

**Minutes  
FMSA Meeting for Business  
October 17, 2021**

**Attending:**

- In Person: Val Liveoak, Donna Dickerson, Jim Spickard, Pam Spurgeon
- On Zoom: Rachael Cundey, Julie Crum, Gretchen Haynes, James Mize, Joni Mize, David Novogrodsky, Carol Redfield, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet

The meeting opened with silent worship.

***There was no Recording Clerk, so the Meeting Clerk crafted these minutes from notes, the agenda, and various committee reports***

**Prior Minutes**

Friends approved the Minutes from both July 2021 Business Meetings (called and regular).

Few Friends had read the Minutes from the September Business Meeting, but Friends as a body approved those Minutes on faith in their affirmations.

**Reports on Two Technical Issues: *Jim Spickard***

1. Jim spoke with Chae Chang, the engineer from Digital Display Solutions – the audiovisual company that gave us a bid for the cost of putting an AV system in the Meetinghouse for assisted listening and for Zoom. He was planning to meet with Chae, but the latter’s schedule forced him to postpone this. **Technical difficulties with our current Zoom setup prevented the Clerk from sharing the following diagram with the Business Meeting’s Zoom attenders.** Thus we did not receive the Clerk’s full report. Here is a short summary of what he would have shared, had it been possible:

The system consists of two components: a sound collection and transmission system and a video system. We need the first for our assisted listening system and to provide Zoom sound. We need the second to broadcast Zoom.

Jim is clearer about this system than he was last month

**Clerk’s Item: Report on a bid for installing microphone & sound**

1. Hanging beam-focusing microphone & control box		\$3,400 (installed)
2. Pendant speakers		\$ 550 ( for 2)
3. Cabling, power supply, box		\$ 550 (for 2)
		<b>\$ 4,500</b>
4. Adjustable video camera		\$1,225 (installed)
		<b>\$ 5,725</b>

but still has several unanswered questions. He will report again after he has answers. The figures listed here show the ballpark costs for each component.

2. We have had a problem with our mailing list software, which has prevented several people from receiving our notices. It originated with an error by our mailing service last summer. That problem is now solved, and we are back to normal

### **Treasurer's Report: Bill Sweet**

#### **Balance Sheet**

- ✓ The Friends Fiduciary Growth and Income account lost \$6,772.61 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, standing at \$647752.11. The Short Term Investment Fund is unchanged at \$56,190.48.
- ✓ There are no other items of note.

#### **Statement of Activities**

- ✓ Undesignated contributions in July totaled \$2735.00. Thus, contributions were 57.0% of the 2021 budgeted general contributions, at 75% of the year.
- ✓ \$140 rent was received in September. Rental income to date is 214% of budget.
- ✓ As authorized by Minute 2021.9.1, 2 HEPA air purifiers were purchased for \$1078.20.
- ✓ The CPS bill in September is \$278.06 for 2374 MWh of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$234.95. After charges for additional services, the bill totaled \$65.40.
- ✓ 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 September showed charge of \$110.81, leaving a credit of \$92.12. Thus, the credit is projected to be exhausted in October with a modest payment, estimated to be \$20, required. Charges for the remainder of the year are expected to be about \$110 per month.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical, given the current pandemic conditions.

### **Nominating Committee: Stephen Shearer**

The Nominating Committee submitted the list of names on the next page for consideration by Meeting. The key element involves the committee's suggestion that we not fill three committees until we have recovered from the pandemic and that we assign their duties to an augmented Ministry and Oversight committee for the time being. *(The term "laying down" on the report was an error; the committee did not intend that phrase to be mean what it means in Quakerese.)*

Friends are encouraged to talk with the Committee about how best to share their talents.

## Nominating Report - October 2021

The Nominating Committee met on October 5th via Zoom. In attendance was Oliver Gerken, Julie Crum, Jim Spickard and Stephen Shearer. We discussed the lack of available participation within the committees and brainstormed on possible new alternatives.

We met again on October 13th via Zoom. In attendance was Oliver Gerken, Julie Crum and Stephen Shearer. Stephen offered a unique idea and we worked on how it could be incorporated into the Meeting with little to no change to the Handbook.

We are offering for 1st reading:

Position	Name	Through	Position	Name	Through	Position	Name	Through
<b>Trustee [1 year]</b>			<b>Nominating Committee* [2 years]</b>			<b>Ministry &amp; Oversight Committee [3 years]</b>		
Clerk	Carol Redfield	2022	Member	Julie Crum	2023	Clerk	Val Liveoak	2022
Secretary	Pat Sweet	2022	Member	Oliver Gerken	2023	Member	Gretchen Hayes	2022
Treasurer	Bill Sweet	2022	Member	Kellie Price	2023	Member	Joni Mize	2023
Member	Bill Wilkinson	2022	Member	Stephen Shearer	2023	Member	Julie Crum	2024
<b>Monthly Meeting [2 year]</b>			*Naming Committee: composed of Clerk of the Meeting and Clerks of Finance and Ministry & Oversight Committees propose the members of the Nominating Committee			Member	Stephen Shearer	2024
Clerk	Jim Spickard	2022				Member	Oliver Gerken	2024
Recording Clerk						Member		
Treasurer	Bill Sweet	2023	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns [2 years]</b>			We would like the Meeting to consider laying down the following committees in lieu of a larger more encompassing Ministry and Oversight Committee:		
Recorder			Clerk					
<b>Finance Committee [2 years]</b>			Member	Val Liveoak	2022	Long Range Planning, Religious Education, Community Engagement		
Clerk	Pat Sweet	2022	Member	Donna Dickerson	2022			
Member	Carol Redfield	2022	Member	Oliver Gerken	2022			
Member	Bill Wilkinson	2022	Member	Karen Ball	2023			
<b>Ex-officio Treasurer</b>			<b>SCYM [2 years]</b>					
<b>Property Committee [2 years]</b>			Member	Val Liveoak	2022			
Clerk	David Hayes	2022	Member	Bill Sweet	2022			
Member	James Mize	2023	<b>FCNL [2 years]</b>					
Member	Joni Mize	2023	Member	Julia Hitz	2022			
Member	Pam Spurgeon	2023						

### M&O Report Oct. 2021: Val Liveoak

The Ministry and Oversight Committee met on October 12th on Zoom. Gretchen Haynes, Val Liveoak and James Goslin attended.

1. We first reviewed worship during the months preceding, including early worship first on the porch and then in the meeting room, Zoom worship, and Blended Worship in the meeting room. We noted with concern a diminished number of attenders of most of the worship sessions.
2. We discuss scheduling a Memorial Meeting for Worship for Janet Southwood. Her daughter Jane, and husband Ken have indicated interest in attending a memorial over Zoom, so we decided to have a blended meeting. In order to give time for Friends to attend, we decided to offer it on the 13th of November after checking with the family members to see if that time will work. Gretchen volunteered to compile memories and input regarding Janet for both the Memorial Meeting and for a Memorial Minute. Friends are invited to send information about Janet to Gretchen as soon as possible.

3. We considered an idea to develop a memorial fund for hospitality in Janet's name, but need to flesh out that idea before offering it to meeting.
4. Jim Spickard had brought to our attention that rainy weather was expected for Thursday when we had planned to do a hatchback event. We agreed that it would be best to cancel it and considered a rain date. We united in discerning that it is not necessary any longer to request people to reserve space at the hatchback events--only to maintain social distancing and masking when people are not eating. We think having a regular rain date is a good idea.
5. In the new year, we plan to join the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and work towards offering one forum each month. Friends who are led to offer a forum on spiritual issues or Quakerism are invited to contact M&O.
6. We discussed concerns and needs of individual Friends, holding some Friends with significant health issues in the Light, and committing to contact several others.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 9th oh, and we invite friends to make suggestions or bring up concerns that we should consider.

#### **Property Committee Report October, 2021:**

Present: David Hayes (Clerk), Pam Spurgeon, Joni and James Mize; the next scheduled property committee meeting will be November 7, 2021 at 4pm via zoom.

1. 2022 Budget for Property is completed and sent to Finance and Treasurer.
2. Cleaning Supplies: may go down if a COSTCO membership (\$60 per year) is used for toilet paper, hand towels, dish soap, floor cleaner, etc) The membership in the Meeting name will allow us to use the tax exemption. COSTCO is slightly more for a membership than Sam's Club, but the selection of products seems to be more in keeping with Quaker sentiments (more emphasis on sustainability).
3. Schedule workdays for the rest of this year on the third Saturday of the month. This means the business meeting should be the following day. It was also decided to have a short 15 minute meeting for worship before the work begins which will be held either on the porch or in the meeting room based on Sunday's in person meeting location. There was discussion of providing food, but it was decided to delay that until Covid becomes less of an issue. The time for the workdays is 9am-1pm.
4. HVAC continuing saga: Pam will schedule our fall maintenance visit with Schmidt and at the same time try to talk to one of their engineers about the issues that have been ongoing with unit one since the beginning of time. It is James' and Pam's hope that it might be possible to tweak how the two units work in tandem and that this might allow the first unit to work less and thereby lessen the condensation issue with that unit. We

do not have the same problem with the “secondary” unit with the dripping condensation wetting the filter all the time.

5. Concrete porch in front of Meetinghouse: Joni expressed concern over foundation issues for the area of Phase 2 Meetinghouse on the west side. James and Pam believe the small cracks visible on the porch do not seem significant enough to warrant foundation consultation. However, when the next opportunity is presented the floors in the two storerooms and exterior seamline where the back and front of the meetinghouse come together should be visually inspected. It was agreed that we should get the bid for grinding down the meetinghouse door area from Luciano (as well as a same time bid for putting a cap above the gate light to protect night migrating birds. Lights Out (audubon.org) all other lights are downward lighting only.
6. Pam suggested since Joni and James may be mostly out of pocket due to their trip and Joni's surgery and post-surgical treatment, that we might want to invite an additional resource to participate either permanently or temporarily. She discussed this possibility with Diana Beardsley who has faithfully attended Meeting for Worship on zoom and driven down from New Braunfels for the last 3 workdays. She agreed to join us as a resource and has been added to the group text. Diana did say she will likely be moving away from the area to the Midwest next Spring. Quality, not quantity. We heartily welcome her and her gardening expertise.

### **Religious Education Report 28-Sep-2021**

The FMSA Religious Education Committee convened on 28-Sep-2021. Oliver, Greg, and Joni were in attendance. We discussed the following:

1. Due to extenuating circumstances, there is a dearth of available participation on the Religious Education committee. Friends are encouraged to inform members of the Nominating Committee if they feel lead to serve on the Religious Education Committee.
2. The committee is aware of Meeting's budget requests and is currently considering our 2022 budget.
3. We would like to put a call out to Meeting to please have all Faith and Play reading materials returned to the library. If you are in possession of these materials and are unable to return them to the property for any reason, please reach out to a member of the Religious Education committee. These materials are needed in order to prepare for the reopening of our Children's Program.
4. If you are interested in facilitating our Children's Program, please reach out to Religious Ed.

5. Religious Education would like to emphasize the importance of meeting in-person for Meeting for Worship when possible. The committee considers the ability to have natural conversations after worship to be an essential element of community-building.

### **Peace and Social Concerns**

Peace and Social Concerns Committee met Oct. 6th, with Oliver Gerken, Donna Dickerson and Val Liveoak in attendance.

1. We discussed possible future forums including one by the new FCNL Advocacy Corps member.
2. We discussed the interest in joining P&SC expressed by an attender, and were glad to affirm that she would be welcome on the Committee, along with others who might be called to P&SC concerns. We believe that these issues are central to Friends testimonies and deserve attention by a well-staffed committee. Friends with such leadings should notify the Nominating Committee as soon as possible.
3. We considered a number of ideas for Meeting as it re-opens:
  - How to involve Friends who choose to attend the 8:30 MfW, perhaps finding a way to do a Forum or other action (letter writing, petition signing?) between the early and regular MfWs.
  - Consider quarterly activities/field trips on Saturdays.
  - Commit to scheduling one Forum monthly (at least until Religious Education Committee is revived), and make a list of possible speakers or organizations we want to hear from.
  - Develop a reading list and/or book club.
  - Consider special dates/anniversaries/holidays in scheduling speakers.
  - Have a January Forum to poll members and attenders regarding their areas of concerns or work in P&SCs.
  - Look at a focus on militarism/Peace testimony esp around Veteran's and Memorial Days.
  - Develop a list of community Social Services by the end of this year and update regularly.
2. We discussed planning for the Forum on Oct 24th.

### **Announcements:**

- October 24th & Nov 14th Forums
- October 31st Joint Forum & Meeting for Worship at Austin Meeting (CGQM activity)
- Send Newsletter notices NOW!

**The Meeting closed (in some disarray) with silent worship.**

**Clerk's Post-Meeting Evaluation:**

Several factors hampered the effectiveness of this (our first) attempt at a blended Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

- *The Meeting Room lighting made it difficult for those on Zoom to see in-person attenders clearly*
- *The underpowered computer could not share its screen with Zoom attenders; they thus had no access to the agenda, the report on the audio-visual system (page 1), and the nominations list (page 3). Those in the room had handouts, but this meant that only a minority of Friends knew what was going on.*
- *The Clerk had trouble reading the responses of those on Zoom. We have had this trouble before with Zoom Business Meetings, but the imbalance between in-person and Zoom attendance made it much worse.*