

15 February 2024 Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present: Jay MacLeod, Jerry Coogan, Susan Feyrer, Jennifer Giles, Billy Kelly, Kathy Mathias, Fifi Mitchell, Russ Potter, Mike Quinn, Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Nancy Rollins,

Absent: Claire Pace

Jay opened the meeting with a prayer.

January minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Worship and Formation: For the Sunday, March 3, All-Age Eucharist, Jay has decided to change the Gospel reading to another chapter from John that will be more appropriate for the children who will be singing.

With the progress Jay has made with his knee, he will be reintroducing the Eucharist during Midday Prayer beginning at Eastertide.

Junior Choir: We have lost a few singers from the Youth Choir due to overcommitments. Unfortunately, the children leaving are some of the older and more experienced singers, but we still have an excellent number remaining.

Nicole did a written evaluation after the first performance and received positive feedback from the children.

Voorhees: Kathy Mathias and Jay fly to Voorhees University on February 19-21 to interview candidates for a six-week internship. One family has agreed to host interns for part of their stay. Jay is reaching out to Colby-Sawyer College to inquire about covering the rest of their stay in student dorms.

Montessori Preschool: Nancy has been in close contact with Liz Niehaus as Liz continues to pursue her business plan, feasibility, logistics, and costs of her dream to create a Montessori Preschool housed at St. Andrew's. She has now introduced another proposal downsizing her original idea. The Vestry will consider the new proposal along with the task force consisting of Nancy Rollins, Billy Kelly, Fifi Mitchell, Shelly Boucher, Leslie Smith, and Harvey Best.

Buildings & Grounds: Russ Register noted that Eversource has installed a new power line from the street to the church and the electric meter has been moved outside and mounted on a panel by the wall near the swing set. Also, the solar array has been re-connected and is supplying power to the church.

Russ has spoken with Harvey regarding water damage to the drywall downstairs in "the cave" room. A window in that room may need to be eliminated and the remaining windows replaced. Some exterior drainage work along the outside wall is needed to prevent water from leaking into the room.

The paved walkway for access to the new terrace was discussed. The vestry has previously discussed this project, and Jay noted that it has been funded by an anonymous gift of

\$10,000. The material to be selected for the walkways will need to support wheelchairs and also not be problematic in terms of lawn maintenance. Mike suggested porous asphalt might be a good option. Jay mentioned that we should also consider leveling the stones in the Memorial Garden. Harvey Best will be consulted to determine who should do the work. The goal would be to select the cheapest, most maintenance-free solution that looks good.

It was noted that accessibility is not included in our current Buildings and Ground 25-year plan. It needs to be added.

Hazardous Material Audit: Nancy Rollins mentioned that, through our exploration of the Montessori Pre-school, we learned of the need for a hazardous material audit in the lower level of the building. Mike agreed that the audit is good information for us to have, and we should do it. Nancy will ask Harvey to talk with various companies and schedule the audit as soon as possible. The vestry voted to approve a \$2,000 cap for the audit and to have Harvey set it up.

The vestry discussed whether we should do the whole building. Nancy agreed to talk to Harvey about asking about the whole building, but the priority for now is the basement.

Once we have the information from the audit, Mike will consider the most appropriate way to pay for mitigation and whether borrowing money through the Diocese makes sense in terms of current interest rates.

Finance: Mike Quinn presented his written report on the December 2023 operating statement. The balance sheet was not included, as audit adjustments need to be made. The January 2024 statements were just received and not yet reviewed. In any event, with only one month's results, it is too early to look for any trends.

The balance sheet adjustments are expected to be completed and will be reviewed at the next meeting and going forward.

Mike noted that overall St. Andrew's had a fine year in 2023. We ran a surplus and did fund the capital reserve by \$10,000.

Talent Survey: Nancy reported for Claire that 66 people have responded. She suggested that another announcement should be made on Sunday, February 18 to encourage more participation.

Other Business:

Lin Potter has been responsible for scheduling vestry members to make announcements during the 8:00 and 10:00 church services. Lin has left the Vestry, so Sue Feyrer volunteered to do the scheduling moving forward.

Billy Kelly asked about the Security Task Force, which was active before Covid. He wondered if it should be restarted. Jay suggested Billy speak with Joe Daly to learn more about what was done in the past so it can be revitalized.

Jerry Coogan and Billy proposed a 4:30 start time for Vestry meetings moving forward. The vestry approved this proposal.

Jay closed the meeting, and all present joined in blessing each other in the words of the Grace.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Mathias, Clerk

Note: The next vestry meeting will be 21 March 2024.