

Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting

September 18, 2019 96 Ballston Avenue, Saratoga Springs

Attendance: Dean Marshall J. Vang, Interim Rector
Darren Miller, Senior Warden
Kate Berheide, Junior Warden
John Van der Veer, Treasurer
Sarah Manny, Assistant Treasurer
Marcia MacDonald
Steven Rucker
Pam Houde
Field Horne
Ann Bullock, Clerk

Absent John Huppuch and Boomer

Opening

The regular meeting of the Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm on September 18, 2019, at the offices of the Church at 96 Ballston Avenue, by Fr. Vang.

Devotions:

S. Rucker offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of August 21, 2019, were unanimously approved as corrected with gratitude to F. Horne for stepping in on such short notice. (S. Manny, movant; D. Miller, second; A Bullock abstains)

Interim Rector's Report:

Vestry members: There are no new interested members. F. Horne suggests there might be some overlap between Mercy House and Vestry; Darren will ask auditor if the Mercy House by-laws can be amended to allow some overlap in membership. Discussion of possible candidates to approach. Dean Vang may appoint a nominating committee of two if we are unable to find two more.

Brass restoration: Garden Party receipts net \$6,545; estimates for brass repair presented. Total is \$5,290—leaving a balance of \$1,255. Estimate does not cover the brass lantern or the communion rail. The lantern may just need to be professionally polished. (motion to accept: K. Berheide; second, F. Horne; motion withdrawn) Discussion of alternative restorer. Want work done by Advent.

Motion to approve the restoration up to the amount of estimate presented (movant: K Berheide; second, Field Horne; unanimously passed) Additional donations for this work would be gratefully accepted.

First Holy Communion: Four boys enrolled: Sunday, Nov 3 will be First Communion and Baptism.

House of Bishops' Meeting presently on-going: Discussion of Bp. Love, inter alia.

Churchwarden's Report:

Senior Warden: D. Miller

Vestry reports to Parish: tentatively Sept 29; updates on brass; door; Mercy House.

Parish meetings proposed to discuss design of Parish House including presentation by architect;

Propose autumn potluck dinner to accompany this presentation, tentatively late October. D.

Miller to contact architect and work with P. Houde to arrange dinner, perhaps following Tuesday service.

Mercy House update: sent to neighbors and city officials including Planning Board submission; meetings with partners and DSS have generally gone well. Wellspring has withdrawn from the project (affects just two apartments). Discussion of concerns with the project and its possible delays, community support. Consideration of how to address these concerns respectfully within the parish and the community. Repeat importance of dinner to discuss Parish construction issues. "Ask the Vestry" meetings following services suggested. Suggestion that Building Committee and Mercy House meet with the Vestry to consider the issues and community concerns at a special meeting with the two boards.

First Baptist Church, in conjunction with S. Manny: A former parishioner is being released in January, 2020, who is a registered Sex Offender (adult victim.) The situation at First Baptist is becoming more uncomfortable generally. Several parents have refused to allow children to go to the Baptist Church. Corinna would much prefer not to have to go across the street. Possibility of in Church School being held in undercroft considered, if not in the back corner of the sanctuary. Maintain relationship with First Baptist to share special events. Motion to separate our Church School program from First Baptist, with exception of special events (D. Miler, movant; M. MacDonald, second; passed unanimously.)

Motion to approve rector's expenses: K. Berheide, Movant; S. Manny, second; approved unanimously.

Junior Warden: C. Berheide

Search Process: background check is clear on one remaining candidate. Kate to establish meeting dates to show candidate around City and meet the Vestry. Likely to be weekdays.

Treasurer's Report: J. Van der Veer and S. Manny:

J. Van der Veer sent report with P&L; we are in "great shape" August P&P was \$18k over budget and expenses were \$2k under budget. Income is \$36.8K over budget year-to-date, although there may be an accounting adjustment which will take our budget surplus to approx \$3k; expenses are very nearly on-budget We will be up-to-date on Diocesan Assessment and very nearly all Accounts Payable are cleared. August income about 5% ahead of 2018; expenses below 2018.

Stewardship: (J. Van der Veer, S. Manny, P. Houde)

Proposed 2020 Campaign title: Moving Forward in the Spirit of Trust.

Not only do we need to increase pledges for next year, but also need to grow the membership. Parishioners need to invite friends. December concerts through SPAC are an opportunity to invite audience to Christmas services.

Stewardship campaign kickoff on Dedication Sunday (Oct 6). Need pledges returned by Nov 24. Episcopal Church Foundation has materials for bequests and memorial gifts. To consider including this in info for church.

D. Miller suggested: Make sure parish gets notice of the concerts and the ticket sale date.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: S Manny: Registration for Church School at about 10 children. See notes re: First Baptist Church, above.

Parish Life: P. Houde: Name tag holder arrived Sunday, Sept 15. Will have table to get all names to make name tags. Encourage all parishioners to wear nametags. G. Boyd donated the materials to make nametags.

Property Management: S Rucker: Work Day on October 19 at 9am at church.

Discussion of air quality report. There is some mold and

Resolved that mold assessment to be completed (J. Van der Veer, movant; P. Houde, second. Passed unanimously)

Stewardship: see above:

Continuing Business:

West Doors Project: F. Horne: Burke Funeral Home is willing to contribute to the project. Need total of \$16,000 to do entire project: if they offer a portion of that, exterior doors are the priority. Discussion of railing(s) to door.

NLH Group is responsible for plowing sidewalks; contract signed today. Discussion of mowing expenses.

New Business: none

VCHC has Veteran's Day event: Bethesda table proposed.

Collect gifts for holidays for Transitional Services.

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Fr. Vang

Meeting was adjourned by motion of S. Rucker

Passed unanimously at 9:17pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann Bullock, Clerk