

Minutes

FMSA Meeting for Business

September 26, 2021

Attending: Carol Redfield, Jill Marie Burger, James Goslin, Julie Crum, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Gretchen Haynes, Oliver Gerken, Val Liveoak, David Novogrodsky, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Rachel C., Joni Mize, James Mize, Rebecca Cole Sullivan (Acting Recording Clerk), Jim Spickard (Clerk)

Open Worship: Jim Spickard

The meeting opened with silent worship.

Prior Minutes

Friends deferred the approval of July's minutes until next month. There are two sets both the regularly planned and the called business meeting in July.

Clerks Comments: Jim Spickard

Status of reopening for in-person & blended Meetings

Predictions:

- Gradual easing of COVID spread through end of year
- Likely vaccinations for ages 5-11 by end of October
- Masks and good ventilation are (probably) enough for vaccinated people -- (air change every 15 minutes)

Decisions: Are Friends still comfortable with M&O making the call about reopening?

Friends agreed that M&O can continue to make the decisions about when to open the meeting week to week.

Are Friends interested in purchasing 2 more high-efficiency HEPA filters to supplement the 2 we already have (\$1080)?

One friend said to wait until we have closer to 20 people in the meeting room at one point. Another friend asked what maintenance is needed. The Clerk replied that it was filter changes periodically. Another Friend said we should buy the filters as air circulation is important for not spreading disease. Having good circulation, would help some friends make the call to come back to in-person sooner. We should make sure that at least one of these goes in the children's room when they start again.

MINUTE 2021.9.1: Friends meeting of San Antonio approves the buying of two HEPA filters to supplement the 2 we already have. APPROVED.

Are Friends willing to make vaccination recommended, so that those who cannot be vaccinated can attend?

Since the research seems to be showing that we can all get the disease and spread it whether vaccinated or not, therefore others choice to be vaccinated is between them and their doctors. We are at risk wherever we go, and it is better for us to be together and for us to be able to make the risk calls that work for them personally. Another Friend stated that we could make it

a requirement of vaccination except for those who have medical exemption. And then we could align add a sentence about why we choose to be a masked community: "Because of our friends who can't get vaccinated we will all stay masked." Friends sent this discussion off to Ministry and Oversight for further discernment.

Report on bid for installing microphone & sound

We got a bid from a local business. The preliminary bid totals \$5,226. There are four components, and the rough estimates are as follows: 1 control box and 1 microphone is \$2,400 for installation. If we need a second microphone it will be another \$1000. Cabling, power supply and box is another \$550. These two are required together. An adjustable video camera is \$1,225 installed (it would sit on a shelf and get plugged into the computer). Pendant speakers are \$550 each. We need to get clarification from the bid if the speakers will give feedback to zoom or not. The clerk will continue to work with the company to get some additional comments for next month.

Call for volunteers to handle Meeting tasks

We are close to nomination season. The clerk has created a diagram of our rough structure on the website under About Our Meeting-Our Structure. Please have a look and see what you might be called to take up next year.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Sweet

July's Balance Sheet & Statement of Activity

PLEASE NOTE: Because of anomalous output from QuickBooks without resolution to date, portions have been "hand-calculated" (spreadsheet). Thus, this report, although believed to be accurate, must be considered interim.

Balance Sheet

- ✓ \$2,625.52 was transferred from Operating Funds to General Maintenance. This corrects an error in posting the semi-annual distribution from the investment account in the June report.
- ✓ Accounts 19990 – Accumulated Depreciation and 19991 – Solar Panels Depreciation were added, because the procedure in the accounting software was implemented. These line items are not in the June report, but are "backfilled" in the June column. The depreciation was taken on 31 December 2020.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Undesignated contributions in July totaled \$1405.00. Thus, contributions were 40.8% of the 2021 budgeted general contributions, at 58% of the year. Designated funds totaling \$2575 were received also.
- ✓ Designated contributions were received for two purposes: Relief Fund, deposited in Relief Fund, and Contributions to Others, deposited in Miscellaneous. Funds from that account were disbursed as specified by the donors in the line item Designated Gifts (Unbudgeted): FCNL, \$200; \$125 each to AFSC, FCG, and FWCC.

- ✓ An organization has resumed on-site activities, paying \$140.00 rent.
- ✓ The CPS bill in June is for \$218.14 for 1.863 MWh of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$206.86. After charges for additional services, the bill was for \$46.68.
- ✓ 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 June showed charge for July of \$110.81 leaving a credit of \$309.89. Thus, the credit is projected to be exhausted in October with a modest payment required.
- ✓ The Major Repairs expense is the final payment on the monument sign.
- ✓ The Minor Repairs & Maintenance expense is the HVAC service contract and cable installation for high-speed internet into the Meetinghouse.
- ✓ Contributions to Others: Quaker and Local were made as Minuted.
- ✓ Renewal of two website domain names, the annual basic fee, and the monthly charge totaled \$138.21.
- ✓ Other Types of Expenses: Bank Charge: safety deposit box rent: \$48.00; Misc.: stamps.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical, given the current pandemic conditions.

August's Balance Sheet & Statement of Activity

Balance Sheet

- ✓ Like July, the accounting software had a glitch, which has not been completely resolved. This Balance Sheet uses information from an earlier phase of the monthly close, crosschecked with the bank statement and other records. Thus, this report may need correction later.
- ✓ The depreciation of the solar panels is presented under 19900 – Accumulated Depreciation. If other depreciable assets are added, lines will be added in this section.
- ✓ There are no other items of note.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Undesignated contributions in July totaled \$1255.00. Thus, contributions were 45.7% of the 2021 budgeted general contributions, at 66.6% of the year.
- ✓ An organization has resumed on-site activities, paying \$930.00 in future and arrears rent. Included in that was payment for deposit and damage fees, which they previously paid. That was returned to them.
- ✓ The CPS bill in August is \$294.40 for 2.464 MWh of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$195.97. After charges for additional services, the bill totaled \$120.85.
- ✓ \$3000 was dispersed from Ministry and Oversight from the relief fund for an elderly Friend.
- ✓ 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 August showed charge of \$106.96, leaving a credit of \$202.93. Thus, the credit is projected to be exhausted in October with a modest payment required.

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

Reports accepted.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Pat Sweet

Gave a call for requests for budget from each committee. Please keep in mind that contributions have not met our budgeted expenses.

Ministry & Oversight: Val Liveoak

Ministry and Oversight met September 14 with the following friends present: James Goslin, Gretchen Haynes, Val Liveoak, Joni Mize, Jim Spickard.

Report on Porch Meeting

Gretchen is willing to set up for the 8:30 in-person meeting on the porch or in the Meetingroom.

At this time, there's uncertainty regarding the effect of re-opening schools and community spread. Local data is announced on Wednesday nights so we did not decide about in-person blended worship in the Meetingroom on Sept. 14, but we later decided that the data indicate a lowering trend in community spread, so we decided to open the Meetingroom for in-person worship, both early (8:30) and blended (10:00am). We also decided to postpone Meeting for worship with Attention to Business (MFB) until Sept. 26.

Jim reported on the first steps in considering the bid for the sound/hearing system—the decision whether to accept it will be made at the next Meeting for Business after he has finalized it with the engineers making the plan.

Jim, Val and Gretchen reported on Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting. Further reports made later in business meeting.

James G will draft a query for Oct.

We evaluated the Forums on Remembrance and Reflection in August.

What worked:

Theme that continued throughout month, connected upon and built through the month. Could be done again when there's a need/focus. Grieving together as a community was important.

Not having to have participated in earlier sessions was useful in that people didn't feel obliged to attend all sessions.

What we want to improve:

Concern about ending time didn't always serve Worship Sharing format well.

Some uneven (in terms of time or the Worship Sharing guidelines) sharing by Friends of the proceedings occurred.

Suggestions:

Need to be tender with each other

Be more open about time/ending.

Find gentle ways to intervene if necessary--Consider others' need to share/ seek balance between Spirit's leadings, encouraging many Friends to participate, and time constraints.

Future forums? World Quaker Day Oct. 3—Val will plan something.

Concerns re: Individual Friends

Our recommendation which Val will forward to Finance: Keep the remaining balance in the Relief fund, and review quarterly starting in January. This recommendation was passed along to Finance Committee.

Next regular meeting proposed date and time Oct. 12, 1pm. Special meeting to consider a proposal to develop a 2 year plan, Oct. 1 at 1 pm.

Reports accepted.

Property: James Mize

The Property Committee includes Pam Spurgeon, Joni Mize, James Mize and David Hayes.

Dead trees and limbs around the property have been removed.

We had a successful workday on August 7th and September 18th from 8am to 12pm.

We had the gutters, downspouts, and roof the power washed for the installation of custom leaf guards.

Please keep non-meeting-related items outside of work/storage areas. The property committee has organized and cleaned the storage rooms several times to ensure adequate access to the HVAC units and stored items for the maintenance of the property. If you need temperature settings changed, temporary storage of items or to rearrange things please contact a committee member.

An important reminder to ensure you are locking the doors you are unlocking and double checking doors when you leave. *

Report accepted.

Religious Education: Joni Mize

The Religious Education Committee met by Zoom on 15 September 2021 with our four members present, Karen B, Oliver G, Greg K and Joni M. Next called meeting is scheduled 28 September in person at the Meetinghouse Library at noon. Each person provided a quick check in and then the committee reviewed the 5 September forum. The second forum on Doug Gwyn's *The Call to Radical Faithfulness* will be on Sunday, October 10. The next meeting is scheduled for 28 September in person at the meetinghouse library at noon.

Report accepted.

Peace and Social Concerns

The FMSA Peace and Social Concerns Committee convened on September 22nd 2021. Val Liveoak, Donna Dickerson, and Oliver Gerken were in attendance.

The committee drafted and approved the following minute:

"The Peace and Social Concerns Committee approves sending 1,000 USD to the Center of Refugee Services for their Afghan Assistance Fund. This donation is to come out of the Immigrant Assistance Fund."

Oliver relayed progress with his work with Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples through Friends Peace Teams. He completed the Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change training as well as the TRR Facilitator training. He plans to leverage this experience to bring programing and educational resources to FMSA.

The committee came to unity on a forum to be presented by Peace and Social Concerns on October 24th, 2021. The topic will be "Maintaining Spiritual Connection while in Pursuit of Service."

The committee also would like to reiterate its support of the Affinity Group concept. If Friends have a leading in which they would like support, please reach out to P&SC.

The next P&SC committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6th, 2021.

Reports accepted.

Other Reports:

Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting

15 Friends met by zoom on September 11, 2021. Began with check-ins about our Meetings. Considered Quarterly Meeting organization: Business is easier to do by zoom, fellowship less so. During Covid discerned a wish to have 5th Sunday events at a meeting that others can visit. Upon approval at Austin's business meeting, that Austin will host a joint forum and meeting for worship on October 31st and on January 30th joint meeting for worship and forum at San Antonio.

MINUTE 2021.9.2: Friends Meeting of San Antonio will alter the schedule for October 31st fifth Sunday meeting to join Austin Meeting at 10am for Forum and 11am for Meeting for Worship. APPROVED.

San Antonio is looking for someone to be a representative to Quarterly Meeting to help business happen.

Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting is sending the following proposal to YM Program Planning. Theme: Led by Faith to Work for Justice. Friday Keynote panel: On how faith relates to activist work. Saturday panel: On how to support Friends motivated by faith to do their work.

Closing Worship:

Friends closed with some worship.