

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

December 21, 2014

Attendance: Doug Balfour, Janet Southwood, Marian Carter, Val Liveoak, Gretchen Haynes, Jim Spickard, Carol Redfield, Suzanne W. Crain, Bill Wilkinson, Ken Southwood, Bill and Pat Sweet, Ruth Lofgren, Carol Balliet, Tessa Martinez Pollack

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

Be aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experiences of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways. There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as in our joys.

--Britain Faith & Practice

1. **Minutes of November 23 business meeting**

The Minutes were approved as read.

2. **Treasurer's report and proposed 2015 budget**

There were three parts to the Treasurer's report:

A. The balance sheet: We are at the desired level in reserves. Total assets have gone down attributable to a variety of factors. One factor is that so far our total operating costs this year are higher than incoming revenue, although revenues may increase by year's end, as historically contributions are made in December so that they can be listed on personal income tax returns for 2014. The Sinking Fund is down. We do not anticipate any more property expenses in the near future and will start re-building this Fund at \$200 a month. Major repairs and maintenance not covered by our property insurance are paid out of the Sinking Fund. At some point we will need to question whether \$20K as a total for the Sinking Fund is adequate. Perhaps some of our savings assets should be converted into a "property fund."

B. The statement of activities to date: Expenses for November were very typical except for the final cost of the carpeting after our insurance reimbursement for water damage was received, and we made the annual contributions to the Quaker organizations that we support. Meeting continues to face challenges with income and expenses; so far we have received only 63% of the budgeted revenue from contributions, with one month left in this year. Our revenue model is very sensitive because FMSA income depends so much on the generosity of a few people. We do expense controls where needed -- for example, in the re-negotiation of our phone contract. Val L suggested and Bill W agreed that building users be informed of our expenses with a potential view to raising their recommended donation level.

- C. The 2015 budget: The proposed budget for 2015, which totals 12% less than in 2014, was presented for seasoning until January 2015. Next year's expenses are projected to be fairly consistent with this year. Jim S indicated that the city's water charges are expected to go up in 2016 so we may want to budget more funds for that utility. The treasurer reviewed changes in budget line items, specifically increases and decreases in contributions to organizations as well as to our committees.

There was extensive discussion on use of the approximately \$8,000 in annual interest income from the Friends Fiduciary Fund. A proposal has been presented to use \$1,000 of that income to support immigrants when they are released from detention (for example, for bus tickets) and the remaining \$7,000 for a bond fund that would be managed by RAICES on behalf of FMSA. It was noted that those funds would not be returned to FMSA as discussions are under way to turn those funds into a scholarship fund for immigrants. The treasurer noted that FMSA has already received funds from Friends for the bond fund and that these will be held as "designated contributions" until the bond fund is established, or returned to the donors if it is not. Tessa MP commented on the need for more strategic thought by FMSA on its direction for greater intentionality and impact in its use of limited funds, especially with our budget challenges and the recent activities on the immigrant initiative. Val L spoke to a needed focus on incarceration as well. Bill W. noted that FMSA's support to organizations tends to be thematically focused on displaced people. Also noted was the need for a long-range site plan for our property, its implementation, and for re-examining the three phases of the original architect's plan. The clerk promised a longer philosophical discussion in the first quarter on where we want to place our material wealth.

The treasurer concluded by noting that he had budgeted \$500 for expenses for the 2015 Quarterly Meeting, which FMSA will host over Labor Day weekend..

MINUTE 12-01- 2014: FMSA authorizes the treasurer to contribute \$1,500 from the 2014 budget toward repayment of the \$3,500 bond paid by two Friends for the release from detention in December of an immigrant mother and her children.

3. Nominating Committee report

Gretchen H, Committee clerk, reported on the progress and the remaining vacancies on the 2015 roster of positions and committee members.

Regarding the vacancies, various solutions and issues were voiced -- for example, people might serve on more than one committee. It was noted that it is important that there be a woman on the Ministry & Oversight Committee, and there was also discussion to clarify the nature of ad hoc committees. The new standing Site Planning Committee will be added to the roster, and a description of

its responsibilities added to the FMSA handbook which is still in revision. There was discussion on the existence of the group of Friends who are actively involved in social justice activities with RAICES to assist families and unaccompanied minors. In the Minute approved at the October business meeting (**MINUTE 10-02-2014: Friends Meeting of San Antonio approves the charge of the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration to focus on parents and their children, and on unaccompanied children in detention or supported at La Posada de Guadalupe**) this group is referred to as an “ad hoc” committee, but the group has actually never been formally designated as a committee. A Friend noted that this group is informal and actually does not qualify as an ad hoc committee with formally designated members. This initiative has been undertaken as an effort by the “Meeting as a Whole” and may change its focus and individual Friends' involvement in the future as circumstances indicate. Therefore this group will not appear on the Nominating Committee's roster.

The Nominating Committee's report and roster were presented for seasoning, and the Committee will continue to work on filling remaining positions on the 2015 roster. The Committee clerk encouraged anyone who has concerns about positions showing on the roster to bring them to the Committee. The following Minute was approved:

MINUTE 12-02-2014: Friends Meeting of San Antonio concurs with the Nominating Committee's recommendation to eliminate the position of Corresponding Clerk from the roster, and to add the position of Assistant Webmaster to the roster.

4. Upcoming FGC Executive Committee visit

Gretchen H, as coordinator of this event, reported that there are still unmet needs regarding our Meeting hosting the 37 FGC Executive Committee members who will arrive in San Antonio for their Committee meeting to be held from January 29 to February 1. More hosts and drivers are still needed, and a meal coordinator. There is a need to plan for lunch and dinner on Friday, January 30, for 12 people; a need for lunch on Saturday, January 31, for 37 people; and a need for lunch for 14 people on Sunday, February 1. Guests will get their own dinner on Saturday night on the Riverwalk and will manage their own transportation for that sightseeing event.

At our next potluck, on January 4, the remaining unmet needs will be addressed, with the goal of completing the list of volunteers needed for this event.

5. Ministry & Oversight Committee

Doug B reported on activities of the Ministry & Oversight Committee.

There will be a reminder on the website and the newsletter that latecomers to meetings for worship enter the meetingroom in silence and take a seat close to the doors.

Upcoming forums include Gary Whiting on Isaac Penington and a forum on vision being planned by Suzanne C and Ashley S.

The Committee is responding to the needs of individual Friends who need personal ministry.

M&O proposes that the interest from the investment fund go to immigration issues, making clear that funding needs of the FMSA operating budget must be addressed first.

The State of the Meeting report for SCYM is on the Committee's list of tasks to complete.

With no more business to be addressed, the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business ended with a period of silence.

Carol Balliet, clerk of the Meeting

Tessa Martinez Pollack, recording clerk