

St. James Vestry Minutes

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Present for the meeting were: Rev. De Freeman, Senior Warden Jeanie Smith, Treasurer Katie Smith, Junior Warden Lauren Arington, Margaret Cadden, Ben Coddling, Tracy Corte, Jim Daniell, Peter Gaillard, Bebe Goetter, Earl Jackson, Laura Jones, Chris Nelson, Matthew Myrick, Parish Administrator Meghan Fancher and Clerk Mary Mullins Redditt
Absent was: Dee Gambill

Opening Prayer & Recitation of the Mission Statement

The Vestry meeting commenced at 5:45 pm with the reading of the Mission Statement: *We are a community anchored in Christ, seeking God, sharing His love, and serving others.*
Fr. De then led the opening prayer.

Meditation

Peter Gaillard Offered the Meditation

Financial Discussion & Decisions

- Have performed better in the last month than the Finance Committee anticipated
- Have received \$109 K income from the church and \$70 K from the school.
- Expenses are under budget from the church for the year.
- Net income is still slightly negative, but that is nothing to worry about at this point.
- Received the \$120 K in employer tax credit.
- Earl made a motion to approve the financials, Margaret seconded and all approved.

- Matt Myrick discussed the Pathways to Generosity campaign.
- There will be a meeting next week.
- So far, the structure is that this will be a five-Sunday campaign, beginning October 22 and lasting through November 15.
- A number of Vestry members are on the committee.

Discussion & Decisions

The Jr. Warden Report was made by Lauren Arington

Kitchen

- The kitchen is looking great and the painting should be finished by tomorrow. It has been both cleaned and repainted after over 30 years.

- De had reached out to the Executive Committee for approval since the low bid was just over the spending limit of \$5 K.
- Jeanie made a motion to accept the \$6,300 for the painting work, Matt seconded, and all approved.

HVAC

- The HVAC system has been on the blink and Staff have had to have window units in the office to bear this heat.
- We continue to sit and wait. We have two bids -- \$41 K and \$67 K -- to repair our two 30-year-old systems.
- It has been difficult to get bids because the trenching outside is hard work and many vendors don't want to bid on it.
- We are still trying to get a couple of more bids in before we make a decision.
- Will be 6-8 weeks to get the units in once we sign the contract.

Renovation

- Meeting with WAV Architects next week to go over the needs list of the church renovation.
- Have a few different options. With the latest estimates from the Capital Campaign, we are looking at our highest priorities. There should be another update at the next Vestry meeting.

Spending Policies

- Our written spending policies are still rector-/treasurer-centric and need to be updated in line with current practices. These need to be updated, especially for the audit.

Revisit the Secondary Entry/Egress

- The City of Fairhope will begin constructing the new traffic circle on North Section Street soon and this is going to create an even bigger traffic jam than the school presently presents. This consideration began in 2020 and stalled due to the pandemic.
- Former discussions for the church were for us to pave the far parking lot on Hwy 104 and connect it to our current parking so we would have more than one ingress/egress. School traffic already is backing up significantly. When construction begins, will probably close off North Section Street.
- All agreed this has to be a priority. Would like to see a concept drawn up to review for logistics. Probably need to connect above the clock on our property in the pine trees.
- We may need to temporarily hire an off-duty policeman to direct traffic if this comes on too quickly.
- Agreed to reach out to Mac & Gina Walcott to pick this up again. Needs to be in front of the Campaign.
- The City will have to approve the plans before construction commences.
- Believe the roundabout will be pushed further north to steer clear of the clock and 104.
- Lauren and De will meet with Mac & Gina on Tuesday.

Portable Site

- Discussion of expansion needed for the school will be discussed further with the School Board after a meeting with parents in October.

7:30 AM Service

- Will begin on September 10 in the chapel without music for a small number of parishioners who would like it. De and the parishioners will monitor attendance, volunteers and servers and gather again in October.

Decisions

Vote to approve the June Vestry Meeting Minutes

Ben Coddington made a motion to approve, Margaret Cadden seconded, and all approved.

Closing Prayer

De led the closing prayer.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Next Meeting

The next Vestry meeting will be **Thursday, September 21, 2023, 5:45 pm**

De will be away on a retreat and will miss this meeting.

The clergy will be at a retreat the first week in October, as well.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Mary Mullins Redditt, Clerk of the Vestry