

## FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO

### **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

March 15, 2015

**Attenders:** Dianne Vinson, Gretchen Haynes, Marian Carter, Suzanne Wright Crain, Carol Redfield, Michelle Di Giacomo, Ken Southwood, Bill Sweet, Ruth Lofgren, David Bristol, Carol Balliet

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

*Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you go, so that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.*

-George Fox, 1624-1691

#### **1. Minutes of February 15 business meeting**

Dianne read the minutes. **The minutes were approved as read.**

#### **1.2. State of the Meeting report for SCYM 2015**

Copies of the report were passed out and read silently.

Bill S. suggested that the word “unlawfully” be deleted from the report (item 4.) Friends concurred. The sentence will read “We have aligned with other faith-based groups and organizations to give support and legal assistance to the refugees, and to lobby for fair and humane treatment for families being detained.”

Ruth suggested that item 5 be amended to read “Our Meeting House space is now being used by other non-Quaker and Quaker groups, whose activities our Meeting supports. We feel that we are making a contribution to the wider community.”

Many of the groups that use the meetinghouse were mentioned such as the Reformed Congregation of the Goddesses, Celebration Circle, carcinoid cancer support group, Songha Buddhists, Alternatives to Violence workshop, and veterans’ Welcome Home Troops.

Suzanne pointed out our general bias towards words vs images. Carol

reminded us that last year images were used in creating our annual report for Yearly Meeting. After discussion, Friends agreed to include the entire report with this addition: "This report represents but cannot capture the richness and fullness of our sharing out of the silence." The clerk thanked the M&O Committee for completing this weighty task .

### **1.3. Treasurer's report**

2. Copies of the report were passed out and read by the treasurer. All parts of the report,
3. as summarized in the treasurer's narrative, were accepted.

### **4. Nominating Committee report**

The clerk of the Meeting expressed thanks to the committee for its success in continuing to work with our members and attenders to explore their gifts and matching these with nominations for positions within the Meeting. The report was accepted as read by the Committee clerk.

### **5. Property Committee report**

The report was read by the Committee clerk. Friends agreed to invite everyone who uses our building to a white elephant/jumble/garage sale. A precedent for this is the Westbury Quaker Fair. Friends were united in agreeing on this sale to be held on Saturday, May 16. Gretchen suggested the time as 10am-2pm. Gretchen, Karen, and Suzanne volunteered to work on PR for this event.

Discussion ensued about a tire swing that some of the Meeting youth have requested. Friends agreed that the tire swing needs to be thought about with the treasurer's input and with referral to our insurance agent on liability issues.

Suzanne reminded us that the spiritual development of children is everyone's responsibility and that we should consider children's rights as fundamentally important. Gretchen suggested we need a forum on this to focus more completely. Marian reminded us that currently we offer only childcare, which is not the same as religious education.

Friends accepted the Committee report.

6. **Friend's concern: Recyclable plates.**

Marian expressed concern that we may be moving toward using disposable plates and cups for refreshments during fellowship. This could be considered inconsistent with right order concerning use of recyclable goods rather than adding to trash. Because we do not have small-size plates now, it was agreed that Marian will purchase washable/reusable small plates for Meeting, and that we will continue to observe use of recyclable/reusable supplies wherever we can.

7. **Clerk's concern: Shall we install internet access on FMSA property now?**

Carol shared that this concern has been addressed periodically for the past several years. Events at our property are increasingly appropriate for internet use. For example, Skype videos could be used to include out-of-town Friends in meetings and forums, and internet access could be used during committee or other on-site meetings to look up information as needed. Concerns included indiscriminate use on-site that might negatively affect ambience, energy conservation, expense, and security. Marian suggested that this matter be held over for seasoning. Carol noted that, while being aware of the extensive set of tasks that our committees now have, we need recommendations and perhaps an ad hoc committee to take on this matter. Bill S suggested that this be part of the Property Committee and that volunteers with relevant technical knowledge be solicited to participate in

obtaining information and recommending appropriate action, if any. It was suggested that Bill W. be a part of this endeavor. A representative of the Property Committee agreed that the Committee will take on this concern.

Friends were united in support for the Property Committee to report back on this matter, after consideration for at least 3 months to allow time for information-gathering and seasoning.

The clerk expressed gratitude to Dan Guajardo for designing and building the cedar and rock bench now placed at the top of the serpentine path connecting the parking lot to our entrance gate, and to Marian for all the planning and installment arrangements.

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

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Carol Balliet, clerk of the Meeting

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Dianne Vinson, recording clerk