

St. Anne's Parish Vestry Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2009

Call to Order: 7.40 p.m.

In attendance: Rev. Charles Joy (Interim Rector), Philip Dowell, Peter Granger, John Langhorne, Jo McCleskey (Senior Warden), John Needham, John Shattuck, Jim Wilson, Denise Williams.

Apologies: Andrew Carter, David Lee.

Opening prayers by Rev. Joy

Minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2009:

There being no comments to the minutes of the last meeting, Jim moved that they be approved, seconded by John L. The motion was carried unanimously.

Matters arising:

Status of the updated Parish Profile

Comments on the Parish Profile had been received, in writing, from the Bishop and Lindsay Ryland and Jo had circulated the vestry members. Many of the suggested amendments were minor and agreed without further comment. Some clarification and enhancement of the financial information was suggested as being necessary, most notably an explanation of the fall in pledged income. Jo had prepared some material that was read to the meeting and was approved. Further discussion took place mainly around the pledged income and an outline agreed as a basis for Jo and Philip to write in some text to the financial section of the Profile.

Parish Picnic

In Andrew's unexpected absence there was no report on preparations but it was made known that only one grill was available and the meeting was requested to seek out another if possible.

Parish Garden

Jim reported that some beds had already been cleared but very few plantings done so far. About seven people gathered on Friday, May 8, to further prepare beds and do some planting. However, the weather had been so wet it was not possible to do very much. In answer to a question Jim replied that a number of plants and seeds had been contributed but as these were in the custody of John Bittner he was unable to give any further details about just what had been received. A further call for volunteers would be made for next week.

Old Business

Stewardship and Budget

Peter pointed to some typographical errors in the Profit & Loss sheet. The second column should be headed "Jan 1- April 30" and the third column "Budget 2009". The \$18,000 Cash Salary under "Remaining Budget should not be shown in parentheses as this is a positive figure.

He went on to say that in the absence of David he understood that pledges remained at about the same level as previously, namely \$87,000 in round numbers. On the expense side he expected that with the new, much more efficient HVAC system in Christ Church that the utilities costs would be markedly lower. The fitting of a new thermostat in St. Stephen's would also help in this.

Junior Warden's Report

Jim confirmed that the fitting of the new HVAC system had been completed. It had delivered more than enough cool air to Christ Church the previous Sunday. He and Bill Cooper would be meeting with a representative from W.E. Brown later in the week to go over the system and its controls. A wireless thermostat had been fitted, which, although very expensive, was much cheaper than renewing the necessary wiring that had been damaged in the fire.

As far as the robing room is concerned he thought that the best solution was to use an independent wall unit as the room is not used for any length of time. The Parish had received an anonymous donation of \$5,000 towards the cost of replacing the HVAC system. On behalf of the Parish the Vestry extends its sincere gratitude to the donor. There has been no further word from the insurance company as to how much they are prepared to pay towards this work.

Regarding the grounds of Christ Church and the rectory in particular, Jim stated much maintenance is needed. There is a great deal of grass to be mown and he understood that in the past there had been a contract with someone for this work. This was confirmed. It was agreed that Jim should approach Kevin Fletcher and ask for a quote from him for the work. As for the rest of the work that needs doing, John N. suggested that perhaps a team of volunteers could be sought to tidy up the grounds, work that could be quickly done with a willing crew. Jim thought that should be possible.

Senior Warden's Report

Jo stated that she had received a note from Bill Cooper about the participation of the Parish in the Region 15 volunteer sponsorship of Habitat for Humanity. Bill has many good works on his plate and would like to be relieved of the duty of coordinating this activity. After some discussion it was agreed that this whole matter, both the contribution of the Parish and Bill's request, should receive some interim thought and a decision made at the next meeting.

Jo read an excellent letter from Rob Riley thanking the whole Parish for their cards, letters, prayers and good wishes during his current illness. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

Other Business

Denise said that she had heard some rumors of people leaving the Parish and asked whether this was correct and if so what should be done if this was known. Jo advised that the best move would be to confront the subject of the rumor and try to find out not only whether it was true but also the reason(s) for the move away.

John N. told the meeting that a parishioner had inquired of her as to whether the Vestry minutes could be put on the website, as reading them from the notice boards was not always convenient and they could be read at a more leisurely pace online. He thought it a good idea and could think of no reason why not. The meeting agreed unanimously. Philip undertook to get the minutes on the website in a pdf format.

Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer there was nothing to report.

Discretionary Fund

Rev.Joy had nothing to report with regard to this fund.

Outreach Fund

Jo stated that, during the absence of Rev.Joy, a family of 3 had been paid a sum to avoid foreclosure on their home. This was repaid from the discretionary fund. In addition a family in dire straights had been provided with food from the Parish pantry.

In this context Jo mentioned that the food basket available at each service on Sundays had not been receiving too many donations recently and asked that the members encourage that giving among the parishioners. Rev. Joy will address the matter at Sunday services.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9. p.m. with closing prayers by Rev. Joy.

Respectfully submitted,
John Needham,
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