

Vestry Minutes, October 8, 2017, 11:45 am

Present:

Gary Allen, Junior Warden
Barbara Brecht, Senior Warden
Kieran Cannistra
Karen Dollar, Treasurer
LeRoy Goertz
Rachel Larsen
Madeline Moore
Derek Moyer
Crystal Parker
Anne Parks
Kerlin Richter, Rector
Paul Strand

Absent:

Randy Ericson
Tracy LeBlanc, Deacon
Maddy Ouye

Opening

- Barbara opened the meeting in prayer at 11:55 am.

Approval of September minutes

- LeRoy moved to accept the 10 September, 2017 minutes and Derek seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Remaining items from 10 September minutes:
 - Crystal will talk with Barbara about stopgap solutions to get the cupola through the rainy season.
 - Kieran and Karen will find out what we do and do not need to vote on, with regard to special funds. **UPDATE:** Process and guidelines do not yet exist. Barbara and Karen are working to establish criteria for each existing fund. Vestry will vote on these criteria.
 - Crystal said she'd ask the company installing the gate to give a ballpark estimate on a gate for the parking lot.
- Remaining items from 16 July minutes:
 - Rachel volunteered to investigate a photo directory. She will give an update during a future meeting.
- Remaining items from earlier minutes:
 - Kieran to investigate giving by text. She will give an update during a future meeting.

Approval receipt of Reports

- Kieran moved to accept the October, 2017 officer reports and Derek seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Auction update [Jeanne]

- \$41-42k for the entire event, with \$30k marked for the roof. (This includes the \$15k match.) \$11-12k from the live and silent auction will go to operating expenses.
- Some highlights and improvements:
 - The silent auction is a lot of work and doesn't result in a ton of revenue. This year, it was roughly \$3k. We need a volunteer to handle this (rather than Erin) and who can focus on
 - We made \$1000 on the raffle; big thanks to Karen and Randy for the donation. (Note that they also had an additional item in the live auction!)
 - We raised nearly \$2k for the sign-up parties, with an opportunity to make more. (Kerlin and Jeanne plan to open them up for more signups.)
 - We raised \$3k from the live auction. (Last year, we raised \$4k, but had 11 items.)
- People also had fun!

Financial update information: YTD 2017, including auction income [Karen]

- It's been a relief to bounce back from slower months.

Initial budget discussion [Karen and Barbara]

- The aspiration of the proposed budget is to increase spending on human resources to accommodate our growing parish. The aim is to increase Erin's hours from 19hrs/wk to 30 hrs/wk, and to increase services for children. Building maintenance was increased from 9K to 15K.
- Kieran asked about lowered office expenses and utilities and such; Karen noted that Kerlin and Erin are extremely frugal with office expenses. Also, the utility budget numbers are updated to reflect actual costs.
- Barbara proposed upping nursery care up to \$10k (from \$6,240), since we'll be moving to two services and are offering paid childcare at more events.
- Jessie has been doing two jobs: Youth Ministry Coordinator and Children's Ministry Coordinator. There really needs to be two people doing these two distinct jobs.
- The non-event raised \$6.5k, this year. We made no phone calls; this is only with a mailing. There were twenty donors, and \$1k came from a Bishop outside the parish. Kieran thinks this makes us complete jerks; we can do better. Barbara urged the Vestry to give more of our time to this event by making phone calls and encouraging people to donate.
- Derek reminded us that, in past years, we've discussed NOT using fundraising events to cover operational budget. The proposed budget still relies on fundraising events to get us through the year; Derek recommended we work to get parishioners to increase their pledges. Barbara proposed bumping pledge budget up to \$192k. We need to zero out the fundraising budget, because this is not money we can count on, and that we should not rely on for operating expenses. Crystal noted that we MUST make this clear during stewardship conversations.
- Kerlin suggested we take the least sexy line items in the budget and dedicate non-event funds to them. (And use those items to promote the non-event. "Don't come and support our copier funds.")
- There's some concern that \$55k is too aspirational for building use fees. Karen assured us that she's confident we can do it. Holding at \$55k for next year seems both possible and prudent.
- Kieran suggested we add money to the budget for the spring retreat. Madeline suggested \$2k, so we can cover scholarships and any salaries that need augmenting for the weekend.

- Derek asked if we should share the budget during stewardship discussions. Kerlin and Barbara advised against this, since we're not asking people to pledge against a number, but to pledge what they're able to give.
- Madeline suggested we wait until December to approve the budget, since we'll know more at that time what we're looking at, in terms of pledges.

Update on fence and gate to East Garden [Crystal and Gary]

- Big thanks for Crystal for getting the garden gate installed QUICKLY.

Stewardship planning [Kerlin]

- Kerlin's friend has a lot of good resources that will help with stewardship. She has read that one of the best ways to increase pledges is to have two people meet with a single donor in person. That feels like too much, but the second best way is to write a personal letter to a donor and then follow up with a phone call. She will be doing this!
- She would like to have conversations about tithing, starting with the Vestry.
- Karen suggested we have people speak during Sunday service immediately after the Homily, rather than during announcements. People simply pay attention more when the talks DON'T happen during announcements.
- Kerlin wants Consecration Sunday to be 5 November, 2017 (All Saints Sunday), because this is that last Sunday we'll have a single service.
- Crystal brought up the possible negative associations with the word, "tithing." Barbara suggested, "proportional giving."
- Kieran asked that we include in our conversations what we're doing to help the broader community (outside the church, specifically).

Adjournment

- Barbara closed us in prayer. We adjourned at 12:59 pm. Our next meeting is Sunday, 12 November at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kieran Cannistra, vestry clerk