

**Minutes**  
**FMSA Meeting for Business**  
**December 18, 2022**

**Attending:**

- In Person: Bill Wilkinson, Rachael Cundey, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, James Mize, Joni Mize, Jim Spickard, Gretchen Haynes, Kara McGinnis
- On Zoom: Carol Redfield, Val Liveoak, Lee Gugerty

**The meeting opened with silent worship.**

**Prior Minutes**

Friends approved the Minutes from the Nov 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting for Business without corrections.

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

**Balance Sheet**

- ✓ The substantial decrease in the checking account is due to payment for the Memorial Garden. Per Minute, this expense is to be taken from investments in Friends Fiduciary. That withdrawal will occur later. The money is, in effect, borrowed from Operating Cash. This expenditure increases the value of Fixed Assets, Buildings and Land.
- ✓ There is no other unusual activity to report.

**Statement of Activities**

- ✓ Undesignated contributions in November totaled \$1560.00. Contributions to date are 77.6% of the 2022 budgeted general contributions at 92.7% of the year.
- ✓ \$567.50 was received in October for facilities use. Receipts to date equal 520% of annual budget.
- ✓ The CPS bill in November is \$180.12 (\$288.24 last month) for 1.462 MWh (2.289 MWh last month) of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$194.40 (\$191.54 last month). After the charges for additional services, the bill totaled \$35.93 (\$321.32 last month).
  - ✓ Expenditure for electricity is 388.7% of the annual budget at 92.7% of the year.
  - ✓ From the initial connection through October, payment for solar-generated electricity totals \$6118.13, which averages to \$179.95 per month compared to the amortized capital cost of the panels of \$131.40 per month.
- ✓ The November bill for San Antonio Water System was not received before the end of the month.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine.

**DISCUSSION:** CPS per unit rates were significantly higher this year than previous years, which may be a factor in the underbudgeting for power. The summer was also particularly hot.

Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

**Finance Committee Report: reported by Pat Sweet**

*[Draft budget is attached at the end of these minutes.]*

**DISCUSSION:** Facilities use was budgeted according to income this year and expected changes for the coming year.

There was much discussion of the budgeted donations to Quaker and local groups for 2022 that were not spent. They were budgeted to be distributed by Peace & Social Concerns, which has not been functional in 2022. Generally, any unspent funds in an operating budget do not carry over to the next year. There was tension between the value of generosity in our contributions to outside organizations and the value of discerning together the optimal stewardship of funds in accordance with Quaker process and previous minutes.

Questions arose concerning the process for P&SC contributions to outside organizations. In the past, budgets were approved that specified individual organizations and amounts P&SC had discerned for contribution in the coming year. Now, the 2022 and 2023 budgets include \$1000 each for Quaker and local groups which P&SC is to distribute. Friends will need to review previous minutes to determine whether a committee minute is sufficient for distribution of these funds or a minute from the full meeting is required. There was also uncertainty whether MC&G, in its position covering essential P&SC business for 2022, had the authority to distribute these funds.

There was discussion of taking the money from Friends Fiduciary Fund, with some Friends feeling we have more than enough investments while others see the Fund as a cushion for long-term concerns such as inflation, energy costs, and property expenses that could otherwise threaten the financial survival of the meeting.

Other Friends also suggested withdrawing the \$2000 from other previously funded Meeting-designated funds for community concerns or from the MC&G Relief Fund.

**MINUTE 2022.12.01** The meeting requests that Finance Committee review meeting funds and propose a way to designate \$2000 not distributed in 2022 for contributions to outside organizations at January Meeting for Business.

Friends approved the minute.

Friends approved the budget in its second reading.

**Nominating Committee: reported by Bill Wilkinson**

*[Draft chart is attached at the end of these minutes.]*

**DISCUSSION:** Friends have approved the names on second reading.

We are still lacking clerks for property and P&SC, any members on community engagement, and a recorder. Jim has been fulfilling the obligations of recorder.

Friends accepted the committee's report.

**M, C, & G Report: reported by Gretchen Haynes**

Wednesday, December 7, 2022, noon

Attending: Joni Mize, Gretchen Haynes, Val Liveoak, Julie Crum. Regrets from Stephen Shearer.

Meeting opened with silence.

1. We will try to have the next month's query ready before the third week of the month in order to have it in the newsletter.
2. The November 12 retreat had 6-8 people plus the conveners, including one child (for whom child care was provided). Next year's fall retreat should be in October in order not to conflict with SCYM and other November events.
3. Attendance at meeting for worship has been robust (for post-covid times), and vocal ministry has been growing in spirit and frequency.
4. Forums and scheduled events:
  - a. On December 11 we will hold a "committee romp", a series of short presentations explaining what our committees do, followed by general discussion.
  - b. On Christmas Eve, the children will help set up the luminaria, then will join the adults for worship at 6. After fifteen minutes children may leave for their own program or stay with their parents. Tamales, rice, soup, and fellowship will follow at 7.
  - c. The January pot luck and book exchange will be on January 8 due to the first Sunday being New Year's Day.
  - d. On Saturday, January 14, we will invite the community to watch "Brother Outsider", an account of the life of Bayard Rustin, Quaker civil rights peace activist. We have confirmation from Dream Week that we are on the program.
  - e. January 22 forum: How is our Meeting living out Martin Luther King's dream?
  - f. January 29 (fifth Sunday): Sharing reflections on 2022 for the State of the Meeting report.
5. The children's program continues to have 5-8 participants each first and third Sunday.
6. We reviewed concerns of individual Friends.
7. Regarding reorganization of our committee structure, we recognize that all our concern grows out of how to maintain a strong and faithful worship. We noted three possible formats:
  - 1) Traditional committees which carry on the life of the meeting;
  - 2) Dividing the functions into three groups—financial and property, community life, and spiritual concerns;
  - 3) Periodic volunteerism with two coordinators to oversee tasks formerly covered by Community Engagement. A prominent task board would be placed on the west wall of the community room listing the various tasks needing to be filled for a specific time. All other functions would be carried on in the traditional manner.

We concluded that this has been an on-going discernment and that it needs to proceed with greater participation by those who are most affected . . . but not in Meeting for Business just yet. Therefore, we suggest taking it to the annual meeting of clerks and conveners in January.

Meeting ended with silence.

**DISCUSSION:** Friends accepted the committee's report.

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

The Property Committee met in person on 12 Dec 2022.

Von Keairns, James Mize, Joni Mize, and Pam Spurgeon were present.

1. The committee reviewed recent projects to ensure completed projects were invoiced and paid.
2. We discussed contacts for building a safety rail and memorial display.
3. Workday is scheduled 17 Dec 2022. Lots of projects inside and outdoors await our faithful stewardship. Need to repair the sink issues in men's restroom.
4. We verified someone would be available to support the restroom door replacement workmen.
5. We discussed hiring Richard Saldivar as grounds custodian replacing our current grass cutting contractor.

Submitted with gratitude

**DISCUSSION:** The restroom doors have been installed. The doors are being adjusted, and the handles will be changed out. The accessible restroom needs to be designated as such, and the others should be identified as restrooms with no gender designation. Stencils will be located.

There have been smoldering logs found on property adjacent to the meeting property for the past two days. Firefighters were called yesterday to put out the fire. A Friend explained the potential danger of any fires on the ground to an unhoused man living on the adjacent property. There was also concern about his use of a long extension cord from one of our outlets to his dwelling space by the fence. Friends expressed a desire for consistency in our response.

In January the meeting of clerks and conveners will consider how we can balance our obligations to community, safety, and financial stewardship in our interactions with unhoused people on and near the property.

Friends accepted the committee's report.

**Meeting Announcements:**

- The annual Corporation Meeting will be held at the rise of Meeting for Business on January 15<sup>th</sup>

**The Meeting closed with silent worship.**