

Vestry Minutes

18 September 2019

Attendees: The Rev'd Guy Hawtin;
John Cobb; Traci Collins; Priscilla Huffman; Brock Johnson; Brice Richardson; Peter Threadgill (secretary);
Bob Reynolds, treasurer;
Dick Huffman; Bill Spicer; Happy Riley; Adric;
Fr John Novicki; Fr Dan Bursi.

The Rector called the meeting to order at 1900 with the Vestry Office.

1. Reading of the Minutes

The minutes from the August meeting will be distributed later. The vestry reviewed Fr Bursi's minutes from 19 June. Mr Cobb moved to accept the minutes; Ms Collins second the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report

Mr Reynolds prepared two versions of the report, one including dividends as income, and the other excluding them. Rentals are up because the local community association is meeting here. Usage is increasing as word of mouth spreads notice of the availability. Brock extended thanks to Bill Spicer for preparing the rooms for these visiting groups.

The line item for cleaning supplies is down because Mr Johnson has been donating the supplies. The line item for miscellaneous costs and services includes \$119 for music storage, purchases at Sam's, and petty cash expenses.

There was a question on what "licenses & permits" are. The closest answer was that it covers some sort of Baltimore County property fee, which seemed doubtful, because the church is tax exempt.

The recent \$75k donation was moved to the T Rowe Price investment fund, which increased the fund to \$271k. Meanwhile, \$25k was withdrawn (\$10k for the roof deposit, which is what the "structural repairs" line item is; and three \$5k withdrawals to cover operating expenses). However, the market is doing well, so the investment fund is just down to \$260k.

Mr Johnson requested the name of the T Rowe Price representative who handles the church's account. There were questions on the interim loan (the "revolving account" which has been maxed out for several years): the church is making the minimal monthly payment of \$240 to \$260, and the interest rate on the loan is 5.75%.

The vestry approved a vote of thanks to the treasurer.

3. Rector's Report

BGE was contacted about the big pine tree. They said they don't do trees (which the vestry found difficult to believe, since most of us had dealings with BGE doing unilateral tree trimming), but that they would turn off the power so that we could take care of it. The consensus was to leave the tree alone until BGE decides it needs to act.

The Rector announced that John Karlsen had resigned from the vestry and was returning to Grace and St Peter's

(his childhood parish). The Rector will come up with a couple of nominees to replace him.

The Rector will be going to see the Bishop the first week in October, while Charlotte goes into hospice for some respite care.

Mr Johnson said there was only one confirmation to be done, because the other candidate had deferred until the spring.

4. Rector's Warden Report

Nothing to report.

5. People's Warden's Report

In light of the resignation of the People's Warden from the vestry, there was no report. Mr Johnson mentioned that the reinvigorated weekly staff meeting was keeping everyone toasty, crisp, and/or frosty (all adjectives were meant to convey a favourable state).

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Parish Life Committee

The Cookie Walk has been moved to the second Saturday in December (14 December). This will mean the cookies will be fresher for those people who are actually buying them for holiday parties (as opposed to consuming them immediately), and it gives more of a breathing space after Thanksgiving. (Greens will also be fresher.) We will need to advertise the change heavily, because it has been the first Saturday for so long that many people will just automatically show up that day.

The Parish Life Committee has offered a donation of \$5k, to be used for some combination of the roof fund and the treasurer's discretion. The treasurer's discretion was to use the balance for the roof fund, so the entirety of the donation will be so used.

Mr Huffman offered his thanks to all of the workers.

6.2. Sunday School

Ms Collins observed that she had been talked over at the beginning of her presentation last month, which she found very disrespectful. (Eventually someone, perhaps John Karlsen, had shushed the people who were talking.)

It was noted that Ms Collins and Mrs Novicki fund the Sunday School themselves, which is why that line item in the financial statement is zero.

There was a discussion of the Sunday School curriculum. (Mr Threadgill had requested an update, because the description on the web site is woefully out of date.) Fr Novicki stated that there are different approaches for the different grade levels. The lower grades generally have thematic lessons, generated by the teachers. The upper grades take their materials from three different curricula, because the teachers aren't happy with any one curriculum. There has been talk of generating a parish-specific curriculum, say, over a three-year cycle. It is typical for each teacher to spend 4-6 hours each week to prepare for Sunday, prepping crafts, etc. The Rector noted that most Sunday School curricula are either dumbed down (mainstream curricula) or are fundamentalist. Mr Johnson noted that when students come to him for catechism, they are ready and know their Bible stories.

Mrs Huffman suggested we should do something for Ms Collins and Mrs Novicki.

There was a unanimous vote of thanks for the Sunday School teachers.

6.3 Grounds

Nothing to report.

6.4 Stewardship

It is too early for an every-member canvass; the Rector suggested mid-November or early December. Mr Threadgill is continuing to work on the survey.

6.5 Memorials

Nothing to report.

6.6 Construction & Rehabilitation

In response to Mr Spicer's question, it was stated that the roofers had not shown up yet..

7. Old Business

Mrs Huffman wondered if, instead of being replaced, the phone system just needed to be reconfigured. Adric explained that there had never been any training on the system (which, since it has a lot of options and functionality, is rather complex). Adric found the four original hardcopy manuals; Fr Novicki said he would synthesize the information and prepare a user guide. Mr Threadgill volunteered to record the new phone message.

8. New Business

Adric has been tracking newsletter returns. The quantity has been going down (it was about \$300 in the past year), and hopefully we have gotten control of the address book. The USPS charges 44¢ for each return, but sometimes the returns sit and are delivered in batches for the same address (each being charged 44¢, though). Also, some of the returns are blanks, which were mailed accidentally; the USPS has started charging for these returns, too.

9. Adjournment

Mr Cobb's motion to close the meeting was seconded by Mr Richardson, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2000 after the closing prayer.