

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

MINUTES

February 16, 2014

Attendance: Leilah Powell, Margarita McAuliffe, Marian Carter, Janet Southwood, Carol Redfield, Bill Wilkinson, Pam Spurgeon, Beth Guajardo, Suzanne W. Crain, Gretchen Haynes, Ken Southwood, James Goslin, Catherine Schneider, Ruth Lofgren, Susan Farrish, Carol Balliet

The meeting opened in silence and the clerk read the following quote:

*“If I am not for myself, then who will be for me?
And if I am only for myself, then what am I?
And if not now, when?”*

---Hillel the Elder, 32 BCE – 7 CE

1. **Clerk’s announcements** – The clerk explained that this month’s agenda is unusually long so that all committee activities can be reported as updates, either verbally or as written reports.
2. **Minutes of January 12, 2014 Business Meeting**
 - **Approved as read**
3. **Religious Education report**
 - a. Teaching plans for 2014 – reported verbally by Leilah Powell, committee clerk
 - There is no schedule of children’s queries. The committee struggles since the number of children in attendance at First Day School can vary each week.
 - Currently the children are working on a play based on the book “The Quilt Makers Gift.” The play is scheduled to be presented in May. The children are working on sets and costumes. The book is being used to direct the weekly discussions / queries.
 - This month’s discussion is about what makes you happy – one of the themes from the book.
 - The query for February is “What makes me happy?”.
 - **The verbal report was accepted as presented**
 - b. Hiring childcare staff - report read by Tessa Martinez-Pollack.
 - The draft job description of a childcare worker in the report included having the worker/facilitator trained in the basics of the Quaker faith so they could include Quaker philosophy in their care of the children. A

Friend asked if a Quaker curriculum existed for this purpose. It was explained that there is none at the national level but there are several established curricula out there that are appropriate for Quakers, such as Godly Play and Faith & Play. The Austin Friends Meeting sends volunteer Friends to be trained in these programs, and then they are available to train others who are working with the children.

- A Friend noted that a major issue is the burden on the parents to provide for this education. Often these parents are new to Quakerism themselves, and if these parents are expected to be in the Children's Room, they are not able to join meetings for worship, which they want to experience. On the other hand, another Friend noted, the adults involved learn a lot from teaching the children. This gives those involved a chance to get a better understanding of the Quaker faith. This Friend also noted that children raised in Quaker Meetings report having fond memories of being involved in the activities of the Meeting, and feeling loved and accepted by coming to know the adults well.
- After much discussion, a decision was made that a sub-committee will be formed, with Bill Wilkinson and Leilah Powell as the leads. They will ensure that parents, who have a stake in this process, are made aware of developing plans and that their concerns are included in the decision making process. Any interested members or attenders are welcome to assist Leilah and Bill in this planning. Their work will be presented at the next business meeting.
- The clerk made the comment that if any training is needed, there are funds available. Also, remember that if we hire someone on our own, a background check will need to be accomplished. If a nanny agency is used, this will be taken care of by the agency.
- **The report was accepted as read.**

4. Ministry & Oversight Committee report

- The committee report consisted of the "Forum: State of the Meeting Report," read by Tessa Martinez-Pollack, and the "Methodology" on how the report was developed, read by Suzanne Wright Crain. A poster has been created from the forum activities on January 26 that is part of the State of the Meeting Report.
- The report, along with a picture of the poster, will be sent to SCYM's Ministry and Care Meeting. It was noted that the explanation (methodology) may not be necessary since the verbatim words from the January forum, included in Tessa's report, and the poster together are a kind of poem.
- The poster will be left up in the Meetingroom and then taken to the Yearly Meeting gathering to be held on Easter weekend in April.
- **The report was approved as read.**
- Friends' gratitude was expressed for the work Tessa and Suzanne have done that led to producing the poster and report -- especially since both are new to the experience of preparing an annual report for SCYM, and also

because this was a new way that SCYM has requested that Monthly Meetings prepare their reports.

5. Peace & Social Concerns Committee report – was postponed to next month, as the committee's clerk had to leave.

6. Outreach report

- The report was read by Beth Guajardo, the clerk of the committee.
- The committee clerk believes that the Hospitality aspect of the work should be separate from the Outreach Committee. Additionally, there are sometimes requests made of the Outreach Committee, such as Easter egg hunts, that could be taken care of by another committee, which could be formed on an ad hoc basis.
- The clerk of the Meeting will get together with the Nominating Committee to further discuss these suggested changes. Given these proposed changes, the Nominating Committee will consider them and postpone its report to the March business meeting.
- **The report was accepted as read.**
- Regarding the web site, the web clerk explained that if anyone wants to be creative with submissions to the site, documents can be saved in an .html format so that a link can be established to the document. Also, make sure updates are sent in a timely fashion; the web site is updated monthly.

7. Property report – It was announced that a workday is scheduled for Saturday, March 29th.

- Because the business meeting was running long, the clerk of the Meeting asked that James Goslin's property report be postponed until next month.

8. Nominating Committee report – as mentioned above in the Outreach Committee section, the report will be presented next month.

9. Treasurer's report

- The report was read by the treasurer, Ken Southwood
- **The report was accepted as read**
- The FMSA clerk and participants warmly thanked the treasurer for his work the past two years and gave him a round of (audible!) applause.

With no further matters to consider, the business meeting closed with silent worship.

Submitted by:

Carol Balliet - clerk of the Meeting

Susan Farrish - recording clerk