

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business
November 21, 2021

Attending:

- In Person: Jim Spickard, Rachael Cundey, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Carol Redfield, David Hayes, Julie Crum, Oliver Gerken, Val Liveoak, Pam Spurgeon, Greg Koehler, Stephen Shearer, Gretchen Hayes, Julia Hitz, Dale Kearns, Yvonne Kearns
- On Zoom: Donna Dickerson, James Goslin, Leo Gugerty, David Novogrodsky

The meeting opened with silent worship.

Query:

How can we have enough patience with ourselves and each other to let the Spirit guide us in our care for the Meeting?

Clerk's Comments:

1. The Clerk outlined some changes in the format of this month's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. These address the difficulty of making sure that all Friends have access to committee reports during Business Meeting rather than only before it.
 - It is impossible to display slides to both groups, and displaying them to Zoom attenders makes it impossible for them to view clearly the rest of the Friends present.
 - Friends attending in person will receive hard copy handouts.
 - Friends attending on Zoom are asked to open a browser window on part of their screen and view the reports posted on the website.
2. The Clerk also expects to step aside from clerking at two specific points where he must speak as a Friend rather than as a facilitator.

Prior Minutes

Friends approved the Minutes from the October 17th Meeting for Business without corrections.

Treasurer's Report: reported by Bill Sweet

Balance Sheet

- ✓ To date, no value has been reported for the value of the land and buildings. Per Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, this value is the acquisition cost, without

adjustment for inflation/deflation or depreciation; this is also called historical cost. No record of the historical cost for the present property has been found.

The FMSA financial records have been searched and purchase prices have been assembled. This information is presented on page 5 of this Report.

Treasurer's files (reports, deposit and expenditure records, etc.) from 2004 to 2009 were not found. The Meetinghouse was built in 2005 and the cost of construction was instead assembled from extant construction documents. Thus, if the missing records are later found, adjustment to the values presented may be needed.

The line item 19100 – Buildings & Land has been added to the Balance Sheet with the value \$793,494.73.

- ✓ Because of the addition of Buildings & Land in October, Total Assets and Total Liabilities & Equity are not to be compared.
- ✓ There are no other items of note

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Undesignated contributions in October totaled \$455.00. Thus, contributions were 58.2% of the 2021 budgeted general contributions, at 83.3% of the year.
- ✓ \$595 rent was received in October. Rental income to date is 406% of budget.
- ✓ As directed by Minute 2021.9.1, two HEPA air purifiers were purchased for \$1078.20 in the Minor Repairs and Maintenance Account. The autumn semi-annual HVAC check was also on this account.
- ✓ The CPS bill in October is \$113.56 for 946 kWh of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$216.52. After charges for additional services, the bill has a credit of \$80.19.
- ✓ The credit that has been carried on San Antonio Water System was exhausted in October and required a payment of \$18.69. The bills in November and December are expected to be about average, \$110 per month.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical, given the current pandemic conditions.

DISCUSSION: A Friend asked whether it would be wise to have the buildings appraised to obtain a more accurate current value. Friends agreed that an appraisal is not needed at this time due to the cost and lack of utility unless the buildings are to be sold soon.

The Treasurer added that the recent water leak may raise the water bill for November. A question was raised about whether the meeting has considered smart technology to detect future leaks. This issue has been considered by the Property Committee, but no action has yet been taken.

Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

Religious Education Committee Report: reported by Greg Koehler

The Religious Education Committee Met on Friday, October 29th, at 12:00 PM, in-person at the Meeting House Library. Karen Ball, Oliver Gerken [convener], Greg Koehler, Joni Mize, and Gary Whiting were in attendance.

1. We discussed the challenges we face [both as a Meeting and as a committee] as we begin to meet in person again in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. We examined our hopes for the future of Religious Education programming, and our individual abilities to participate in aspects of those programs in the coming year.
3. We agreed to temporarily suspend our operations as a committee. This particular step is being taken for now [starting now] in order to allow responsibility for development of a plan for restarting Child Care & Youth Programming to revert to the Meeting as a whole.
4. As a recommendation for how the Meeting might approach that question, we suggest starting with the most simple of offerings: 2 adult leaders [2 adult leaders from the Meeting, or 1-2 adult leaders from the Meeting and a child care professional] available to supervise children and youths [for “unprogrammed” activities] during the 10:00 AM Meeting for Worship.
5. Instigating this simple level of programming will require someone to recruit-coordinate-schedule adult volunteers, identify and hire an appropriate childcare professional, and determine rudimentary guidelines for Covid safety for children and supervisory volunteers. Subsequent provision of a program during the hour can be developed as the community begins to take its new shape.

Religious Education members lack the bandwidth to continue in their previous capacity during this time, including library operations. Friends were advised to leave any library books they wish to return in the library with a note. They will be organized as Friends are able. The challenge of the diverse skills and leadings required of a member of the Religious Education committee was discussed. Friends are encouraged to bring forward ideas for forums as they are led and to contribute to restarting the children’s program.

DISCUSSION: Friends accepted the committee’s report.

M&O Report: reported by Val Liveoak

The Ministry and Oversight Committee met on *November 9th* by Zoom.

Present: Val Liveoak, Joni Mize, Gretchen Haynes, Jim Spickard, Julie Crum, Oliver Gerken.
Regrets from Stephen Shearer

1. Worship:
 - a. Both the 8:30 and 10:00 Meetings for Worship are quiet and deep. The former has attracted 8-10 people; the latter has had 7-12 in-person and 16-19 online.

Oliver noted the good feeling of fellowship in the overlap between the two times.

2. Proposal to shift temporary responsibility from Community Engagement, Religious Education, and Long-Range Planning to M & O:
 - a. There is concern of overburdening M&O.
 - b. Adding three people to M&O will be a positive step and will strengthen M & O.
3. Janet Southwood Memorial Meeting:
 - a. We will hold a Memorial Meeting on Saturday December 4 at 11:00 followed by a simple lunch. Jane will send invitations, including the zoom link, to family and friends at a distance; we will send to FMSA, Storytelling group, and the Interfaith Alliance. Other details will be finalized later.
 - b. Of the many pleasant memories Friends have of Janet, many center on her friendly welcome to all. Ministry and Oversight thus proposes the establishment of a Janet Southwood Hospitality Fund:
 - **MINUTE 2021.11.01: FMSA approves the establishment of a Janet Southwood Hospitality Fund, to be used for 2 purposes: providing refreshments on Sundays and at other FMSA events and offering basic foods to needy visitors. The Fund will be administered by the Community Engagement Committee or whatever successor committee or arrangement the Meeting establishes to cover that currently inactive committee's roles. FMSA invites Friends and others to donate to this fund as they are led.**
4. Reestablishing the Children's Program:
 - a. Ministry and Oversight believes it is time to reestablish the Children's Program so that families can again attend Meetings for Worship and other Meeting events.
 - We propose a short, worshipful call for ideas at the November Business Meeting.
 - We propose a forum on Nov. 28 to generate and refine ideas and pursue a way forward. If needed, we can hold a second planning forum on December 5th.
 - **MINUTE 2021.11.02: FMSA approves Ministry and Oversight's pursuit of reestablishing the Children's Program and encourages Friends to help discern and carry out the means for such reestablishment.**
5. Clerk of the Meeting's Concern about the October Blended Meeting for Business:
 - a. The Clerk of the Meeting brought a concern for what he described as the failure of the October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to carry out the Meeting's business in a worshipful manner. He cited the lack of in-person participation (4 people) as one cause of this failure, along with his own inability to keep track of the responses of the many people on Zoom. He cited two

specific instances in which a largely in-person Meeting would have produced a more Quakerly discernment process.

- He noted that the July Called Meeting for Business approved a reopening strategy that centered Meeting activities in the Meetinghouse, while creating Zoom access for those unable to attend for reasons of distance or health.
- He noted that he cannot clerk a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business without the bulk of participants being present to each other. The Clerk expressed his need for the Light of many Friends in decision making.
- Friends offered several reactions, none of which we pursued in depth. The concern will be brought to the Nov. M/B.

6. Christmas Eve Meeting:

- a. We approved holding a Christmas Eve Worship and Simple Meal on Friday, December 24th. We will organize this event as we have in the past, with worship in the Meeting Room, followed by food outdoors (weather permitting) or indoors with discretion. Details will be worked out and publicized.

7. Workshop Dec. 9 on Individual Spiritual Discernment: Receiving, Testing and Implementing Guidance from a Higher Power with Jerry Knutson:

- a. This will take the place of our 2nd Thursday “Porch/Hatchback/Whatever” events. It will follow a simple meal and will be held in the Meeting Room.
- b. Val will write up a publicity handout for distribution; it will be featured in the newsletter and website.

8. Forums:

- a. We discussed several possibilities for January and February forums.

9. Finance Committee request for 2022 budget:

- a. We agreed to request the same amount as this year.

10. We discussed issues relating to the needs of individual Friends.

11. Several items, previously deferred, were held over due to the late hour.

The next meeting is Dec. 14 at 1 pm. [Friends are reminded that M&O looks forward to being informed about Friends’ needs.]

DISCUSSION: The logistics of the hospitality fund were clarified as a separate fund composed solely of designated donations. The importance of the shift of the children’s program from the purview of Religious Education to Ministry and Oversight was highlighted.

Some Friends felt that the October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business was more of a learning experience than a failure. Concern for the Clerk’s experience of meeting was noted, and appreciation for the in-person attendance of those who were able was expressed.

The proposed times for the Christmas Eve meeting are 6 pm for worship and 7 pm for the meal. Friends were encouraged to give any feedback on those times to M&O. A suggestion was made to change the schedule to 5 pm light refreshments and 6 pm worship to allow Friends to attend to family obligations later in the evening.

Friends accepted the committee’s report.

Nominating Committee: reported by Oliver Gerken

Nominating Report - November 2021

The Nominating Committee met on October 28th and November 10th via Zoom. In attendance were Oliver Gerken, Julie Crum and Stephen Shearer..

We are offering this list for 1st reading:

Position	Name	Through	Position	Name	Through	Position	Name	Through
Trustee [1 year]			Nominating Committee* [3 years]			Ministry & Oversight Committee [3 years]		
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	2024	Member	Julie Crum	2024
Monthly Meeting [2 year]			*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			Peace & Social Concerns [2 years]			We would like the Meeting to consider hibernating the following committees: Community Education, Religious Education and Long Range Planning, in lieu of a larger and more encompassing Ministry and Oversight Committee.		
Treasurer	Bill Sweet	2023	Clerk					
Recorder			Member	Val Liveoak	2022			
Finance Committee [2 years]			Member	Donna Dickerson	2022			
Clerk	Pat Sweet	2022	Member	Oliver Gerken	2022	Religious Education [2 years]		
Member	Carol Redfield	2022	Member	Karen Ball	2023	Member	Gary Whiting	2022
Member	Bill Wilkinson	2022	SCYM [2 years]			Member	Greg Koehler	2022
Ex-officio Treasurer			Member	Val Liveoak	2022	Member	Joni Mize	2022
Property Committee [2 years]			Member	Bill Sweet	2022	Member	Gretchen Hayes	2023
Clerk	David Hayes	2022	FCNL [2 years]					
Member	James Mize	2023	Member	Julia Hitz	2022			
Member	Joni Mize	2023						
Member	Pam Spurgeon	2023						

DISCUSSION: Friends were reminded to bring any concerns about nominated individuals to the Nominating Committee. It was clarified that the Religious Education committee is not being laid down as this would be a permanent change. A volunteer for the position of Recording Clerk has been identified.

It was noted that functions of Community Engagement are currently being carried out by individuals within the meeting. Friends are encouraged to bring any forum ideas to Ministry and Oversight or Peace and Social Concerns.

- **MINUTE 2021.11.03 FMSA approves the temporary suspension of the following committees: Community Engagement, Religious Education, and Long Range Planning.**

The crucial functions of these committees will be coordinated by Ministry and Oversight and the meeting Clerk until such time as we are able to revive them. This will be reviewed every 3 months, with the first review at the March Business Meeting.

Friends accepted the first reading of the Nominating Committee report.

Property Committee Report: reported by David Hayes

The property committee met on Sunday 11/7/21 at 4pm. The following members were present: Joni Mize, James Mize, Pam Spurgeon and David Hayes

1. Workdays will remain scheduled for the third Saturday of each month from 9am to 1pm. They will begin with 15 minutes of worship from 9:00-9:15am
2. Pam, Joni and James secured several trees to bring new life to the property.
3. The property now has weekly trash and recycle pickup service. The recycle bin is in the storage room adjacent to the meetinghouse to ensure only recyclable items are placed there.
4. A revised budget has been sent to the Finance Committee for the 2022 Calendar Year.

In gratitude and love, -Property Committee.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that the water leak was repaired the day after it was detected. It remains uncertain when the leak began.

The trees planted were a cedar elm, white oak, and red oak.

Friends accepted the committee's report.

Peace and Social Concerns: No report this month.

Other Reports:

- Plans for Janet Southwood memorial service: *reported by Gretchen*

The Clerk expressed his wish for further details on the service as soon as possible so he may send out a thorough announcement.

- Update on a bid for installing a microphone & sound system: *reported by Jim*

Friends were concerned about the financing and operation of the system. It was clarified that money has previously been withdrawn from the Friends Fiduciary Corporation Fund for the hearing assistance portion of the sound system. The business has indicated that there would be a money back guarantee if the system was not operational, which the Clerk would get in writing. The Clerk requests assistance from any willing Friends in this matter.

Meeting Announcements:

- **Friday Meeting for Worship every week:** 8-8:30 am on Zoom
- November 28th: Forum on **Reopening the Children's Program**
- December 4th: **Memorial Service for Janet Southwood**
- December 5th: Possible continuation of discussion on Reopening the Children's Program
- December 9th: (2nd-Thursday) **Simple Meal & Jerry Knutson talk on "Individual Spiritual Discernment"**
- December 18th: **Meeting for Weeding** (9am-1pm)
- December 19th: **December Business Meeting**
- December 24th: **Christmas Eve Worship & Simple Meal**

Other Announcements

- Raindrop Foundation Blood Drive on November 28th
-- Details on the Community Bulletin Board section of our website
- Please send any newsletter materials to newsletter@saquakers.org
- Friends Peace Teams is offering monthly online workshops Toward Right Relationships with Native Peoples

The Meeting closed with silent worship.
