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VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 26, 2024

Vestry Present: Lowell Dargbeh, Erin Gasch, Sue Guptill, Rebecca Hix (Sr. Warden), Sarah Johnson, Marty Nelson, Wes Newman (Acting Clerk), Jeff Pitts, Liz Sappenfield (Jr. Warden), Mike Uhl, Richard Williams

Absent: Shamioka Rhinehart

Clergy: Rev. Maryann Younger (Rector and Chair)

Guests: Matthew Snider (Treasurer)

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on February 26, 2024 at 6:05 pm in the Parish Library with the Rector presiding. Maryann welcomed the newly elected Vestry members and our new parish Treasurer. Rebecca shared a reflection from the Rev. Martin Luther King.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the January 22 & February 1 Vestry meetings
Treasurer's Report & Simplified Financial Report covering January
Rector's Report
Senior Warden's Report
Junior Warden's Report

Wes moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Marty seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL MEETING DEBRIEF

Maryann led an open discussion about the recent annual parish meeting. The presentations were very well received, and the 10 am worship service was widely praised for its music, for Maryann's annual message, and for the opportunity for parishioners who normally attend the 8 am, 9 am or 11 am services to come together in fellowship and common worship. Although some parishioners felt it was inconvenient to attend at the 10 am time, in general it was felt the benefits outweighed the concerns. It was noted that the traditional (paper-based) Vestry election system is slow and cumbersome, but updating it would require a change to the parish bylaws. Due to inconsistent RSVP-ing by parishioners, the catered lunch meals ran out; next year we should increase the quantity.

VESTRY LEADERSHIP IN 2024 - GOALS

Maryann laid out three high level goals for the Vestry in 2024:

1. Establish St. Philip's as our "spiritual center of gravity." We are first and foremost a church, worshipping God and seeking to do His will in this place, and our projects and initiatives should flow from that understanding. This effort will be led by Maryann with the help of the Vestry.

2. Craft a Strategic Vision for St. Philip's, led by our current and former senior wardens Rebecca Hix and Connie Semans.
3. Establish a single accurate, comprehensive directory of our members and guests, led by the Directory Committee.

VESTRY ROLES

Rebecca shared an outline of the chief responsibilities of Vestry membership, and asked the Vestry to reflect on this in advance of a deeper discussion at the March meeting.

Matthew briefed the Vestry on their fiduciary responsibilities in managing the resources of St. Philip's.

Maryann explained that the standing committees of the Vestry would be re-configured this year to reflect current needs and priorities. She asked each Vestry member to submit their preferred committee choices for consideration as the new committees are formed.

Maryann and Rebecca noted that a new Clerk is needed since Rebecca has assumed the Senior Warden role. Volunteers are asked to get in touch with Maryann or Rebecca by March 1.

VISIONING EXERCISE

Rebecca launched the strategic visioning work of 2024 by conducting a "flash" visioning exercise with the Vestry members and discussing the results in small group discussions.

ELECTION OF JUNIOR WARDEN

Maryann announced that Liz Sappenfield is willing to serve another year in this role, which was met with applause. Mike placed Liz's name in nomination, Jeff seconded, and Liz was elected unanimously.

NATIONAL FUND FOR SACRED SPACES

Liz explained the work of this organization, which awards grants for historic renovation projects and provides planning and fundraising expertise. It's her hope that the renovation of the interior of our church could be partially funded by a grant from NFSS. The Vestry expressed strong support, and Jeff moved that the Rector and Jr. Warden be authorized to enter into further discussions. Marty seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CHECK SIGNING RESOLUTION

Maryann presented an updated check signing authorization allowing our new Treasurer and several backup persons to sign checks as required. Liz moved approval of the resolution, Mike seconded, and the resolution was passed unanimously. Maryann will circulate a final list of authorized signers on our various bank accounts once it is finalized.

PAROCHIAL REPORT FOR 2023

Maryann will circulate the report for Vestry review and approval via email before the end of the week.

ADJOURNMENT

Maryann closed with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Newman, Acting Clerk