

St James Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

September 17, 2024

Present:

Sarah Deacle, Gene Goff, Sharon Hansen, Marilyn Hastings, Kathy Hutchinson, Sue Rice, Rob Samtmann, Fr. Mike Sowards, Francois Springuel, Janice Tabbut

Absent:

Barbara Bateman, Ryan Collins, Phil Tatem

The Meeting was opened with a prayer by Father Mike.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. August minutes were unanimously approved as written.
2. The July financials were approved by the vestry via E-Vote with Gene abstaining.
3. Fr. Mike reminded the vestry that we still have an open vestry position and to think about people to nominate.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Financial – no review as Phil is on vacation
2. Diocesan transformation team Zoom Call meeting – 9/12/2024
 - a. The diocese requested that St. James limit the vestry participation in future meetings. Going forward, Father and a vestry committee (comprised of Gene, Rob and Janice) will meet with the transformation team. Father and the committee will keep the rest of the vestry informed.
 - b. The diocese requested an additional meeting with our neighbor who owns the adjoining 7 acres to pursue potential development of the combined property. Should the diocese acquire the neighbor's property, all income from that portion of the property is retained by the diocese.
 - c. Going forward, the diocese will be managing the project and utilizing their resources to develop a proposal for St. James.
 - d. The vestry would like to know what the project plan milestones are and what the change control process is.
 - e. Father informed the vestry that the neighbor made an offer to buy our 5 acres, but according to canon law, any sale of land would need to be approved by our Bishop. Additionally, the sale of land would not provide a perpetual income stream that both St. James and the diocese is seeking.
3. Montessori School – Our tenant asked Fr. Mike for permission to fly two flags, 1 mounted on each side of the entrance to the school. A **motion** was made to grant permission to fly the American flag and a seasonal flag by the school entrance and was unanimously approved.
4. Member Ministry – Homebound Visitation
 - a. Father had 8 people volunteer to assist and is providing books which are part of the Bishop's training material. Once training is completed, they will be licensed as Eucharistic Ministers.

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- b. Each person will take one week and visit all scheduled parishioners and also be responsible for green card prayer list.
5. Air Conditioning
- a. Francois mentioned that the electric bill spiked this summer, partially due to work on the school and also due to the bakery's need to cool the kitchen by lowering Platt's hall temperature. Occasionally, the A/C was left on at a low temperature overnight.
 - b. Fr. Mike to check with Venezia to see if we could get an add-on to connect to Platts Hall A/C that would be programmable and controllable via wi-fi. This would allow us to raise the temperature at 9:30 pm and lower it again in the morning.
6. Capital Campaign
- a. Father requested that the vestry think about a capital campaign to fund the parking lot including lighting, church painting, and A/C units. Any project for the development of the Glebe House property will take a few years and delaying property maintenance could prove costly. He requested a vestry decision by December.

Committee Updates:

7. Fellowship
- a. Chicken BBQ – Was deemed a success, netting approximately \$2,195. Rob expressed his gratitude for all the volunteers.
 - i. Some observations: take-out far exceeded inside dining, much of the take-out was via community which may have been due to increased community notifications.
 - ii. A distinction was made that the BBQ is a separate event from a St. James parishioner dinner
 - iii. Rob informed Fr. Mike that this will be the last year he can run the event. He is willing to assist the next person who steps up and has spreadsheets/tools that will make it easier for his successor.
 - b. Dishwasher – Sue informed everyone that the kitchen dishwasher is operational
8. Building and Grounds
- a. Gene mentioned that he may be able to obtain composite benches to replace benches across from the church.
 - b. Father indicated that the benches were donated and have placards associated to them.
9. Outreach House
- a. A **motion** was made and unanimously approved to accept the Outreach House Report with the amendment indicating \$334 was raised via raffles.

Next Vestry Meeting will be held October 15, 2024.

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A **motion** was unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting.

The Meeting was closed with a prayer by Father Mike.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Hutchinson

Vestry Secretary