

Minutes
FMSA Meeting for Business
February 18th 2024

Attending:

- In Person: Val Liveoak, Rachael Cundey, Julie Crum, Pam Spurgeon, Don Keairns, Stephen Shearer, Kara McGinnis, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Sarah “Pepper” Haynes, John Wilburn, Micah Rossum, Jim Spickard, Lisa Craig, Gretchen Haynes, Denise Wilkinson, Bill Wilkinson

The meeting opened with silent worship.

PRIOR MINUTES

Friends approved the Minutes from the Jan 21st Meeting for Business without corrections.

TREASURER’S REPORT: *reported by Bill Sweet*

Balance Sheet *(attached at the end of these minutes)*

- ✓ \$20,000.00 from Operating Cash, \$10,000.00 from Immigrant Aid and \$5,000 from Relief Fund, a total of \$35,000.00, remains “parked” in the savings account.
- ✓ Because Immigrant Aid account funds were spent in December, it shows a deficit (in parentheses) because \$10,000 of its funds are “parked” in (“loaned” to) the savings account. Thus, the available balance is \$6,156.31 (\$10,000 less the deficit of \$3,843.69).

Statement of Activities *(attached at the end of these minutes)*

- ✓ Undesignated contributions in January totaled \$1909.26. Contributions in 2024 are 6.1% of the budget through 8.3% of the year.
- ✓ A \$250.00 contribution designated for the plaques for the Memorial Wall was received. It is deposited in the Miscellaneous line.
- ✓ Income for Facilities Use is \$337.50, which is 7.5% of budget at 8.3% of the year.
- ✓ The CPS bill in January is \$341.79 (\$139.83 last month) for 2.746 MWh (1.152 MWh last month) of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave a credit of \$108.56 (\$135.77 last month). After charges for additional services, the bill totaled \$288.23 (\$58.80 last month).
 - Expenditure for electricity is 17.0% of the 2024 budget.
 - From the initial connection through January, payment for solar-generated electricity totals \$8,302.10, which averages to \$176.64 per month compared to the amortized capital cost of the panels of \$131.40 per month.
- ✓ Due to the billing schedule, the phone bill was paid twice this month.

- ✓ San Antonio Water System charge in January was \$104.90, which is typical.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine

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

Ministry & Care Report: *reported by Julie Crum*

Ministry and Care met on February 7, 2024; present were Gretchen Haynes, Val Liveoak, Stephen Shearer, and Julie Crum.

1. We plan to encourage Friends giving ministry or offering announcements or afterthoughts to stand, if possible, and project their voices.
2. Val and Gretchen will lead a forum on membership on February 11, and other forum topics are being developed. We're planning to show the feature film "Rustin", about the life of Bayard Rustin, at 12:15 after the pot luck on March 3 in the worship room.
3. The subject of caring for unhoused people continues to be difficult. We offer this statement:
 - Ministry and Care understands that the Ad Hoc committee will be working toward a minute that outlines our policy regarding the unhoused visitors.
4. We intend to discontinue the monthly mid-week evening soup and worship as attendance has been minimal, often Gretchen and Val alone.
5. We discussed concerns for friends.
6. Our draft of the State of the Meeting Report for 2023 is attached.

Next committee meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 1:30 pm.

Moving Through Life Together in the Spirit
Friends Meeting of San Antonio
State of the Meeting, 2023

Last year was a time of challenges and growth for Friends Meeting of San Antonio.

Our co-clerks conducted meeting for worship with attention to business in the Light, well ordered and with time for consideration of each thought. They called for silence when unity was evasive, and most of the time we were open to a way forward. We are grateful for their service to the Meeting.

Our numbers grew slowly but steadily over the year, and we welcomed new attenders, some just learning about Quakerism and some experienced. We celebrated new participants in the children's program, youngsters who enjoyed stories, growing tomatoes and herbs, making soup for our monthly potluck, and decorating birthday cakes for the twice-a-year celebrations.

We remembered the life of Marian Carter, who, with her husband Rusty, was instrumental in the formation of Friends Meeting of San Antonio. We shared our experiences with Marian at a memorial service attended by friends both in person and from afar on Zoom.

Long time friends Joni Thibault and James Mize moved to North Carolina; we miss them dearly and wish them well.

We enjoyed first Sunday potlucks on our porch, Friday morning worship on Zoom, and a resumption of our monthly mid-week soup and Meeting for Worship. A steadfast group gathered on third Saturdays for Meeting for Weeding to keep the meetinghouse and grounds in good order. October found our parking lot full of friends plus a few neighbors and passers-by with lawn chairs, cameras, and protective glasses to enjoy the spectacular partial eclipse.

Friends attended and led forums on a variety of topics including Vocal Ministry, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Angelic Troublemakers, Quaker Foundational Texts, Encountering Transcendence, South Central Yearly Meeting, Visible Mending, issues surrounding reproductive health, and a series on Quaker Basics.

In response to a request by Friends Committee on National Legislation for advice on a policy regarding reproductive rights, we met three times to articulate the sense of the Meeting on this fraught subject. Our statement began, "Friends Meeting of San Antonio is a community which values life, possibility, and growth." We expressed a hope for affordable, accessible, and comprehensive health care for everyone able to give birth, including contraception, pre-and post-natal care, counseling, family and adoption support, and safe and legal abortion care. One friend stood aside.

Although we have experienced a significant increase in participation and attendance, we continue to struggle to marshal the communal energy needed for Meeting to function both spiritually and materially. Friends Meeting of San Antonio is not alone in finding that the work of Meeting falls on a small number of people, a situation exacerbated by the slow recovery in numbers after the pandemic. We continue to work on improving this situation.

An Ad Hoc Task committee is trying different ways to make sure the doors are open on Sunday morning, the potluck tables are set up and taken down, the kitchen is clean after coffee hour, the Zoom screen and laptop are set up and monitored, and so on. Although people are signing up for tasks, we are not yet at a point where there are enough.

Likewise, our committees have suffered from our reduced numbers. During the pandemic we hibernated Peace and Social Concerns, Long-term Planning, and Community Engagement, with the idea of having individuals follow their leadings and bring actions or issues to Meeting for Business. This has not been a workable approach, and we feel the lack of those committees keenly.

Our meetinghouse and grounds became a gathering spot for unhoused people, and it has become difficult to find unity on how to balance the overwhelming desire to care for those in need with limited human and financial resources. Meeting is in the process of finding a way, and we draw on the Light and the Spirit in each of us as we move toward a means of addressing the conflicting needs.

For the year 2023, Friends Meeting of San Antonio came to worship with open hearts and minds, grounded in silence, and listening for the Spirit to speak through us.

DISCUSSION: We now have three members of the ad hoc committee on unhoused people, and Jim offers himself as a resource to the committee. The committee plans to present their work to May Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

A Friend suggested a midweek craft/stitching meeting might draw more interest given the number of Friends who brought products to Stephen's forum on mending. The Friend was encouraged to check the rental schedule and propose a date for a first meeting.

April 8th there will be a major eclipse, although it will not be in totality here at the meetinghouse. Jim will set out plastic chairs and welcomes Friends to visit his house where the eclipse will be in totality. Friends are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and food.

Friends approved the State of the Meeting Report.

Friends accepted the committee's report.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT: *reported by Jim Spickard*

There is no formal report this month. We continue to clean up after visitors, and we are completing tasks as we can with the rest of our time. We had a successful, if cold, workday yesterday.

The issue of the bird visitor was addressed this week, the windows were washed, and the porch motion-detector light is now property set. Clean windows mean that we need to install some anti-bird-crash tape to prevent flight accidents during spring migration.

The toilet in the children's bathroom and the dispose-all in the kitchen appear to be fixed.

DISCUSSION: Friends are encouraged to let the committee know if anything is not working around the property.

Friends accepted the committee's informal report.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: *reported by Stephen Shearer*

Nominating Report - February 2024

Denise, Julie and Stephen met via zoom, on February 12th.

We are able to re-awaken Peace & Social Concerns, only if the Meeting feels it can support the committee's work. Gretchen has asked to be relieved of the newsletter

We are offering a first reading in [blue](#)

Trustee [1 year]			Nominating Committee [3 years]			Ministry, Care and Guidance Committee [3 years]		
Clerk	Carol Redfield	2024	Member	Julie Crum	2026	Clerk	Julie Crum	2024
Secretary	Pat Sweet	2024	Member	Stephen Shearer	2026	Member	Gretchen Haynes	2024
Treasure	Bill Sweet	2024	Member	Denise Wilkinson	2026	Member	Stephen Shearer	2024
Member	Bill Wilkinson	2024				Member	James Goslin	2025
			SCYM [2 years]			Member	Bill Wilkinson	2026
Monthly Meeting [2 year]			Member	Val Liveoak	2024	Religious Education [2 years]		
Clerk	Val Liveoak	2025	Member	Bill Sweet	2024	Clerk	Gretchen Haynes	2024
Rec. Clerk	Rachael Cundey	2024				Member	Roberta Russell	2025
Treasurer	Bill Sweet	2024	FCNL [2 years]			Member	Dale Keairns	2025
Recorder	Jim Spickard	2024	Member	Julia Hitz	2024	Member	Lisa Craig	2025
			Property Committee [2 years]					
Finance Committee [2 years]			Clerk	Jim Spickard	2025	Peace and Social Concerns [2 years]		
Clerk	Pat Sweet	2024	Member	Julia Hitz	2025	Convener	Bill Sweet	2025
Member	Carol Redfield	2024	Member	Von Keairns	2024	Member	Karen Ball	2025
Member	Bill Wilkinson	2024	Resource	Pam Spurgeon	2024	Member	Annabelle Ball	2025
						Member	Donna Dickerson	2025
Property Usage Coordinator			Communications Coordinator			Librarian		
Jim Spickard			Denise Wilkinson			none		
			Web Master			Newsletter		
			Jim Spickard			Gretchen Haynes		

DISCUSSION: A Friend stressed the importance of having a clerk/convener for a committee to function.

Friends expressed concern that we may not be able to support P&SC fully. This lack of support could be disappointing for the committee members. This meeting has a history of rarely uniting around social concerns and more often holds in the light those with individual leadings.

However, Friends also felt there has been a persistent desire for the committee's return, and the nominated members are very excited to begin. Friends also hope to relieve M&C of the responsibility of considering Friends' leadings on social issues as they arise.

A Friend suggested Meeting be straightforward about our capacity to support the reawakened committee from the beginning; the same Friend feels our recent Dream Week event was under-supported and under-advertised.

A Friend explained that the list of P&SC responsibilities in the handbook is more a scope of practice than list of requirements. The committee is not expected to tackle them all at once but rather to start with one area of focus and progress as Friends are able.

Although some of us feel stretched thin already, one Friend foresees the new P&SC will give us more of a presence in the community and attract new attenders.

Friends emphasized the need for all our work to be Spirit-led. Friends may support many causes, but discernment by the committee is necessary to determine whether leadings are truly from the Spirit and therefore appropriate to bring to the wider meeting.

A Friend suggested that the new committee members attend the Peace and Justice forum at SCYM on Zoom Sunday March 24th to get an idea of the minutes other monthly meetings are bringing from their P&SC committees.

Please reach out to Nominating or Gretchen if interested in taking over the newsletter.

A Friend felt it would be helpful to add current Meeting roles to the website. This information is currently available in minutes but would be more easily accessed as a separate page.

Friends thanked the committee.

NAMING COMMITTEE: *reported by Pat Sweet*

The Naming Committee consisting of Val Liveoak, Clerk, Pat Sweet, Clerk of Finance, and Julie Crum, Clerk of M&C, present Bill Wilkinson for his First Reading to serve on the Nominating Committee for the next 3 years.

DISCUSSION: Bill's term would start in May 2024.

Friends thanked the committee.

Meeting Announcements:

- Friends who wish to become more involved are encouraged to reach out to Nominating Committee, the Clerk, or Friends involved in an area of interest.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.