

Property Committee Report

September 2023

The Property Committee met on Sunday, September 10th, after post-Meeting for Worship coffee and conversation. Von Keairns, Jim Spickard, Pam Spurgeon, and Bill Sweet were present for the committee (and 'resources'); Julia Hitz is traveling. We were joined by Dale Keairns and Petra Ramirez, the latter of whom had a concern to share with the committee.

ITEMS THAT NEED OUR ATTENTION:

Our main item of business was to create a list of the items that need our attention over the coming months. (Such lists are always tentative, but they keep us from forgetting needed tasks.) Starting in the Meetinghouse, we walked the property to identify needed items. They are (in the approximate order we raised them):

1. Reacquaint Angel (our custodian) with the signs of termites, so he can keep an eye out for them in the Meetingroom. *(Pam will handle this.)*
2. Arrange for regular HVAC checkups, which we had paused because our system had been recently installed. *(Bill will check with the installer, to see if he wishes to take on the job.)*
 - a. We are also expecting a new thermostat for the Meetinghouse, which will let us use more of the new system's energy-saving features. *(Bill will ask the installer.)*
 - b. It was suggested that we might wish to sign up for the CPS/ERCOT program that allows them to pause our HVAC use on particularly heavy-use days in exchange for lower electricity rates. One Friend noted (only partly tongue in cheek) that perhaps ERCOT would let us join in its multi-million-dollar giveaway to cryptocurrency mining operators for pausing their electricity use during the recent heat wave.
3. Choose memorial plaques for our newly completed Memorial Garden. We have had five recent deaths of long-time members that several members would like to memorialize.* *(Jim will find out what styles and prices are available from Monarch Trophy.)* We will bring our recommendation to Meeting for Business.
4. Arrange for washing the Meetinghouse windows. It was suggested that we wait until after the fall bird migration, so as to avoid bird strikes. It was also suggested that we use a dot-system that repels birds but does not affect our ability to see out. *(Pam is the most knowledgeable about this.)*

* Marian Carter, Mark Hickman, Janet Southwood, Ruth Lofgren, and Doug Balfour.

5. Ask the City (again!) to remove the concrete pipe it dumped on our property some years ago.
6. We noted several items that are appropriate for our 3rd Saturday Work Days
 - a. Paint the metal bench currently sitting on the south side of the property.
 - b. Inventory our paint and other chemicals.
 - c. Move cut brush at various spots around the property to our brush pile.
 - d. Clean up the trash at the back side of the property.
 - e. Remove the plants at the south end of the 'signature wall' that will endanger the wall. (E.g., hackberry but not mesquite.)
7. Decide when to remove trees/branches that our arborist has identified as problematic – especially the one to the north of the community room that has a weak trunk-crossing, which could come down on our roof.
8. Repair the vandalism to the downspout at the north end of the Meetinghouse back porch.
9. Repair the door to the Children's Room, which is increasingly hard to close and lock.
10. Replace the current battery-powered path lighting on the front path. Evening 'guests' often take the tops off to use as flashlights. *(Jim and Bill plan to handle this when the weather cools.)*
11. Investigate costs for repairing/resealing our parking lots. *(Jim will investigate.)*
12. Varnish (or whatever) the wooden gate.
13. Update our emergency phone lists, which are several years out of date. *(Jim will do this.)*
14. Create lists:
 - a. Gather a list of our tax-free accounts with various vendors: Costco, Walmart, Lowe's, Home Depot, _____.
 - b. Set up a schedule for proactively checking toilet and cleaning supplies, so we do not run out.
 - c. Set up a schedule for checking the fire extinguishers. *(Jim added this while typing report.)*

PETRA'S CONCERN

Petra brought a concern about the presence of an aggressive homeless man (not D_____) who often hangs out at our property. She found him threatening, and others who have met him

(e.g., Jim) have similarly noted his aggressiveness. She noted that we have a lot of children crossing the property, and she worries for their safety.

This raised a wider concern that we have regained our (unwanted) reputation as a place where ‘anything goes’ – a reputation that we lost a few years ago. One Friend pointed out that reputations cycle.

Those present acknowledged this issue’s importance, and we decided to revisit it at an upcoming meeting. Friends mentioned having ideas for ways to remain inviting to those who respect the property and other people while uninviting those who do not.

-- Jim Spickard, Clerk