

**Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

Minutes

18 Fourth Month 2021

Meeting was held online via Zoom

Opening worship

Meeting Clerk began the gathering with a reading:

And so, I find it well to come
For deeper rest to this still room
For here the habit of the soul
Feels less the outer world's control,
The strength of mutual purpose pleads
More earnestly our common needs,
And from the silence multiplied
By these still forms on either side,
The world that time and sense have known
Falls off and leaves us God alone.

– John Greenleaf Whittier

Clerks

Lisa Erazmus Meeting Clerk.
Cynde Mercer Recording Clerk.

Attendees

Marjorie Arnaldi
Jan Dahm
Miki Epperson
Lisa Erazmus
Chris Hugues

Barbara Kazanis
Cynde Mercer
Karen Putney
Louis Putney
Nancy Triscritti

Nil Wilkins
Rose Yerrakadu
Roy Yerrakadu
Cecilia Yocum

Business

Minutes of Third Month were approved as presented.

Chris Hugues presented the Treasurer's report. Our income was slightly below our spending last month. Our operating income variance is about -\$3,900 this year. The meeting accepts the treasurer's report.

The Treasurer presented the proposed 2021-2022 budget for first reading. Annual donations to outside groups are greatly reduced. It is projected that maintenance expenses will increase. Income is budgeted to be much less than our spending.

Committee Reports

Archives – No report.

Communications – No report.

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First Day School – No report.

Hospitality and Housekeeping – No report.

Library – No report.

Membership Recorder – No report.

Ministry and Counsel – No report.

Naming – No report.

Nominating – No report.

Peace and Social Concerns – Cecilia Yocum requested that our meeting consider rejoining and participating in HOPE (Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality). Jan and Cece will work on discerning their stance on LGBT issues.

Property – Chris Hugues reported that the lift station stopped working due to activation of a GFCI switch. One of our benches was removed from the meeting space due to termites. The March concert was a success.

New Business

Lisa Erazmus asked that Friends consider a minute of support for Jan Dahm's letter to the editor published in the *Tampa Bay Times* on April 17, 2021. Meeting approves.

Minute 1, Fourth Month 2021

Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends affirms and supports the witness of Jan Dahm in her letter to the editor published by the Tampa Bay Times regarding the anti-trans legislation recently passed in the Florida House. Tampa Monthly Meeting encourages all Friends and other organizations to support this minute, develop their own statement, and disseminate it widely especially among all Florida legislators.

SEYM issued a statement (Appendix A) on the arrest of a member, Javier del Sol, for sexual abuse of a child about sixteen years ago in his home community of Lake Worth, Florida. Cecilia Yocum spoke about SEYM's efforts to reach out to anyone in the yearly meeting that may have been affected and provide support for them. Friends approved the SEYM statement and the posting of a link to the statement on TampaFriends.org.

Lisa Erazmus brought up the issue of when we may want to return to meeting in person and how we can continue to offer virtual meeting access to those unable to attend. Chris Hugues is researching equipment options.

Milestones

None.

Calendar

See TampaFriends.org

Closing worship

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Appendix A

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Statement on Arrest of Javier del Sol

Please be aware: There is information below related to child sexual abuse that may be triggering for some people.

The community of Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has received the news that one of our members, Javier del Sol, has been arrested for sexual abuse of a child about sixteen years ago in his home community of Lake Worth, Florida.

Child sexual abuse is an act of violence, abuse of power, and violation of trust that is completely contrary to Quaker values and beliefs. We offer our respect and gratitude for the courage that it took the survivor of abuse to bring her experience to light.

Javier del Sol was an active volunteer with SEYM youth programs for several years, and interacted with both adults and children at our events. While we are not aware of abuse occurring at any SEYM event, we are reaching out as broadly as possible to extend our support to anyone who may have witnessed or experienced harmful, abusive, or confusing behavior within our community, to survivors of sexual violence who may be especially impacted by this news, and to any other current or former participants in Southeastern Yearly Meeting events who might need particular support and care at this time.

If you have experienced abuse, we stand ready to believe and support you. You are also welcome to seek support elsewhere. Some resources for survivors of sexual violence include:

National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-HOPE (4673) Live chat: <https://hotline.rainn.org/online>

Into Account (supports survivors of abuse in faith communities) <https://intoaccount.org/reporting-form/>

If you wish to contact law enforcement directly with information about abuse committed by Javier del Sol, you can do that by phone or online:

Crime Stoppers 1-800-458-TIPS <https://www.crimestopperspb.com>

The following SEYM members are available to anyone who would like someone to talk to:

Jan Dahm
JanDahm.SEYM@gmail.com
(321) 701-4583 she/they

Kody Hersh
KodyHersh.SEYM@gmail.com (407) 476-6214 (text or call) he/him or they/them

Eduardo Diaz*
EduardoDiaz.SEYM@gmail.com
(305) 209-7437 he/him, e l *Spanish/English bilingual. Licensed psychologist: required to report threats of harm to self or others.

Richelle Ogle
RichelleOgle.SEYM@gmail.com
(863) 535-6284 she/her

These Friends will provide emotional and spiritual support, but not professional counseling. Anything you share with them will be kept in confidence, unless it involves the abuse of a child *currently* under the age of 18, which they may be legally required to report.

If you have feedback, questions, or concerns about SEYM's response to this situation, you are welcome to contact the clerk of the response committee, Kody Hersh (Kody.Hersh@gmail.com; 407-476-6214) or the yearly meeting clerk, Bill Carlie (ymclerk@seymquakers.org, 407-840-9862).