

Vestry Minutes, September 10, 2017, 12:30 pm

Present:

Barbara Brecht, Senior Warden
Kieran Cannistra
Karen Dollar, Treasurer
LeRoy Goertz
Rachel Larsen
Tracy LeBlanc, Deacon
Madeline Moore
Derek Moyer
Maddy Ouye
Crystal Parker
Anne Parks
Kerlin Richter, Rector

Absent:

Gary Allen, Junior Warden
Randy Ericson
Paul Strand

Opening

- Barbara opened the meeting in prayer at 12:34 pm.

August, 2017 minutes and consent agenda

- Madeline moved to accept the 13 August, 2017 minutes and LeRoy seconded, as long as we note that not *all* groaned at his pun; he did not groan, Crystal laughed, and Anne actually rolled her eyes without groaning. Kieran will make these changes to the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- Remaining items from 16 July minutes:
 - Rachel volunteered to investigate a photo directory. She will give an update during a future meeting.
- Madeline moved to accept the September,, 2017 officer reports and LeRoy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Deacon update [Kerlin]

- Kerlin introduced Tracy LeBlanc, our new Deacon.

Auction update [Jeanne]

- Auction is coming up on Friday, 29 September. Vestry members should make a point of being there. There will be childcare.
- Donations are coming along; we're in a "pretty good space." With Barbara's permission, we bought an auction package, so things should go smoothly, and we'll have reporting capabilities to manage follow up.

- We've had good responses to the signup parties; we could stand to have 2 or 3 more parties.
- Last year's paddle raise had both a very generous match, and a clear objective (the roof). We need a similar focus for this year's paddle raise. Madeline suggested we continue to raise money toward the roof. Karen, while agreeing, reminded us that we are still not exactly flush and that operating expenses still run very close to the wire (and sometimes over). Barbara noted that operating expenses are a very tough sell for a paddle raise. Kerlin notes that she has a lot of work planned for Stewardship this fall.
- There will be a printed catalog of auction items.
- Layout has been tweaked so it's easier to move around the room and bid. (There will still be seating, just no big round tables, as they take up a lot of space.)
- Food is still somewhat in flux. (Heavy appetizers and drinks are planned.) Youth will be serving. Food leader is still needed; Kieran suggested Ben Irwin or Capers Ogletree.
- Kieran moved that the paddle raise benefit the roof fund. Maddy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial update [Karen]

- Money is starting to feel tight.
- We do not yet have a pre-budget for next year. Derek noted that the last two years we waited until the Stewardship program was over until we created the pre-budget. Madeline suggested that a small group get together with Karen and pencil out a pre-budget before the next Vestry meeting. Barbara, Crystal, Madeline, Kerlin and Karen will meet before the next Vestry meeting (8 October) and sketch out an initial budget.

Strategic Planning Committee update [Madeline and Derek]

- Madeline reported that things are humming along. We've had three of the four planned Parish meetings, and we're getting great responses from people.
- Next up: Focus groups, the point of which is that we ensure we've turned over every stone and anyone who wants to be involved can be. So far, focus groups include: lay leadership, newcomers, neighbors, staff and Vestry. Sarah Haverly is formulating questions for these groups.
- Vestry will meet at 11:30 am on 8 October in the Grace Room, have lunch (Barbara will provide lunch) and have our focus meeting then. Our normal Vestry meeting will take place at 12:30.

Architect and roof update [Barbara and Derek]

- We have a number of proposals, all of which are expensive.
- Barbara hoped that we could identify an architect and still use Chris Brown as our contractor for the roof. Chris suggested we talk with an architect with whom he normally works and who has worked on churches for decades. Barbara and Kerlin met with him and were impressed with his thoughtfulness and familiarity with the needs of churches. Ray suggested we hire an engineer, as well as an architect. Ray submitted a proposal that is well beyond our means.
- Barbara had hoped that we could identify an architect and sign before 15 October; that does not look possible, at this point.
- Crystal will talk with Barbara about stopgap solutions to get the cupola through the rainy season.
- A neighbor turned Barbara on to Tesla's work on solar roofing, and their plans to install roofs for free in target markets as examples of their feasibility. Bob the Neighbor is investigating further;

Derek will follow up and report back to us. [Update: Tesla is no longer running this program; it is not an option for us.]

- We agree to hold off on any further action until we know more about what Crystal discovers on the roof, what we learn about Tesla and identify an architect.

East garden gate update [Barbara]

- The solution on which we voted last month has turned out to not be a solution at all. Things have continued to devolve in the garden; syringes are found there regularly, as well as other awful stuff.
- Barbara proposes we authorize an additional \$300 (above what we authorized last month) to put a gate in place that will keep people out, when locked. The garden will be open during the day and locked at night. Per Madeline, we do not need to vote to approve this amount. Crystal expects the total cost of the gate to be roughly \$550.
- We discussed the special fund for grounds and landscaping, and what can and cannot be paid for from that fund.
- One of the grounds volunteers is concerned about the health of the person who has been camping in the garden, and is working with a friend of hers who is a nurse.
- Barbara is getting a sharps container so we can properly dispose of needles found on church grounds.
- Kieran and Karen will find out what we do and do not need to vote on, with regard to special funds.

Safety issues [Kerlin and Barbara]

- Refer to Gary's Junior Warden report for details on an incident in which a person entered the building at 7:30 on a Saturday morning and caused a fair amount of costly damage, in addition to some vandalism. In addition, someone chose to work on a boat in the parking lot and got into an altercation (while intoxicated) with neighbors and then with Kerlin.
- Our ongoing policy of hoping for the best is no longer working for us, as a security strategy. Kerlin is looking into a trespass agreement, which will give police the authority to invite people to leave the grounds without a representative from St. David's to engage in any way. Such a policy is working well at St. Michael's. (Without the agreement, police can enter the property only if they suspect a crime is being committed or if they have a warrant.)
- Options discussed include: Putting a trespass agreement in place, partnering with local neighborhood associations for safety patrols, forming a contract with a towing company and posting signs.
- Crystal moved to file the trespass agreement with the local police bureau and that we review the agreement every six months. LeRoy seconded. Derek voiced his concern with the Portland Police Bureau's history of negative interactions with undocumented people, people of color, mentally ill citizens and other vulnerable populations, that parishioners are voicing their commitment to causes related to the support of these populations, and that signage could negatively impact our ability to function as the kind of church we want to be. Kerlin noted that St. Michael's serves some of these people, and they have not found that signage negatively impacts their work. We discussed the need to balance our commitment to marginalized populations with the need for security. The motion passed unanimously.
- Kieran suggested that we speak with Joshua Kingsley about the work that he did with the local police, politicians and neighbors to come up with a workable solution that helped reduce some of the undesirable behaviors in a specific neighborhood in Portland.

- Derek suggested a gate for the parking lot, rather than a chain. Crystal said she'd ask the company installing the gate to give a ballpark estimate on a gate for the parking lot.
- We discussed having Doug Keiper and Laurie Baird attend Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood Association meetings as a representative of St. David of Wales.
- Kieran will send copies to Barbara and Kerlin of the letter the Mennonite Church shared with neighbors about visitors parking in their lot. [**UPDATE:** Kieran can't find the letter.]

Rector's report, Ministry updates and Mission and Vision [Kerlin]

- There were 20 kids in Godly Play this morning. There were 124 people at church, today. The need for two services is starting to be quite real.
- 12 November, the second Sunday in November, is a good time to launch a second service. There are a number of groups that Kerlin needs to connect with before this becomes official, but this is the date she's targeting to add a second service. She asks that the Vestry help shape this as a positive announcement and drive excitement in the parish community.
- Sarah, a junior at Warner Pacific with audio and video experience, met with Kerlin about creating a video for our website.
- The Bishop is scheduled to visit 17 December.
- Kerlin is planning for fall Stewardship activities.

Praying the directory [Barbara]

- We're sticking with the same breakdown, this month. Barbara suggests we contact people we're praying for who haven't been to church in a while. As a reminder, the breakdown is (still):
 - As: Gary
 - Bs: Kieran
 - Cs: Derek
 - D-G: Maddy
 - H-I: Randy
 - J-L: Barbara
 - Ma-Mc: Paul
 - Md-Mz: Madeline
 - O-R: Anne
 - S: Rachel
 - T-Z: LeRoy

Adjournment

- Crystal closed us in prayer. We adjourned at 2:35 pm. Our next meeting is Sunday, 8 October at 11:30 am for a meeting with the Strategic Committee and 12:30 pm for the regularly-scheduled Vestry meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kieran Cannistra, vestry clerk