

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2019

Members of the Vestry

Elyssa de la Cruz

Cameron Denney

Andrew Eshleman, Sr. Warden

Robin Gault

Curt Germundsen, Treasurer

Phillip Koop

Nora McLaughlin

Louise Tippens

David Waldow

Ben Snead, Youth Representative

Clergy

The Rev. Martin Elfert

The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

Others

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry Absent

Charles McGee

Peyton Snead

Prior to June 26, 2019 Vestry Meeting

Approval of Carpet Replacement

- On May 23, 2019, Curt made a motion via e-mail to have Grace Memorial Episcopal Church (GMEC) pay half the cost to replace the carpet in the Mason Burnham Room. Andrew seconded the motion. GMEC's portion of the cost is estimated to be under \$1,000. The motion passed via an e-mail vote on May 25, 2019.

Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes from the May 21, 2019 Vestry meeting were distributed and discussed via e-mail prior to the June meeting. Nora moved to accept the minutes as amended, and Curt seconded the motion. The motion passed with an e-mail vote on June 9, 2019.

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting began at 6:07pm with a reading from Acts in an abbreviated form of lectio divina, followed by an opening prayer from Martin.

2. Items

2.1 Welcome Jeanne

- A welcome was extended to Jeanne from the Vestry, and there were brief introductions.

2.2 Development

- The exploratory agreement, which was entered into in February, had a 6-month term, but this has been determined to be an unrealistic timeline. More time is needed for feasibility studies, and Curt said the studies may possibly continue until the end of the year. He noted it is important to keep moving ahead to be ready for the requests for funding next year. There is a group now doing capital campaign feasibility research. Curt is looking at the overall budget and reported progress is being made. . He is working with Nancy (on behalf of GMEC), Jenny (on behalf of PHAME), and Sharon (on behalf of Grace Institute). It was also noted consultants for a capital campaign are being interviewed.
- Martin commented he is aiming for hopeful realism with the proposed development, and added Grace has a compelling story with a long and successful history. Curt said he has spoken with the Murdock Foundation, which has been known to give faith-based grants. A mini campaign may be needed to raise funds for the additional feasibility studies. A consultant, when chosen, may be able to help with a mini campaign.
- Martin, Brian, Nancy, Sharon, Julia and Jenny recently traveled to the Los Angeles area to view 3 ENGAGE facilities, which are “arts colonies” integrating seniors and artists with housing and space for the artists to work. Martin said it was cool to see some finished products with both errors and successes. Tim, the director of ENGAGE, may be willing to be a mentor for Grace’s project for at least a short period in helping Grace Institute provide arts programming to housing clients. Grace Institute might also be prepared to provide services in this way as well without any additional mentoring.
- The architect, Carleton Hart, will prepare a floor plan as part of the proposal and, as part of the process, will need to interview each entity involved to determine their space requirements. Also, a report from the City of Portland regarding the needs for water, sewer, etc. will be used by the architect.
- Jonathon Goodling has been contacted regarding legal guidance for the development project. It may be necessary to wait until August to have all parties involved together for more effective representation. He has a great deal of experience with this type of project and was suggested by Ross. There will also be others in the parish reviewing our legal needs. Grace will have its own legal representation, but this is not needed just yet.

2.3 Moment of Grace

- Cameron offered a Moment of Grace with a reading from the book Tiny Beautiful Things by Cheryl Strayed.

2.4 Extension of Contract with Walsh Construction for Ross Cornelius's Advisory Services

- The addendum to the contract is not back to the vestry for approval yet, and Walsh Construction has said it is not needed at this time. No more money is needed right now, although additional money will be needed in the future.

2.5 Approval of Authorization for Bank Signatures

- The letter authorizing new signers for banking was reviewed and one typo was pointed out. Phillip made a motion to accept the letter, which will be corrected, and Louise seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2.6 New Committees for Building/Grounds and Welcoming

- There is a need for additional help maintaining the campus, and, after some discussion, David said he will head the Building/Grounds committee, and Robin offered to work with him. Additional help will be recruited from the parish.
- A Welcoming Committee, separate from the ushers, will be formed to engage newcomers and take them to Coffee Hour. Jeanne and Elyssa will head the committee, which may initially have members of the Vestry on the committee.

2.7 Reports

- Grace Institute (GI) Liaison
 - Elyssa shared a report provided by Sharon and noted Art Camp has begun. Stephen Weeks is now the president of GI, Evelyn Prater is secretary, and Leslie Mills is the treasurer. She added Sharon recently attended a grant writing workshop at PSU, and GI is looking ahead to explore possible sites for Art Camp during the development project.
- Rector
 - Martin reported new members, numbering 12 or 13, will be welcomed at the 10am service this Sunday. He has also been visiting with a lot of newcomers recently.
 - Martin's holiday begins Sunday after the 10am service, and he will return on July 27th. Emergency contact numbers were provided.
 - The direct target asks for funding Jeanne's salary were very successful, but the general asks were not. After a brief discussion, it was decided each Vestry member would each ask 2 people regarding gifts to fund Jeanne's salary, although they might wait until August or September.
 - Martin reminded the Vestry that the African Feast, provided by the McGees, will take place at the Elfert home on Sunday at 5pm.

- Treasurer
 - Curt noted the budget is even with no deficit. There is a concern about the higher than normal gas charges, which he thinks might indicate a possible leak. Curt will follow-up with Jackie about having an inspection done for a gas leak.
- Jr. Warden
 - David will check with Rick regarding the status of the dishwasher repair.

2.7 Other Business

- Louise and Cameron agreed to be the Vestry members providing the monthly update to the parish at this Sunday's service.
- The Vestry will not meet in July.

2.10 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk