

Bethesda Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting

December 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
John Huppuch and Boomer
Steven Rucker
Pam Houde
Field Horne
Ann Bullock, Clerk

Absent: M. MacDonald

Opening

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

Devotions:

Sr. Warden D. Miller offered devotions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of November 20, 2019, were unanimously approved as corrected. (S. Manny, movant; J Huppuch, second)

Interim Rector's Report:

Brass restoration: One pair of candlesticks and the censor have been returned looking beautiful. The other pair of candlesticks will be returned Dec 19. Dean has requested an estimate to re-do the cross and we are seeking estimates for the eagle lectern.

Pauly is being trained as thurifer- will debut on Christmas Eve.

Office issue: our printer has broken. We have multiple events for which we need printing done. New parts for printer to arrive on Dec 19- if it won't be fixed, Dean is seeking other options, including free printing by our copier servicer.

Sharon Boyd ordered plants for Christmas and will get plants on sale from Home Depot. Steve is getting the trees from Bob's Trees' on Saturday

Landon has been asked to transfer his canonical residence to Long Island. Awaits when this will be happening.

Vestry Workshop will be in Saturday, March 21, covering an introduction of how to train for Alpha Training.

No news on Bp Love's trial.

Churchwarden's Report:

Senior Warden: D. Miller

Mercy House: Diocesan approvals of construction and the Master Lease proposed at meeting on Dec 9. Very favorable reception. There is a \$7000 bill for legal service to be paid Motion to approve (Movant, Berheide, second, Horne, unanimous)

Cost to expedite building permit approximately \$20,000 (Motion to approve: movant, Berhiede, second, Manny, unanimous)

Cost for landscaping ranges between \$71,000 and \$171,000. Lower figure will apply if the city waives some requirements. (motion to approve Berheide, Horne, unanimous)

Constructions bids were opened, and, after value engineering, Sano-Rubin is at \$11.4M while VMJR is at \$11.3M. \$300,000 possible savings from Sano-Rubin may be possible. In any case, Sano-Rubin seems to be the better offer: excitement about project, good relationship with architect and very detailed plans presented. They did the project at the Cathedral, as well as several local academic buildings. Sano-Rubin continues to seek savings opportunities. The donor has been made aware of the costs and is willing to support the proposed costs. Letter of Intent to be signed soon to get building permit application in as soon as this week. (motion to accept bid of Sano Rubin, Bullock, second, J Van der Veer, unanimous approval)

Vestry Nominations: Suggestions of several individuals. D Miller to ask Karen Finkbeiner: F. Horne to ask D Wilder. There are two vacancies identified. Other individuals suggested if there is need.

Warden's report to be given on Dec 22, 2019 at all services.

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

Junior Warden: C. Berheide

Search Process: Update to come in Executive/Search session following Vestry meeting. Intention that new person would start Pentecost--May 31. Dean Vang mentioned that there are questions from the parish about status of call. Reminder to all that the parish has been notified that a candidate may have been identified. Father Scott is lined up to fill in and possible that Landon may be able to fill in if there is a week that Fr Scott cannot cover. Dean Vang moves on Friday, December 20.

Treasurer's Report: J. Vander Veer and S. Manny:

Budget Review: November showed a shortfall. P&L for YTD 2019 on the other hand was very good: income is above budget by 13%. This includes the Proctor gift.

Expenses are in good shape, although we are behind on the Diocesan assessment by \$3070. We will pay that on time by end of year, based on December's income. December has been a very good

month: average of \$4000 per week for the first three weeks of the month, with Christmas services to come. Evensong was a good producer of income.

Budget: \$251K budgeted in P&P; weddings and funerals are budgeted conservatively. Deficit projected if we call a Rector in May of \$21k, figuring in the dividend income. Once we call a rector, we will need to go back to the parish for increase in giving. Giving units identified as “under-giving”. Another SPAC program is scheduled for March—SPAC may want to continue to use our space.

Budget Vote on January 15; Annual meeting on January 28

Stewardship:

S Manny reported we were at about 50 pledges and will update with latest total. LYBUNTs to be identified and contacted.

Committee Reports:

Parish Life: P. Houde: Still need Altar Guild members. Men are encouraged. Preparation of Christmas cards for Mandy and Barbara, along with monetary gift. *(Clerk’s note: Fr. Evans to be recognized as well?)*

Property Management: S Rucker:

Request to provide office space for the construction crew in undercroft which will save \$15k or so. Crew would use basement door. Suggest the junior choir room.

Christian Education: S Manny:

No one came for the pageant from our church. Practice on Saturday was a deterrent. Illness and other obligations kept children and parents away.

Stewardship: see above:

Communication: F. Horne: January newsletter likely. It will depend on the Rector.

Continuing Business:

West Doors Project: F. Horne: Doors are in abeyance during the SPAC concerts. Will follow up after the last concert (Dec 20)

New Business: none

Next meeting: January 15, 2020

Blessing and Adjournment

Blessing by Fr. Vang

Meeting was adjourned by motion of D. Miller; second, K. Berheide, at 8:03pm. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann Bullock, Clerk