

**Minutes**  
**FMSA Meeting for Business**  
**October 16, 2022**

**Attending:**

- In Person: Bill Wilkinson, Rachael Cundey, Julie Crum, Val Liveoak, Joni Mize, James Mize, Stephen Shearer, Pam Spurgeon, David Hayes, Bill Sweet, Dale Keairns, Von Keairns, Gretchen Haynes, Jim Spickard, David Bristol, Lee Teran, Greg Koehler, Cara
- On Zoom: Hector Cruz, Pat Sweet, Kirstin Munro, Lee Gugerty

**The meeting opened with silent worship.**

**Clerk's Comments:** We received a lovely thank you note from Sandy Hook Promise for the donation from the Tampa monthly meeting which we passed on and supplemented with our own funds in honor of the victims of the recent school shooting in Uvalde.

**Prior Minutes**

Friends approved the Minutes from the Sept 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting for Business **without** corrections.

**Treasurer's Report: reported by Bill Sweet**

**Balance Sheet**

- ✓ In the third quarter the Friends Fiduciary Growth and Income Fund lost \$38,535.49 in value, which is a 6.96% decrease. The Short-Term Investment Fund lost \$661.66 in value, which is a 1.22% decrease. The total decrease of the investments is \$39,197.15. For comparison, the third quarter the S&P 500 price change is -5.28% and Barclay's Aggregate Bond Index is -4.8%.
- ✓ There is no unusual activity to report.

**Statement of Activities**

- ✓ Undesignated contributions in September totaled \$763.33. Contributions to date are 56.1% of the 2022 budgeted general contributions at 75% of the year.
- ✓ \$1155.00 was received in September for facilities use. Receipts to date equal 442.5% of annual budget.
- ✓ The CPS bill in September is \$507.64 (\$542.00 last month) for 3.733 MWh (3.998 MWh last month) of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave

us a credit of \$237.16 (\$241.63 last month). After the charges for additional services, the bill totaled \$321.32 (\$351.31 last month).

- ✓ Expenditure for electricity is 360.5% of the annual budget at 75% of the year.
- ✓ From the initial connection through September, payment for solar-generated electricity totals \$5732.80, which averages to \$179.15 per month compared to the amortized capital cost of the panels of \$131.40 per month.
- ✓ The September bill for San Antonio Water System was \$159.37, which is roughly \$50 above typical.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine.

**DISCUSSION:** Friends accepted the Treasurer's report with gratitude.

**M, C, & G Report: reported by Julie Crum**

Gathering via Zoom on October 10<sup>th</sup> were Val Liveoak, Gretchen Haynes, Joni Mize, Stephen Shearer, and Julie Crum.

- Attendance at meeting for worship has continued to increase, with new people almost every week. Vocal ministry has been meaningful.
- The October 23 forum will be about SCYM and Representative Meeting. October 30 is a fifth Sunday; we will showcase the meeting library.
- The November 12 retreat will consider this query in worship sharing and fellowship:  
If Meeting for Worship is meant to be a restorative time, or even redemptive, what is this power or Truth that strengthens and heals?  
We will gather from 9 am to 3 pm. We will provide child care and, in the morning, coffee/tea and muffins, with participants bringing a bag lunch. We will ask people to register by Nov 7, and they can come for the morning or afternoon session or for the whole day.
- Future forums may be on the damages of war to veterans, on spiritual autobiographies, and, for Thanksgiving weekend, no formal forum but fellowship time.
- The children's program continues each first and third Sunday. They have enjoyed making soup for potluck Sunday, and other crafts.
- The October potluck was well attended. The next potluck will be November 6.
- We discussed concerns for individual friends.

We will resume committee meetings in person; the next will be Wednesday, November 9 at 12:30 at the meetinghouse.

**DISCUSSION:** Registration information for the retreat will be linked in the weekly announcements soon. We now have a new method of posting events on the website and thank Lee for his efforts.

Friends accepted the committee's report.

**Property Committee Report: reported by James Mize**

The property committee met on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm on Zoom

The meeting was attended by Pam Spurgeon, James Mize, Joni Mize, and Von Keairns

- We came to unity on our 2023 Budget pending treasurer's input which will be requested for specific line-item expenditures before submittal.
- October workday (15 Oct) scheduled for 9:00 to 1:00, November workday is on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- General maintenance projects were scheduled to begin on Oct 10. Projects include restroom door replacement, caulking and painting in the meetinghouse, repairing the small parking lot sign and restoration of the wooden entry gate.
- Flume indicates a water leak started around the time of the sidewalk installation on Eisenhower. Continuing testing is needed before calling SAWS.
- The glass replacement in the Meetinghouse door is being bid on: glass only, and glass and install, or purchased glass installed by secondary contractor.
- Memorial garden revision discussed considering the new bid from the stonemason. We will meet with contractor and tweak the specifications before finalization.
- Security patrols were revisited considering patrol schedule to minimize cost but with the companies contacted the min. cost remains around \$450 per month. For the moment we are setting this aside to explore other avenues.
- In the absence of a clerk, Pam agreed to convene the zoom sessions as needed and send an agenda based on topics submitted by the committee. James agreed to present property reports at Meeting for Worship with attention to Business.

These projects await our attention:

- Electrical system update (incl wiring diagram)
- Courtyard refurbishment
- Parking lot resurfacing

w/love  
Property Committee

**DISCUSSION:** The Property Committee has been working to finalize a design for the memorial garden that maximizes accessibility. This is made difficult by the elevation of the space. With the current schematic, only the top part of the path would be wheelchair accessible, as there would be two steps leading down to the gardens. A Friend suggested that if steps are necessary, making them wide (18 inches) and adding a railing would improve access.

There was much discussion over whether the garden is to include only plaques or options for storing remains. Scattering of ashes is definitely welcome. Jim will check prior minutes concerning the memorial garden to check for references to composted remains and/or urns.

Gretchen has made a sample ceramic memorial plaque that she would be willing to offer at no charge to memorialize Friends.

Friends were reminded of the conversation around accessibility considering the entrance to the current property as it was being constructed. Friends originally considered having separate accessible parking with a separate entrance but decided a wandering path which allowed accessibility and spirituality would be best. Ward Elmendorf was a major proponent of this plan, and we remember his advocacy with great appreciation.

Friends accepted the committee's report.

#### **Nominating Committee reported by Stephen Shearer**

Nominating hopes to have a first reading for nominations next Business Meeting. Nominating is currently low on members.

**DISCUSSION:** Friends were reminded of the importance of being honest about what we are led to pursue, neither allowing ourselves to feel guilty into serving nor ignoring gifts we may have to share. Friends thank the Nominating Committee for their efforts.

#### **Other Business:**

- **Report on the October 1<sup>st</sup> Wedding, by Jim Spickard**

This was the first wedding we have sponsored between individuals not connected to the Meeting. The couple and their guests were thrilled and sent a lovely note of thanks. This event worked very well, and accepting similar offers in the future would be wise. We need a policy on how much to charge; Jim suggests \$500, including or excluding a cleaning fee. We are not interested in getting into the wedding venue business or advertising availability.

**DISCUSSION:** This applies only to those who are not Friends or regular attenders. A sliding scale was suggested for couples who might struggle to pay the full fee. Friends were reminded that we have a standing policy of allowing weddings of those who are disallowed from marrying within the faith they practice. Although the current policy states that the library and children's room were not available, the recent bride used the

children's room restroom to get dressed, and this was not an issue. We will need Finance to consider renting fees in light of inflation as we enter the new year.

- **Report on the Assisted Listening System** *reported by Jim Spickard*  
Only one of the devices was broken, and it has now been replaced. We now have four functional assisted listening devices which can connect to the speaker system and amplify sound.
- We had a conflict between 2 sets of people trying to use the FMSA Zoom at the same time. We now have a Zoom calendar online which you can check using [sanantonioquakers.org/hidden](https://sanantonioquakers.org/hidden) to see if the Zoom will be available when you plan an event. Authorizations to edit the calendar will be given out by Jim upon request.

**The Meeting closed with silent worship.**