

St. James' Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

October 19, 2021

Present: Drew Beck, Phil Tatem, Chuck Rogers, Marc Wezner, Maeve Vogan, Marilyn Hastings, Patty Earhart, Fr. Mike, Peggy Spinozzi, Sarah Deacle, Iva Ferrell

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7:30

Fr. Mike announced that Ned Travis will be stepping down from the Vestry and several prospective people are in mind for replacement of the seat.

He also announced that the November meeting will also be in-person, with December, January and February resuming on Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. There was 1 e-vote last month regarding lawn care which passed with 2 abstentions
2. Minutes from the August Vestry Meeting were reviewed and approved with the correction of Lisa Reinhart's job title to Director of Communication and Parish Operations.
3. Signage and Security update- after discussion it was decided to post a sign in the playground to discourage neighborhood kids from causing damage. No specific decision made on what to do for Outreach House problem with dumping.
4. Globus Reception- no date has yet been set, Patty will make calls to set one up, determine if weeknight or weekend day is best. The plan is for OH tour then out for a meal.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Alatha V. Sherrod Memorial Balcony- We need to have architectural drawings done; the design must be congruent with the style of the church. GKO has offered to do bid specifications, engineering and project management for a set price; they are well-known to us as trustworthy.
2. New Parking Lot- in addition to new lot, new lighting will be installed at the same time.
3. Additional Landscaping Work- Marc reported that Green Scene Landscaping suggested waiting until we have a cohesive plan for the grounds rather than a piecemeal approach. We will look at getting a landscape architect/planner to look at our needs.
4. Scout Food Drive- Patty reported that parish support is needed for sorting in Platt's Hall on the Saturday morning of the food drive. Masks required. Lisa has approved use of the room.
5. Outreach House Mission- Fr. Mike led discussion about "mission creep" after speaking with Barbara Bateman and Maggie Brownlee about housewares which take up a lot of room and sorting time. They do not meet our mission of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. We will discuss with Carole about reducing our focus to just food and clothing in the future. Additionally, we will be returning to the point system and culling the lists to limit to clients from Collegeville and Lower Providence.
6. Fr. Mike's Sabbatical will be May 29, 2022 through August 21, 2022. He has filled the dates with supply priests: John Daniels will fill in the first 4 weeks, Dr Cynthia Krommes and Rev Linda Kerr will substitute for the remaining weeks.

7. The gift card for Deacon Lou still needs to be given to him. Fr Mike will decide when to do this
8. Bill announced that St James no longer is a member of the Collegeville Chamber of Commerce because it is not currently active but the Lower Providence business Council is worth joining for a cost of \$100. Motion was made and passed to pay to join this group. They are interested in partnering for Dr. King's Day of Service in January.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

1. Building and Grounds-Marc and Maeve presented a written priority list of needed projects for the next several years. For some of the large projects, such as restoration of the Glebe House, a capital campaign will be necessary in 2023.
2. They noted that cemetery projects include wall repair and attention to headstones. Tree and stump removal is also needed A motion was made and passed to accept bids to get the graveyard work done. There is money already designated for cemetery upkeep.
3. Communications- no report
4. Outreach House- report from Carole was reviewed. Scale is now being used to weigh all incoming food donations. Patty Packs has ended due to a change in school rules but we will look at non-public schools and other places to share food.
Food drives are coming up this Fall.
Montco Strong has awarded us a \$10K grant to be spent at Driscoll Foods by mid-November and we are still waiting for results of a \$27K grant.
The Mitten tree will be limited to Collegeville/LP clients after rolls are purged.
Olce Pizza fundraiser was very successful
5. Education- No report
6. Member Ministry- Sarah said that they would like to restart New Member Breakfasts, will check with Lisa for dates. A suggestion was made to have an Open House at the OH to attract new families in the area.
7. Parish Life- Iva asked the group to think about what type of gatherings we could do that would be possible in the current pandemic. She will be doing a survey of the congregation.
8. Rector's Report- Fr. Mike noted that attendance is up but plate offerings are down likely because we are not able to pass the plate. He will make a reminder that the plate is on the organ and piano.
9. Finance and Budget- Phil pointed out several items of interest in Expenditures

Bishop Gutierrez is coming this Sunday, October 24th. There will be a reception after the 10:00 service then a meeting with the Vestry after the reception.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Schiavo Spinozzi

