

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

May 15, 2016

Attendees: Carol Balliet, Dianne Vinson, Marian Carter, Gretchen Haynes, Ruth Lofgren, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Alice Partain, Bill Wilkinson.

Silence is the language of God; all else is poor translation.
--*Jala Ad-Din Rumi*

The clerk of the Meeting opened the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with silence and then read the quote on the agenda. The agenda was reviewed for additions or clarifications.

1. Minutes of April 10 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minutes were read aloud by the recording clerk. Minutes were approved as read.

2. Clerk's concerns.

The clerk expressed the following concerns with a recommendation that they be addressed by the Meeting as a Whole in forums over the summer

--Stable staff and volunteers for re-invigoration of our First Day School, beginning in September. Although there is plenty of material from FGC that can be offered each Sunday to young people from pre-school age through high school, we are in need of staff and reliable volunteers.

--Ongoing challenges of managing our complex property. The first-built wing on our campus is now 15 years old and the meetingroom is now 10 years old. Both structures are now beginning to need repair and replacement. The clerk noted that the Property Committee is working very well, but we should be aware of the responsibilities and challenges to come, including potential new construction.

--Ways to consistently explain our faith and encourage membership. Because unprogrammed Quakers do not follow a specific creed, we can

sometimes feel uncomfortable at “putting words to” our faith. The welcoming flyer that was handed out at the Quaker Fair is helpful in briefly explaining ourselves to our neighbors and others in the wider community. The clerk will be presenting a class on Quakerism at the OASIS adult learning organization in July, and in September Pat and Bill S will join her in giving a tour of our property and discussion of our faith to another OASIS group. She has also been invited to facilitate a class at the University Presbyterian Church's SOL Center in the coming year. These kinds of events are opportunities for us to explain ourselves to the wider community in an understandable and appealing way.

--**Updating our “Last Wishes” documents.** The folder containing Friends' completed forms has disappeared, and we have been encouraged to update these every year anyway. We could discuss this matter and update our forms together during a forum this summer.

--**Review of FMSA handbook revisions for overall approval.** The Nominating Committee has been using the handbook with several years' of revisions inserted as new edits, but Friends should have a chance to review the whole handbook for clarity and express unity on its present form. The current individual revisions, while informally included in the working handbook, have all been approved separately in the past few years.

Friends concurred that all items of concern can be addressed in upcoming forums over the summer by the Meeting as a Whole.

3. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer passed out the report and explained its contents. The balance sheet reports a growing “orphan” deficit which is just an anomaly of the bookkeeping software now being used. The current software the treasurer uses has not been costly but has some features that make monitoring transactions difficult. Therefore the treasurer, who is also the treasurer of South Central Yearly Meeting, is now considering purchasing a better software program that he can use for both SCYM and FMSA, and can charge only half its one-time cost to our Meeting, thus keeping its cost reasonably low to both organizations.

The statement of activities/income is “typical” and we are “tracking reasonably well” for this time into our fiscal year in terms of both income and expenses. The statement of activities shows that half of our ground

maintenance budget has been used, as a result of frequent rain resulting in unusually frequent grass mowing. The utilities expenses are “back on track now” after resolution with the local power company over errors in the company's monitoring of its newly-installed “Smart” meter. The treasurer's duties include careful monitoring and necessary phone calls with companies to correct financial problems when they occur.

The clerk explained how we pay Betsy, our childcare worker who is our employee rather than a contract worker. Her wages are paid monthly. He can debit the amount paid for a given Sunday if she is absent, as long as he is informed of her absence. We were reminded that “both sides” of Betsy's Social Security withholding are paid by the meeting, as an extra benefit for her. The childcare position will be reviewed as part of the planning for the expanded First Day program to begin in the fall.

The clerk also asked the treasurer if a specific budget line can be included next year to show expenses and income for the Quaker Fair. This option will be considered to determine if it would be useful or unnecessary.

The treasurer's report was accepted and gratitude expressed to Bill for his meticulous work with our small budget.

4. Recap of our neighborhood outreach via the Second Annual Quaker Spring Fair.

Gretchen was asked to give just her informal impression of how the preceding day's “Annual Quaker Spring Fair” went. She stated that the Fair went very well. All the assigned volunteers showed up, and \$100 more income was received than last year. Bill W. thanked Friends for all donations of leftover books and jumble to the Roy Maas Youth Alternatives thrift shop. Gretchen's oral report was accepted.

5. Peace and Social Concerns.

The committee co-clerks are out of town so there was no report. The clerk noted that Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta's forum on the previous Sunday evening had 15 attenders and a copy of her book, “Refusing to be Enemies: Palestinian and Israeli Nonviolent Resistance to the Israeli Occupation” was bought for the library.

6. Property Committee report

Marian handed out the report and summarized its contents. Branches had to be trimmed from a tree, some people want more bluebonnets and low-growing blooms in the wildflower field, and new gutters are needed in some areas of the roof. The grounds-keepers have been asked not to use the weed-killer, "Roundup," because it is toxic to the environment. One of the HVAC compressors ended its mechanical life and has had to be replaced. The committee has engaged a landscape lighting expert to recommend improved lighting fixtures and placement for better nighttime visibility on the path from the parking lot to the walkway entrance, and a copy of the Illumination of the walkway is necessary for safety and confidence. The committee requested suggestions about best lighting options. Several Friends noted that inappropriate lighting could add to light pollution and discourage wildlife. It was also suggested that lights might be mounted on poles rather than attached to trees, which could damage the trees and cause branches to fall.

The Property Committee report was accepted, with the noting that the lighting issue is an ongoing concern.

7. Nominating committee report

Gretchen submitted the following report: Gretchen H requests to be released from service on the Nominating Committee as soon as a replacement can be approved. The committee nominates Val Liveoak to M&O committee. Friends united in approving these changes.

There was no Ministry & Oversight Committee report because the few current members are out of town or absent.

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

Carol Balliet, clerk of the Meeting

Dianne Vinson, recording clerk