



Board Minutes April 17, 2025

Present: Eric Andrews, Tyler Hoff, Joan Malin, Nikki Mosgrove, Lisa Ogletree Conrad Person, Jim Whitely, Susan Hoskins (ED). Regrets: Beth Hudson-Keller, Emily Sandusky

The meeting began with a moment of silence.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Susan shared highlights from the **Executive Director's report**. She noted that the Sarah Ralston fund has a \$5 M operating budget limit for grantees and asked if this would be useful for FFA. Discussion included noting that some of our grantees collect rent payments from residents; that this limit might be applied just to non-Quaker organizations; it could keep focus on small, local, community based; where to set limit. Can say "priority given to ..." and monitor over the coming year. Susan will add to the website.

It was agreed not to sign onto the "Meeting the Moment" document from Trust Based Philanthropy as it seemed to apply to larger organizations and commit to actions we are not prepared to do.

Susan gave an update on the FSA-MHS merger. There are major differences to resolve such as decision making process, membership fees... Leadership will be different. The leadership program will continue but may not focus on Quaker values.

Lisa reported that the **Governance Committee** has not met but will meet after two upcoming interviews with board candidates (possible third). Lisa has called board members, reviewed the skills. At that meeting they will prepare for the June 17 annual meeting and grantee meeting (combined virtual). Nominations for officers for 2025-6 will be: Beth-President, Lisa-VP, Eric Treasurer, Conrad-Secretary, Tyler-Asst Treasurer.

Susan suggested the grantee portion focus on what the landscape looks like from their vantage point (impact of federal funding uncertainty), which was approved. She will invite 3-4 presenters.

Eric reported that the **Finance Committee** had not met. The market uncertainty has had less impact than feared but will have an impact on what is available to grant this year. The advice is to sit tight. It is anticipated that we will receive more urgent requests in the Fall, and ok to grant less than the target this cycle, although grant makers are being urged to exceed 5%.

There was discussion on the **Gift Acceptance Policy**, especially on accepting real estate gifts. It was APPROVED with a change from "FFA does not accept" to "FFA does not seek" gifts of real estate... Susan will check whether this works for Friends Fiduciary and work on the website.

GRANTS

- **Friends Village, The Hickman and Friends Home in Kennett** were each approved for \$15,000 general operating support to support residents.

- **FSA** was approved for \$25,000 for the Leadership and Internship programs. Jane is continuing to lead the Leadership program as a consultant with Nancy Aronson.
- **Friends House Retirement Community** was approved \$30,000 to develop a Path to Citizenship, helping staff toward citizenship with volunteer residents and possible collaboration with local existing programs. Additional funding might be considered in the Fall if it goes well.
- **Pendle Hill** was approved for \$40,000 to continue developing virtual and blended programs to support the spiritual growth of aging adults. The grant was increased to support staff/intern to continue the work begun by the QVS fellow this year. Susan noted that QVS will be undergoing leadership transition this year and that it has not realized FFA's objective to introduce young leaders to careers in aging services, so it seems prudent to help Pendle Hill hire staff directly.
- **Ujima** was approved for \$25,000 to continue the PASHI program which will be moving to a new home at Unity Friends Meeting.
- **Rise** was approved for \$10,000 to develop a senior food pantry which will have senior hours and additional senior items.
- **Lutheran Settlement House** was approved for \$25,000 to continue Aging with Options, adapting the Enhance Wellness program started last year for this population.
- **Jewish Relief Agency** was approved for \$10,000 to support food distribution in Philadelphia for seniors.
- **NJAAW** was approved for \$10,000 to re-establish the NJ Senior Center Directors Association. It may be a valuable resource and advocacy group but reach and leadership remain unclear.
- **Mercy Care of the Adirondacks** was approved for \$10,000 (although outside usual geographic area) for the Friendship Care program to engage volunteers to combat senior isolation and loneliness in this rural area.
- A collaboration of **JFSC Philadelphia** and **Abramson Senior Care** to provide caregiver services was denied. JFCS was respected for the hoarding program funded in earlier years, but questions were raised about Abramson's need for funds with a new hefty endowment. Contrary to usual encouragement of collaboration, JFCS might do better alone.
- **Starve Poverty** was denied due to strange messaging and lack of transparency about operations on the website and Guidestar.
- **Faith Journey of Elders** (films of older Friends in Farmington-Scipio Region NY), while appreciating the intent, was denied as questions were raised about audience, length, distribution, and need for a paid editor, as some had seen good short videos on Quakerspeak and in their meetings. A guidebook for meetings might be useful.
- **The total was \$230,000.** Susan reported that Witness to Innocence, Kindersmile and Center in the Park were asked to take a sabbatical year before writing proposals. She noted that it is hard to separate from partners yet these three seem well established now.

The Board reflected on mid-year conversations. There was positive reflection by those who attended the Quaker Convening on Aging about how well that has connected yearly meetings and supported collaboration. After discussion on best nights for meetings, Lisa requested that you send her your "can't do" nights.

The meeting ended with a moment of silence.

Respectfully submitted, Susan W. Hoskins Executive Director