

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business
June 26, 2022

Attending:

- In Person: Bill Wilkinson, Rachael Cundey, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Sarah Garrett, Hector Cruz, Julia Hitz, Val Liveoak, Pam Spurgeon, Stephen Shearer, David Hayes, Hannah Evans, James Mize, Joni Mize, Gretchen Haynes
- On Zoom: David Novogrodsky, Carol Redfield, Kirstin Munro, Greg Koehler

The meeting opened with silent worship.

Prior Minutes

Friends approved the Minutes from the May 15th Meeting for Business without corrections.

Treasurer's Report: reported by Bill Sweet

This month's very large expenditure, relative to the annual budget, for building maintenance, specifically termite extermination, pointed out rather starkly that for some years, income has been insufficient to cover expenses if prudent reserves for reasonably anticipated unusual expenses and emergencies are included. The aging building, for one, will very likely require unplanned repairs and maintenance. FMSA does have considerable investments but depending on those funds is not sustainable for the long term. The Finance Committee and Treasurer will meet to consider these concerns in greater depth.

Balance Sheet

- ✓ The Sinking Fund was completely depleted to partially pay for the termite treatment. The usual end-of-month transfer of \$500.00 brought the balance to \$500.00.
- ✓ To fund the remainder of the payment of \$25,018.50 for the termite treatment, \$9,432.32 was withdrawn from the Frost Bank savings account.
- ✓ There was no other unusual activity to report.

Statement of Activities

- ✓ Undesignated contributions in April totaled \$510.00. Contributions to date are 30.1% of the 2022 budgeted general contributions at 41.7% of the year.
- ✓ \$215.00 rent was received in May. Rental income for the year is 109% of budget.
- ✓ Because of timing of bill submission, one lawn service in March, two services in April and one service in May were paid in May, resulting in what appears to be an unusually large

monthly expenditure.

✓ The CPS bill in May is \$374.51 for 2.938 MWh of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$230.31. After the charges for additional services, the bill totaled \$194.70. Due to reading the wrong line, only \$194.51 was actually paid.

✓ Expenditure for electricity is 134% of the annual budget at 41.7% of the year. This is due to increased cost per kWh, increased consumption from the unusually hot weather, and optimistic projections when making the budget.

✓ From the beginning through 02 May, payment for solar-generated electricity totaled \$4836.83. This is an average of \$172.74 per month compared to the amortized capital cost of the panels of \$131.40 per month.

✓ The March bill for San Antonio Water System was \$117.75, which is about typical.

✓ Under Other types of Expenses – Miscellaneous, \$50.00 was paid for membership in Friends Historical Association.

✓ Other expenditures were routine.

DISCUSSION: Friends accepted the treasurer's report with gratitude.

Finance Committee Report: reported by Pat Sweet

The Finance Committee met virtually on 10 June. Attending were Pat Sweet, Clerk; Carol Redfield; Bill Wilkinson; Jim Spickard, Clerk of the Meeting, ex officio; Bill Sweet, Treasurer, ex officio

1. An honorarium for Julie Smith, CPA, who volunteered to audit our financial statements for 2021 was discussed. \$200 was decided as a reasonable token of our appreciation.

2. The treatment for terrestrial and drywood termites exhausted the Sinking Fund, which is designated for such unplanned expenses. The remaining cost was taken from the money market (savings) account at Frost Bank. After considerable discussion of alternatives, it was decided that, at present, A) the Sinking Fund would be replenished only with the standard \$500/month transfer from Operating Cash, B) the Frost money market account would not be replenished, and C) the Friends Fiduciary accounts would not be tapped.

3. The financial situation of FMSA was reviewed extensively, based on the Quaker testimony of stewardship, the final S in SPICES. This testimony covers the span from the individual, personal though global. Both short-term and intermediate-to-long-term issues were considered.

a. In the short-term, it was noted that, in recent years, income has not met

expenses. Such shortfalls have been planned for. Near-term unexpected large expenses by some combination of the Sinking Fund, the General Maintenance fund, Cash Flow Reserve, the Frost money market account and the Friends Fiduciary investments. These contingency funds are of course limited. Continued calls on these accounts is ultimately unsustainable.

b. In the short-term, meaning fiscal and calendar year 2022, electricity costs have increased due to a rate increase and the early, prolonged hot weather; the lawn service has increased by a third, and the cost of the cleaning service is unchanged only because the schedule was cut.

c. For the intermediate term, meaning 2023 to 2026, continued increases in the cost of services – electric, phone/internet, cleaning, lawn, water and sewer – and insurance are expected. Property and liability insurance is very likely to increase 10% to 15% p.a, meaning that the premium at the end of this period is reasonably expected to equal 25-30% of the current annual budget.

d. In the long-term, the trends in the intermediate term are expected to continue, indeed, may accelerate. For instance, the insurance premium may be 2/3 of the current annual budget around 2034. In addition, the aging of the buildings can be assumed to require repairs.

4. Discussion of responses to these issues included what expenses could be considered discretionary and therefore cut, what non-discretionary expenses could be trimmed, and how – and whether – additional income could be generated, e.g., additional rentals such as weddings. No conclusions were reached beyond perhaps discussing possible cuts with Property Committee and initial consideration of a Forum or series on the Quaker understanding of stewardship.

DISCUSSION: Meeting has long relied on about 10-12 families/individuals, who often give at the end of the year. Income has not increased much with increasing expenses.

One Friend asked if increasing the amount renters pay would help our current situation. Meeting groups previously faced with rate increases have been unsure if they can pay more.

It was pointed out that we currently have about \$500,000 in investments. We are not currently in dire financial straits, but it is important to begin considering now how we can live within our means over the long term with a budget in line with our values.

One Friend reported difficulty finding out how to contribute money. The Treasurer clarified that money can be sent electronically to treasurer@saquakers.org at Frost Bank by Zelle, by check or cash, or by automatic electronic funds transfer by requesting the account number from the

Treasurer. Credit card readers would be too expensive, and PayPal would come with fees. Linking to Zelle from the website may help make this process easier.

One Friend suggested adjusting the air conditioning higher as we deal with climate change and increased costs.

The Clerk urged Friends to continue to consider financial concerns in the coming weeks and email treasurer@saquakers.org or finance@saquakers.org with any ideas.

Friends accepted the committee's report.

MC&G Report: reported by Val Liveoak

The Ministry, Care and Guidance Committee met Monday June 13, at 7pm on Zoom. In attendance were Committee members Gretchen Haynes, Julie Crum, Stephen Shearer and clerk, Val Liveoak. David Hayes also attended to discuss certain items.

Review of Worship: Continued good attendance at in-person Meeting for Worship, with dwindling attendance on Zoom.

Upcoming Forums: Gary Whiting will lead one on July 24th on "Shared Intention".

Review of Community Life

Inconsistencies in following masking recommendation were noted. No action was recommended.

2nd Thurs. simple meal and worship is discontinued. We will revisit this in September for possible reinstatement in October.

We discussed the in-person Course in Miracles—David H. would like the Sunday group to be announced as a Quaker activity. We were unclear if this was a ministry of the meeting (along with other activities such as yoga.) Attempts to consult with Clerks and Bill Sweet regarding language for "friend's-led activities" did not bring much advice.

A Friend wrote: "MC&G might wish to begin considering how to reorganize our Meeting structure to match our current resources. Some of our jobs are crucial for our continued operations and regrowth. Others are not. Are there better ways than committees to get the crucial ones done? Just leaving them to the Spirit isn't working, unless those of us who always pick things up pick them up, too. This is worth some sustained thought." We discussed this but had no recommendations at this time.

Update on children's program: Some attendance but with little coordination from parents, despite the volunteers' planning. We will consider only offering it on first and third Sundays. Also, if there are no children coming, we recommend giving Renata half her salary for being on-call.

Update re Nominating Committee. and Associate Clerk—There has been no progress and the

Committee is considering a rotating Clerk position. The Committee is also considering having just 2 groups, one attending to needs of the physical plant/property and an enlarged MC&G attending to spiritual and community issues that would include Clerks, and the Treasurer.

We considered concerns re: Individual Friends

We asked David Hayes (for Property Committee) to make and post signs at all entrances to the property identifying it as a church and asking no weapons to be brought onto the property. One member suggested that if a person with a weapon entered, we take concerted action by getting up and leaving.

We want Meeting to consider if we want to have such a plan, and if we need to have drills to practice our response.

Memorial plates—Gretchen has offered to make ceramic memorial plates that could be painted with the names of Departed Friends (and birth/death dates) for the Memorial Garden. We would like to hear Meeting's opinion about this.

Next meeting proposed date and time July 11, 7pm.

DISCUSSION: In the past, Religious Education Committee has been given a budget for childcare and could spend it however they wished. However, there is no such committee currently. These duties are currently handled by MC&G. We are unsure whether children will be coming over the summer, and parents have not been communicating in advance despite requests by MC&G. Renata is in favor of this plan. MC&G will look at the budget for Religious Education to determine the financial feasibility. Gretchen, Hannah, Donna, and Lee can carry out the curriculum if there are not many children present.

Signage will be up by next weekend about weapons. The state has required format and language for these signs which may not be the language we would use if it was an open question, but is required for legal purposes.

If anyone feels led to suggest a response to the possibility of someone carrying a weapon on the property, please contact MC&G. One Friend suggested a separate discussion focused on this topic. Some discussion will be attempted at the next potluck, and further discernment will be scheduled later. We would want parents to weigh in on safety measures for children.

Gretchen would donate the plaques if her idea is approved.

Friends accepted the committee's report with deep gratitude for this work.

Nominating Committee: reported by Stephen Shearer

Nominating committee met on June 6, 2022. In attendance were Stephen Shearer, Kellie Price, Julie Crum, and Jim Spickard.

We are working on re-thinking the organizational structure of the meeting, bearing in mind the things we need to lay down, and the things we need to keep but that don't correspond to the committee system. In other words, what needs to be done in order to keep and grow the meeting?

Nominating committee would like to hear from friends who are led to serve. We are especially interested in finding ways that meeting can help friends find their strengths and their gifts in the life of the meeting. Contact us at nominating@saquakers.org, or contact any of the committee members individually.

DISCUSSION: Friends accepted the committee's report.

Property Committee Report: reported by David Hayes

The property committee met June 12th at 5 pm. Attended by Pam Spurgeon, Joni Mize, James Mize, and David Hayes.

Mowing has been reduced to once monthly service due to intense heat. Will adjust frequency as necessary.

We have offered a new housekeeper the opportunity to care for the meetinghouse. Details are being finalized.

Locks for the spigots were installed, and the toilet has been repaired again (thanks James). No leaks have been detected for the month.

HVAC Maintenance continues with Radiant and maintenance service was performed on 6/24/22.

The committee received a suggestion about Memorial Garden Plaques and the committee is working to discern viability.

There are several property projects that remain in our pipeline such as lights, rewiring, courtyard refill, and parking lot improvements. We look forward to seeing them completed.

DISCUSSION: The Property Committee has developed a concept for a Memorial Garden along the exterior wall of the community room and curved path. The path is currently dangerous, so this project would both increase safety and create the garden. The committee has had a hard time moving forward with the project with no budget. Friends feel this should be a priority.

MINUTE 2022.06.01 FMSA agrees to designate \$20,000 from Friends Fiduciary Fund for the Property Committee to get bids to build a Memorial Garden on the meetinghouse property. Friends are encouraged to make suggestions concerning the creation of the Memorial Garden.

There was a concern that separate committee will eventually become necessary for Memorial Garden concerns.

Friends approved the minute and accepted the committee's report with gratitude.

Meeting Announcements:

- David Hayes has requested membership in the meeting

Other Announcements

- Please send notices for the newsletter to newsletter@saquakers.org NOW

The Meeting closed with silent worship.
