

**Minutes**  
**FMSA Meeting for Business**  
**February 20, 2022**

**Attending:**

- In Person: Bill Wilkinson, Rachael Cundey, David Hayes, Julia Hitz, Julie Crum, Val Liveoak, Bill Sweet, Gretchen Haynes, Emee Lopez
- On Zoom: Jim Spickard, Pat Sweet, James Goslin, David Novogrodsky, Lee Gugerty, Stephen Shearer

**The meeting opened with silent worship.**

**Prior Minutes**

Friends approved the Minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting for Business without corrections.

**Treasurer's Report: reported by Bill Sweet**

**Balance Sheet**

- ✓ The funds in the 10061 Immigrant Assistance Fund were transferred to 10050 Immigrant Aid Fund as directed by Minute 2021.01.02. The Immigrant Assistant Fund line will be removed next month.
- ✓ Funds for the virtual meeting/assistive listening are from designated contribution plus additional funds to make up any shortfall from a source selected by the Finance Committee and Treasurer (Minute 2022.01.1). Thus, \$3663.33 was transferred from the Frost Bank savings account to the checking account Operating Cash. The vendor, Digital Display Solutions, was paid.
- ✓ The listening assistive and video capability equipment was added to Fixed Assets, 19300 – Audio & Video Equipment and 19992 – Audio & Video Depreciation, per Minute 2022.01.01. This equipment will be straight-line depreciated over 10 years beginning December 2022.

**Statement of Activities**

- ✓ Undesignated contributions in January totaled \$3960.00, or 13% of the 2022 budgeted general contributions at 8.3% of the year.
- ✓ \$210.00 rent was received in January. Rental income for the year is 21% of budget.
- ✓ The CPS bill in January is \$204.67 for 1.831 MWh of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$116.40. After last month's credit and the charges for additional services, which has included \$26.76 per month for solid waste-large cart since November 2021, the bill was \$8.37.
- ✓ The January bill for San Antonio Water System was \$188.36, which is higher than the \$110.00 of a typical month.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical, given the current pandemic

**DISCUSSION:** Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

**M, C, & G Report: reported by Val Liveoak**

M, C, &G met Monday Feb. 7 at 7pm

1. We reviewed worship over the previous month. Attendance has been stable with intermittent visitors at both early and 10am worship. Concerns re: the sparse attendance at early worship have been allayed by volunteers offering to open and clerk worship through April.
2. Forums planned:
  - Feb. 27 Brainstorming solutions to concerns brought up in the State of Meeting process. Val will lead.
  - March 27: Flawed Quaker Heroes Gretchen will lead.
3. Update on children's program. Gretchen reported that two families have attended regularly and a third occasionally. She has identified several topics as focus themes for upcoming months.
4. Update on filling the Associate Clerk position: no one has agreed to do this.
5. We received an update re: Sound system installation, which will be given at MfB separately from this report.
6. A first draft of the State of the Meeting Report will be read in this MfB [*attached to these minutes*] and after revisions are made, presented to the March MfB for approval.
7. We were reminded that we need to have a Memorial Minute for Mark Hickman for SCYM. We also need one for Janet Southwood. We think Gary is doing the former, and are uncertain about the latter.
8. No one has come forward to volunteer to take the most important positions for a Spring Fair. If there are no volunteers to do publicity and general coordination, we'll have to drop plans for the event. We need to hear from volunteers by March MfB
9. We have been storing Items belonging to a homeless woman we were helping. We decided to give her until the end of month, ask Darrell to talk to her.
10. Concerns re: Individual Friends were discussed.
11. Open carry law/signs: An occasional visitor to Meeting was seen on the property with a weapon. We will ask Property Committee about posting simple (not state-mandated) signs prohibiting weapons on our property.

Next meeting proposed date and time: Monday, March 14, 7pm.

**DISCUSSION:** Any Friend who knows who is writing the Memorial Minute for Janet Southwood or wishes to organize the Spring Fair is encouraged to email [ministry@saquakers.org](mailto:ministry@saquakers.org).

Friends accepted the committee's report.

**Property Committee Report: reported by David Hayes**

The property committee met on Wednesday 2/9/22 at 4pm

The meeting was attended by: Diana Beardsley, Joni Mize, James Mize, Pam Spurgeon and David Hayes

1. The water monitor was installed, and it detected an ongoing loss of half a gallon of water per hour, this led to the discovery of water leaks in the men's and accessible restrooms. Both leaks were successfully fixed.
2. We replaced lights in the courtyard and the parking lot that had blown out.
3. Temporary adjustments to the doors were done for easier access while we continue working on repairing and replacing doors throughout the property. These included sloping the concrete outside

the meetinghouse doors to allow full swing and tightening the hardware in all the doors for smooth access.

With gratitude and love,

-Property Committee.

**DISCUSSION:** Friends accepted the committee's report.

**Other Business:**

- **Report on the Progress of Meeting Room Technology** by *Jim Spickard*

Like everyone else, Digital Display Solutions (recently renamed Digital Technology Solutions) is having supply-chain issues. Two pieces of equipment will not likely come in until late March or early April. DDS has offered to loan us an open-box sound/video control system to use until that unit comes in. As Unofficial Technical Coordinator (UTC), I have accepted.

I met with their representative and their installer at the Meetinghouse on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, to confirm the final layout. The installer is currently expected to begin work on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

At that time, he will install the microphone, speakers, and video/sound control system. This will replace our current standing microphone and make Zoom much easier to set up. The assisted listening system will plug into the control unit once it arrives.

I have requested that the microphone and camera be black, not white; that may have to happen later, at no cost to us.

-- *Jim Spickard, UTC*

**DISCUSSION:** Friends accepted the coordinator's report with thanks.

**Meeting Announcements:**

- **Yearly Meeting will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in April, so we are moving our April business meeting to April 10th**

**Other Announcements**

- **Friends are encouraged to hold the current situation in Ukraine in the Light as many work to avoid war**

**The Meeting closed with silent worship.**

## **Connected in the Light Wherever We Are**

*Friends Meeting of San Antonio State of the Meeting Report  
Draft – February 2022*

Friends Meeting of San Antonio spent much of 2021 finding a way to live deeply and meaningfully in the Light, strengthening and nurturing our connections with each other and the Spirit, and meeting the challenges of the times. While we have experienced a continued decline in participation in the life of the meeting, and while we acknowledge the toll that the continuing strain has taken on Friends, we are grateful that at the end of the year we are finding our way back.

Many Friends found a meaningful worship experience by Zoom, while some had difficulties feeling the connection with others through a screen. We experimented with porch worship as the weather warmed, and then with hybrid online/in-person worship when, with many precautions, it became safe to gather in the worship room. We continued to be grateful for the opportunity to worship with distant Friends, both former members and attenders who had moved away and newcomers who found us. We enjoyed seeing new faces on the Zoom screen, and we welcomed new attenders in person as well.

We made an effort to keep in touch with people who were not coming to Zoom meeting, and visited and cared for two older Friends. Those of us who experienced health challenges found joy and spiritual deepening through the care and outreach from meeting.

We mourned the deaths of long-time Friends Janet Southwood and Mark Hickman.

In the fall we began to hold two meetings for worship: an early traditional technology-free hour, and a later hybrid hour. Worship both in the room and online has become deep and centered for most Friends, although vocal ministry is increasingly rare. At the same time, there is a decline in the sense of community spirit with Friends split between the early screen-free worship and the later hybrid hour.

A new integrated audio-visual system will be installed soon which will give us permanently mounted and unobtrusive equipment, a system which will no longer require set-up and take-down for each use. It will also enable Friends with hearing difficulties to hear people in the room and online much more easily. We are hopeful that the less intrusive arrangement will help nurture the sharing of vocal ministry.

Meeting has been able to maintain our connections to the wider world. We have shared online worship and forums with other meetings in Cielo Grande Quarter. Our website, our newsletter, and our Facebook page continue to foster community and further outreach. In May we held our annual Spring Fair, visited by a number of neighbors and friends despite the uncooperative weather. We continue to support a wide variety of causes, especially those pertaining to justice and to refugees and asylum seekers. Outside groups have resumed using the meetinghouse, helping us to strengthen bonds with the community.

We continued to hold deep and substantive forums on spiritual and faith concerns; sessions on discernment and community support were particularly meaningful to newcomers, helping them connect with Quakerism and San Antonio Friends. "Meeting for Weeding" provided an opportunity to gather safely outside to tend to the meetinghouse and grounds. One Friend hosted a weekly study of "A Course in Miracles". We held monthly tailgate picnics in our parking lot, and in general strove to get together as much as possible given the pandemic restrictions.

The suspension of the children's program was perhaps the most difficult challenge of this time. Toward the end of the year, we developed a plan to re-start the children's program. It has been thrilling to welcome a new (small) group of young ones, and the joy in the meetinghouse in their presence is palpable.

A perpetual issue that has been exacerbated by the pandemic is that a disproportionate share of the work of the meeting has fallen on a few Friends. We are hopeful that as we return to more in-person activities we can focus on helping everyone find their own ways to support the life of the meeting.

Looking back over the past year, we feel strongly that we are part of a community where we care for one another, where we strive to help everyone be the person they want to be, and above all, a place where we can thrive centered in the Spirit.