

Friends Meeting of San Antonio
Meeting for worship with attention to business

July 17, 2016

Teach your children what we have taught our children that the earth is our mother. What ever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth. This we know. The earth does not belong to us. We belong to the earth. This we know. All things are connected--like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected. What ever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth. We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Chief Seattle

Attendees: Carol Balliet, Gretchen Haynes, Joni Mize, James Mize, Douglas Balfour, Suzanne W Crain, Val Liveoak, Alice Partain, Janet Southwood, Michelle DiGiacomo, Ruth Lofgren, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Ken Southwood, Carol Redfield

The clerk of the Meeting opening opened the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with silent worship and then read the quote and reviewed the agenda for additions or clarifications.

1. Minutes of June 19 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minutes were read silently and approved.

- 2. Called Meeting for worship with attention to business, July 10, 2016** Friends approved the request to co-sponsor **Healing our Hearts: One Month after Orlando:** an interfaith gathering of music, meditation, reflection, and affirmation to heal our hearts and our world in the aftermath of the violence in Orlando. **Tuesday July 12, 7:00 p.m. at Unity of San Antonio.** Those attending are asked to suggest a 2-minute silence to reflect on our connection to God and each other and to hold in the Light those affected directly and the community.

If this is not a single event, it is approved that FMSA be included in future events sponsored by the present group. A suggestion of a \$100 donation to victims and families will be held over to Meeting for Business, Seventh Month 17.

Friends approved a donation of \$100 to Orlando One for victims and families of the violence. The report was accepted.

- 3. Letter of thanks from Masjid Bilal, Omar Shakir,** for use of FMSA facilities for a pre-Ramadan Conference and fund raising event.
- 4. Treasurer's report** was read by Carol Redfield in the absence of Bill Wilkinson. The RAICES Bond Fund has increased by \$4,378.52 because of the semi-annual dividend from Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC). In keeping with the authorizing minute of January 2015, the treasurer will send a check to RAICES for \$5,000 in July unless instructed otherwise. General contributions continue to lag. "Minor" repairs and

miscellaneous items (e.g., mailbox, bulletin boards, shade tents) are both in excess of the budget and spending in these areas should be curtailed to the extent possible unless supported by additional contributions. There were no questions. The report was accepted.

5. **Ministry and Oversight Report** Jim Spickard volunteered to clerk the committee. The committee discussed concerns of late arrivals to Meeting for Worship, and conversations near the meeting room doors. They are seasoning ideas and welcome suggestions. They proposed topics for Forums through the end of the year. Friends made several suggestions regarding the late arrivals, some of which the committee has discussed, and others will be added. One Friend mentioned that at the end of worship, people get up and move about to greet each other, making an abrupt transition from the silence. It was suggested that children may participate in worship, either for the first or last 15 minutes. The report was accepted.
6. **Peace & Social Concerns Report** Instead of replacing the Quaker banner, they suggest printing tee-shirts with "Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)" on the front and the testimonies on the back. Individuals could wear them at their own discretion, without having Meeting limit that to official events. They could be worn by many at Meeting-sponsored events. They proposed Forum topics through December and are seeking a volunteer who feels led to keep track of upcoming Texas executions and who is willing to announce those in Meeting for Worship. On the future agenda: to consider and perhaps propose a Handbook revision about how to respond to requests that we co-sponsor and/or participate officially in events when we do not receive enough notice to use our normal deliberative style.

Friends were in agreement about the tee-shirts and suggested the addition of a logo. The report was accepted.

7. **Nominating Committee Report** The committee reviewed the Roster for 2017. A number of terms are ending, providing opportunities and challenges. They will speak to F/friends to confirm their continuing responsibilities and/or their "leadings." They continue the discernment of the role of Associate Clerk. They reviewed the current Handbook description of Outreach and concluded that it no longer reflects the reality we have been living with in the last two years. They propose replacing the current section 'Outreach Committee' with one that describes the functions as they appear in the Roster. They propose replacing the title and purpose with the following wording, to be considered by Meeting at a later date.
Inreach/Outreach Functions Purpose: To provide help in bringing members, attenders and inquirers together in friendship and spiritual community, and to make others aware of Friends' principles. *This purpose is best served by individuals taking responsibility for specific tasks and does not require a traditional committee with regular meetings. Individuals may report to the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as needed.* [Changes in italics.] The report was accepted.

Property Committee The criminal mischief cases have been taken care of. An insurance claim was filed for the glass replacement. The tagging was painted over by members and will do for now. The police will check our property for the next two weeks between 3 PM and 3 AM. The committee is grateful to James Goslin for helping so much. Friends found some damage to the sheetrock in one of our bathrooms recently. The committee requests that Friends double check that all doors are locked before leaving. The report was accepted.

Complete committee reports can be found in the Archive on the website. The clerk called attention to the Forums on July 24: Effective Outreach without Proselytizing, and July 31: Knowing and Communicating our Last Wishes. Meeting for worship with attention to business ended with a period of silent worship.

Carol Balliet, clerk of the Meeting

Gretchen Haynes, acting recording clerk