missing, I have filled in, so that all tasks are complete. It is not too late for Friends to sign up for a free space in the parking lot to turn your clutter into cash. If not a seller, then a buyer be.

Report accept.

Other Concerns

Clerk Laying Down Tasks: Jim needs to lay down some tasks for the Meeting.

Peggy suggested perhaps hiring a social media coordinator. She pointed out that the tech stuff has always fallen on a few people and it's too heavy. We hire someone to clean the building and do the lawn, why not hire someone to help us do this?

Val's recollection was that there are enough Friends interested in Quarterly Meeting to take that on.

Kellie offered to take over the newsletter. Suzanne offered to take on Facebook.

Bill asked how much a social media coordinator would cost, given budget concerns. Peggy estimated that a reasonable estimate would be in the \$25 per hour range. She suggested that perhaps the money that went to the security costs could be transferred to this instead. Gretchen added that the social media outreach is necessary, especially because it helps reach younger people. Gretchen reminded Friends that we have the money in savings, it just wasn't written in the budget.

James Goslin believes the real need is for additional people to take on the roles.

Jim indicated that we won't come to a full solution tonight.

Joni pointed out that we have chipped away at some of them, and she suggested that Jim make a list of the roles he wants to keep. Jim responded that he wants to keep clerking and have the centeredness to do it.

David volunteered to take over the Zoom or Hybrid tech at the Sunday meetings. He also pointed out that our social media audience is not large and the time spent should be planned accordingly.

Upcoming Events:

Pacific YM: Meeting for Grieving April 25 6-7:30 pm

Quaker Fair May 1

Silent Retreat May 8

Cielo Grande Quarterly May 29

Forum by Joni Wednesday May 12

Work day May 15

Val invited Friends to a Memorial Meeting for David Zarembka, Val can send the information for them.

Val has been helping Marian sell some of her belongings, including some paintings which are nicely framed. Most can be seen through Val at Meeting on Sunday.

Announcements:

Closing Worship

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard
Clerk

Kellie Price
Recording Clerk