

Christ Church Cathedral Vestry Minutes
July 22, 2024
Diocesan House
6:15 p.m.

Members Present:

Billy Ballard, Susan Barge, Sam Bessey, Ellie Gardner (via Zoom), Anna Grimes, Hal Johnson (Sr. Warden), Donald McKenzie (via Zoom), David Morton, David Paine, Sarah Tally, Jay Wellons, John Whitaker (Jr. Warden), Tyler Yarbrow

Members Absent:

Christina Isbell, Susie Ries

Clergy Present:

Vicki Burgess, Anna Russell Friedman, Mary McCarthy, Madeleine Rebouche, Richard Wineland

Others Present:

Ellen Wright (Clerk), Mark McQueen

Opening Prayer

Richard opened the meeting with a prayer.

Meditation

Susan Barge gave the meditation, with a song!

Approval of April Minutes

Approved, with two corrections. (Bessey, Morton; one abstention)

Report from Finance Committee

Mark McQueen gave the Finance reports, which were included as part of the packet. He reviewed the Income and Expense statements and reported on the parking income, which is a bit up and down, but bringing in what was advertised. Cash from the capital campaign stands at about \$99K, but the first two construction loan payments are due in July. We have almost \$8M in CDs. Opportunity fund is sufficient to fund St. Anselm's and Bishop Mostert thru the end of the year.

Balance Sheet (Bessey, Ballard) and Income and Expense statement (Bessey, Tally) were both approved, as presented.

HVAC is not yet repaired. Awaiting a part.

Pledges coming in nicely in past few months.

First draws are due in July for the construction. Dale and Steve Lasley are making a spreadsheet for August meeting, which will show all construction costs and cash flow thereto.

Security Update

Donald and David Morton reported on the ad hoc security committee's work. (As a reminder, the committee was convened by Vicki, in response to parishioners' concerns). They commended Virginia Vagt and Richard Wineland for input and research.

Recommendations:

Security assessment by outside consultant (Last one was done in 2018, and reported in April, 2019 to vestry; those recommendations were implemented.) They have looked at DHS and Cybersecurity Agency recommendations, and the assessment is #1 priority (takes about 2 weeks). It will likely have budget implications, e.g. a staff position for security (not Mark). They anticipate a need for in person presence during Sunday services and other events, e.g. youth and cultural events. They also believe there will be a need for staff training (ID, de-escalation, etc.), including ushers/greeters/guides. Active shooter training for the staff was 15 months ago.

Vicki referred them to the Church Safety and Security Organization of Middle TN (Michael Mann Security,) which is in place at other churches. David is in touch with 3 nearby churches to find out how they approach the issue; he reported on First Baptist (who seems to have a good approach, per Richard), St. George's, and West End Methodist conversations. There is a fine line between being welcoming but safe. Hoping for some concrete plan by September. Our insurance agent provides Episcopal Safety Program (liability.)

Basic principles of most plans: learn weaknesses, identify shady situations, know how to act. Local security network in place at other churches.

An assessment from Michael Mann costs \$2K.

Vicki will meet with a parishioner who does crisis intervention.

A discussion about security of the new building vis a vis children ensued and centered on cameras and more door locks.

Report from the Isaac Project

Mary Beth Stamps submitted a written report, which is included in the packet. To begin her report, she first asked for questions. Churches who have done this sort of work have iterated that it is never over. The committee is prepared to continue as long as seems helpful. Only one other church in our diocese (St. Paul's Franklin) has undertaken a similar project, and in the middle of the country, particularly the South, this form of self-examination is not common. Mary Beth is invested in making a smooth transition to phase 3 and will act as a consultant. The recent email survey was designed to gauge where the parish is, with regard to the Isaac Project. She believes we will likely need to do another one. Dec. 5 plans for a service of repentance are just beginning. Vicki, Brad Daugherty, Ed Smith, Rick Britton, Madeleine Rebouche, Dan Shafer, Chris Isbell, and Mary Beth are facilitators. Stephanie Spellers will weigh in, as will Rick Britton, who helped out at St. Paul's Franklin. Some questions followed re: St. Paul's continuing work. Some community work is still ongoing. Their historical committee is still in place. They have a lovely brochure. Mary Beth offered to come back in 6-8 weeks to give another follow up. Phase 2 also asked for an artifact to be created; she will ask Sewanee about their website.

Report from the Search Committee

Sarah Tally reported. Interviews have begun, and the last one will be Wednesday. There is no current plan to visit any other parishes, as it is not an efficient use of resources, although they would go if they thought it was necessary for making a decision. They expect to make a call by Advent 1.

Interim Rector's Report

Matthew Kinney put together a grant for churches to apply to DHS for security upgrades, i.e. \$16K for a security staff position. Steve Carey is a parishioner with grant writing experience. Roger has stepped away from liturgical duty. He will soon meet with Bishop Bauerschmidt to discuss his future. A youth minister was hired and isn't coming, because his current employer made him an offer he couldn't refuse. Trone and the committee will pick up again and re-start. Vicki will send the adult forum schedule for the fall. We have 3 candidates for assistant organist. We expect Lissa's letter of farewell soon. Mary McCarthy will come on board as a paid pastoral care administrator Aug. 1.

Senior Warden's Report

Hal reminded us that Safe Church training is necessary for everyone. There are 9 modules that can be done in stages. Anna Russell is in charge of sending invites, so email her if you need to sign up. John Whitaker presented a resolution (Tally, Bessey) re: dispensation of Larry Lancaster's property. It was unanimously adopted and is made part of these minutes.

Adjournment

7:56 p.m. by Hal.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Wright, Clerk

OUR NEXT VESTRY MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, AUGUST 26 at Diocesan House, 3700 Woodmont Blvd. Anna Grimes will provide dinner, and Jay Wellons the meditation.