

Vestry Meeting Minutes
12/14/09

Attendance:

Voting – Sara Baker, Ruth Beard, Sarah Blair, David Blythe (Senior Warden), Laura Buel (Junior Warden), Diane Holland, Angela Simpson, Ed Skea

Non-Voting – Dave Simpson (Secretary), Maggie Thompson, Sarah Baker (Treasurer)

Opening Prayer: Led by Sara Baker

General Business:

Minutes – Adopted minutes from last meeting. (See Resolutions) Reviewed Action Items from last meeting.

Shoveling – The issue of shoveling on the weekends was discussed. Gloria (Sexton) would take care of it during the week, but is not available on weekends. At a prior meeting Ruth had volunteered to oversee this during the Christmas season, but a more permanent solution must be reached. Per a conversation with Jackie, Ed indicated that Evan Webb was responsible for this last year, and he agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to contact him again to see what he was paid, if anything, and if he would be willing to do it again this year. Ed also agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to contact the high school to see if there were any avenues available for kids wanting/needing to do community service, and also (ACTION ITEM!) to speak to Dot and Jackie to let them know that when Saturday meetings are scheduled, they need to let Ruth know so she can coordinate snow removal.

Scheduling – This was not discussed in great detail, but there was some consensus that the schedule of events and building use should be made public somehow, with some suggestions of using a computer scheduler/spreadsheet/Office/Powerchurch setup, with something posted on the blog.

Parish Administrator – David B indicated that the Diocese requested that they have one liaison/point of contact with the office, and Jackie agreed to be that person, the Parish Administrator.

Meeting with the Bishop – Regarding the meeting with the Bishop following the 1/10 service, there will be a reception after the 10:00 service, and following that reception there will be a meeting with the Vestry. No formal agenda was put forth for that meeting, except that we would discuss recent Executive Session topics with him at that time.

One issue arose in discussion regarding the reception, and that was the lack of role clarity regarding the Hospitality Committee, specifically whether Ida or Kathy and Laurie are leading. There were various recollections of what occurred, and Diane, as the Vestry liaison to the Hospitality Committee, agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to convene a meeting of the committee around the Bishop's visit, and facilitate a discussion around this issue at that meeting.

Interim – An overview of the interview process was shared with the group by the subcommittee commissioned to vet the Interim candidates. There were a total of 6 candidates, 4 women and 2 men. One of the women was no longer available when she was contacted, and another was leaving in 8 months. One of the men was currently in NC and was not able to bless Civil Unions, and the other had been unemployed since July 2008, and was willing to take anything, which was roundly viewed as a red flag.

The two remaining candidates rose to the top, and copies of their application materials were distributed to the group, and those that conducted the interviews with these candidates summarized their impressions aloud. It was determined that we would proceed with conducting in-person interviews with these two candidates, one of whom is relatively local, and one of which is out of state. The goal would be to perform the interviews on the 28th of December if possible.

The subcommittee agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to contact those candidates who we would not be pursuing, and to meet again prior to the interviews to formulate a list of questions. Sara Baker agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to contact Thad at the diocese to determine how far we are “authorized” to go in investigating references, especially those not listed by the candidates, whether or not travel expenses can be shared if a candidate is looking at multiple parishes in VT, and whether or not teleconferencing might be an appropriate way to conduct an initial interview. If Sara finds that teleconferencing is an option, Sarah Blair agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to investigate potential teleconferencing sites. If Thad indicates that delving beyond a candidates listed references is acceptable, Laura agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to make contact with those other references.

Times Argus Ad – David B had received an inquiry from the Rector of Good Shepherd in Barre regarding placing a joint ad in the Times Argus, one that was created by the National Church, as well as an inquiry from The World re: their holiday worship directory. It was agreed that we would pursue the local ad, but not consider moving forward with the joint ad until an Interim is in place. Dave S agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to contact the World to place the ad, and David B agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to contact Kevin @ Good Shepherd re: our decision about the joint ad.

Properties – Ruth distributed a summary of the Building Assessment, and briefly shared her experiences with the inspection. One point of immediate concern was the chimney above the fire escape, which appears to have loose bricks. Ruth agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to contact a mason to get an estimate for this repair. Another item of immediate concern is one of the toilets downstairs appears to be running all the time, and Laura agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to contact a plumber regarding this issue, as well as the urinal in the upstairs and a pipe in the basement which they might already have a part on order for. Concern was expressed that the Parish Hall was becoming at best something of a swap meet and at worst a dumping ground for random items such as clothing and housewares, and that this should be addressed, particularly as this is a facility that we rent out for use to the community, and as such should not be full of random piles of clothing. In addition, as the properties group proceeds with the Sacred Places program, they are discovering huge caches of discarded items left over from previous years. The group therefore resolved (See Resolutions) to limit unsolicited donations to monetary gifts until systems can be put in place to address the clutter.

Financial:

Ed distributed a copy of a draft budget for the group to look over and review prior to the next meeting, stressing that this is a draft only. Some discussion ensued, with the point stressed that, if any cuts need to be made to the mission and ministries here because of financial constraints, that everything should be up for discussion. It was recognized that every portion of life at Christ Church is important to somebody, and that we cannot let our own preferences be the sole guide of our actions.

Sarah Baker distributed a financial report to the group. She indicated that we are currently 8 months behind on the Diocesan Assessment. It was noted that the salaries seem to have increased, even though we had agreed at the last meeting not to do an increase. It was determined that this may be a result of how the pay periods fell.

Sarah brought up a concern to the group that the vendors that come to do repairs to the facility seem to be different every time, and the group agreed that it would behoove us to establish relationships with specific vendors, so that, a) we would know who to call, b) the vendor might become familiar with our facility and possibly be able to anticipate problems and suggest maintenance BEFORE disaster strikes, and c) the vendor might take our loyalty into account when pricing services.

Resolutions:

A motion was proposed and adopted to accept the minutes from the 11/30/09 meeting.

A motion was proposed and adopted to institute a temporary moratorium on unsolicited donations of anything but cash and food (i.e. clothing/housewares etc.) until a system/ministry is identified which will allow those items to be transferred to people who need them instead of piling up in the parish hall.

Next Meeting was not set because of questions about the interview schedule, but would be held at the usual time (3rd Monday of the Month) if not before.