

**Friends Meeting of San Antonio  
Record of Business Meeting Action Minutes  
2024**

**January 21<sup>st</sup>:**

[NONE]

**February 18<sup>th</sup>:**

[NONE]

**March 17<sup>th</sup>:**

[NONE]

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:**

[NONE]

**May 19<sup>st</sup>:**

Friends approve the policy statements and principles proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness *[which are appended to this document]* at this time, with the proviso that this is a step in the process which we will revisit in the future.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>:**

[NONE]

**July 21<sup>st</sup>:**

MINUTE 2024.07.01 FMSA will now pause the hazmat service and instructs the Treasurer to inform the service of this pause. We authorize the Clerk to resume the service if it is once again needed.

**September 15<sup>th</sup>:**

[NONE]

**October 20<sup>th</sup>:**

MINUTE 2024.10.01 FMSA approves the addition of the following plaques to the

memorial garden wall with funding from the Relief Fund:

- *Ken Southwood*
- *Michelle DiGiacomo*
- *Jim Turner*
- *Ena June Nadeau*
- *Betty Jane DiGiacomo*
- *Charles Goebel*

**November 17th:**

**MINUTE 2024.11.01** FMSA approves Roberta Russell for membership.

**MINUTE 2024.11.02** FMSA authorizes the donation of \$5,000 from the Relief Fund to the Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting disaster relief fund.

**December 15th:**

*[NONE YET]*

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**Proposed Homeless Outreach and Property Usage Policy**

*[approved at the May Business Meeting]*

Objective

This policy attempts to maintain the safety and sanctity of meetinghouse property as a place of worship and contemplation while also fostering a compassionate response to unhoused people within the community.

Guiding Principles

- **Compassion:** Recognizing the inherent dignity of every individual, our desire is to respond to homelessness with empathy and support.
- **Safety:** Ensuring the safety and security of Friends as well as all individuals on meetinghouse grounds, including visitors, renters, and those experiencing homelessness.
- **Stewardship:** Responsibly managing meetinghouse property in ways that are consistent with Quaker values while also addressing community needs within the constraints of what we as a Meeting can offer.

Policy Statements

- **Access to Meetinghouse Grounds:** The property is primarily designated for worship, fellowship, and community activities organized or approved by the Meeting. Individuals experiencing homelessness are welcome to access Meeting facilities when invited by a Friend to do so, but only as a temporary respite.

- **Prohibited Activities:** Camping, loitering, toileting, bathing, fires, or any other activity that poses a safety risk or disrupts the peaceful use of Meeting property is prohibited. Smoking, vaping, consumption of alcohol or illegal substances on meetinghouse grounds is not permitted. Any behavior that violates local laws or ordinances will be addressed in accordance with the law.
- **Homeless Outreach and Support:** The Meeting acknowledges it cannot provide direct services and that its role in addressing homelessness is a commitment to supporting community initiatives that provide shelter, food, counseling, and other essential services to individuals in need as well as providing resource information to individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Communication and Enforcement:** Clear signage will be posted to inform individuals of the property usage policies. Friends will engage respectfully with individuals experiencing homelessness, offering information about available resources and services. Non-compliance will be addressed through compassionate enforcement measures, including direct engagement with an offer of support (i.e., food, HEB cards), referrals to support services, and if necessary, involvement of law enforcement (community police officer) as a last resort.