

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom
May 19, 2021

Attending: Laura Claghorn, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Gretchen Haynes, Oliver Gerken, Julie Crum, Greg Koehler, Val Liveoak.

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

The meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

What does it mean for us to do the Meeting's work guided by the Spirit?

Prior Minutes

Friends approved April 2021 Minutes with a small correction.

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

Balance Sheet

- ✓ For the first quarter of 2021, the Friends Fiduciary Growth and Income fund increased by \$12,173.73 whereas the Short-Term Investment Fund decreased by \$203.59, for a net increase of \$11,970.14 in our portfolio.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Contributions in April totaled \$1750.00. Thus, contributions for 2021 were 26.5% of the 2021 budgeted general contributions, at 33% of the year.
- ✓ The invoice for security patrol service, StateWide Patrol, Inc., was received and paid in April. As of 30 April, total expenditure for security services in 2021 is \$1814.52.
- ✓ The CPS bill in April is for \$219.65 for 1.816 MWh of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$129.08. After charges for additional services, the bill was for \$113.47.
 - ✓ An email from CPS noted "Your energy bill does not include any rate changes, purchased power costs, or fuel adjustment costs related to the historic February winter storm **at this time.**" (emphasis added)
 - ✓ As of 23 April, \$528.65 for 5.9 MWh generated has been credited to our CPS bills in 2021.
 - ✓ Big Sun Solar reported that FMSA has received a total credit since the beginning of the program of \$2,693.41. Thus, we have recouped 6.8% of our investment over 5.0% of the 25-year contract life.
- ✓ The leak in the water supply during the November-December 2019 billing period resulted in a charge of \$3,391.52, adjusted to \$2,199.15. The invoice for April showed a credit of \$772.41 remaining after deducting \$106.96. 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

There was a question about if we are "net metered" or if we are subject to surcharges. Bill is not sure. He knows CPS purchases from our panels at a given rate.

Report accepted.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Oversight: Gretchen Haynes

The Committee met on May 11, with Gretchen Haynes, Joni Mize, Val Liveoak and Jim Spickard, Clerk, attending.

1. We returned to a previously considered change of the Committee name to avoid the word “Oversight”, which has gained negative connotations among some Friends. We reviewed the Handbook charge to the committee, to stimulate our brainstorming. The following words arose in various combinations:
 - Ministry and Guidance
 - Worship and Care
 - Care and Guidance
 - Ministry and Care
 - Ministry and WitnessAfter our discussion, the Committee is asked to pray/consider them for next meeting.
2. We considered the new layout for hybrid/porch Meeting. We found it good and suggest asking both porch worshipers and Zoom worshipers to introducing themselves at rise of Meeting. We note that fewer and different people have attended recently. David Hayes is willing to continue tech help in May (except 23rd.)
3. We heard a report about the Silent Retreat. Twelve attended, including some for just the morning or the afternoon; one person who had RSVPed didn’t attend. We were told that those attending experienced a full and worshipful time together.
4. We discussed concerns about individual Friends.
5. We discussed preparing to return to meetings in the Meetingroom.
 - a. We reviewed the threshing session and other Friends feedback that we have received.
 - b. We found general approval of the 8 objectives and of the formation of a committee to work on alternative models of how to accomplish them – specifically including options for holding Meeting for Business.
 - c. Based on feedback, we added a restart of the children’s programs to the objectives.
 - d. We heard a concern that the sticking points will likely revolve around objectives 4-6.

Proposed Minutes:

MINUTE 2021.5.1: *FMSA approves using the list of 8 objectives derived from the threshing session – with the addition of a 9th: Restarting the Children’s Program – to guide the process of returning to use of the Meeting room. Approved.*

[If the above Minute is approved:]

MINUTE 2021.5.2: *FMSA approves the formation of an ad-hoc committee to look at the objectives and propose various ways to meet them, consulting resource people as seems prudent. The committee will report to M&O on its progress, ultimately presenting options that the committee discerns as meeting as many of the objectives as possible. When M&O approves, the proposed options will be presented by the committee to Meeting for Business. Approved.*

- e. M&O suggests that Meeting for Business approve the following people to serve on the committee:
 - Joni Mize
 - Kellie Price
 - Jim Spickard

- Pat Sweet
- Oliver Gerken
- Suzanne Cole Sullivan
- Laura Claghorn (as committee clerk).

Peggy Dial has agreed to serve as a resource person on physical arrangements of the space as possible options emerge.

6. On other groups using the Meetinghouse:
 - a. M&O approved Plum Branch Sangha's request to use the Meeting room starting Tuesday nights in June. They will use the HEPA filters and other precautions. They expect about 12 people to attend.
 - b. The Reformed Congregation of the Goddess has resumed using the grounds on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 5-10pm.
7. The Last Wishes form still needs piloting. We encourage Friends to make up strange personas and make notes about where you run into problems, sending them to Jim and Pam for debugging.
<https://sanantonioquakers.org/last-wishes-form/>
8. We shared a few ideas about how to resume some aspect of the Children's Program but found no clarity on our next steps.

The next regular M&O meeting will be on June 8th at 1 pm

Report accepted.

Property: Jim Spickard

The Property Committee met on May 2, 2021. Pam Spurgeon, Joni Mize, James Mize and David Hayes were in attendance.

- The security patrol service will stop on May 31, 2021. As this service comes to an end, and as we continue working the plan to reopen the meetinghouse; please remember the property is open to tending to. Watering, trash collecting and general upkeep is always welcomed and appreciated.
- June workday is scheduled for June 12 from 8:30am to 12:30pm and everyone is welcome to help in any capacity.
- Peggy Dial and David Hayes met with Paul from the sign company on May 5th and are pending a renewed proposal to move forward with the sign installation.

With gratitude:

Pam Spurgeon, Joni Mize, James Mize and David Hayes

There is evidence that people are sleeping at the property again, although it is unclear whether they are staying overnight. The signs announcing private property had been removed and will need to be replaced.

Report accepted.

Religious Education: Oliver Gerken

The Committee met on Sunday, May 2nd, at 11:30am, via Zoom AND in-person on the Meetinghouse porch. Oliver Gerken, James Goslin, Joni Mize, and Greg Koehler [convener] were in attendance. A visitor who attended Meeting for Worship on the porch, Irving, also joined us.

1. We discussed the need to reorganize the library and consider adding to [or subtracting from] its holdings.
2. The committee agreed after some thoughtful discussion to allow our subscription to FUM related publication "Quaker Life" to lapse for now and to add it to our list of potential magazine subscriptions in the future when we have reorganized the library and our budget priorities.
3. We answered a few questions from our visitor about Quaker Stuff.
4. We discussed the following calendar items and ideas to keep in mind for the future:
 - Forum/Worship Sharing led by Joni Mize, Wednesday, May 12th, 7:00pm via Zoom
 - Religious Education Committee Meeting, Sunday, June 6th, 11:30am
[possibly hybrid via Zoom and in person on Meetinghouse Porch, possibly moved to accommodate changing schedules]
 - A Possible unnamed Second Wednesday Forum, June 9th, 7:00pm via Zoom
 - Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting & Yearly Meeting Planning Session - May 29th, morning hours? via Zoom

Vision Board - Quakerism reading list, future orientation-related events for new attenders, other Second Wednesday evening Zoom gatherings

Pat confirmed the hours for Quarterly Meeting Planning Session, and Jim indicated that it would go up on the website.

Report accepted.

Ad Hoc Fair Working Group: Gretchen Haynes

Quakers are persistent. We have rescheduled the Sixth Annual Fair again, new date May 22. Unfortunately, the prediction is for rain for the next ten days. The good news is that an appeal for volunteers netted one returning and three new Friends to fill empty slots. All sellers agreed to the new date. We will make the final decision to go ahead on Thursday. I suggest that if it is negative, that we abandon the Fair at this time.

Prepared by Gretchen Haynes for the Fair Team

Friends were in agreement that if weather prevents the fair from taking place on May 22 that it be canceled altogether at that time.

Nominating: Gretchen Haynes

First reading: Suzanne Cole Sullivan nominated to Community Engagement

Peace and Social Concerns: No Report

Community Engagement: No Report

Other Concerns

Announcements:

Suzanne Cole Sullivan announced information regarding registration for the Gathering and will provide it for the June newsletter.

Closing Worship

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard
Clerk

Kellie Price
Recording Clerk