

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2019

Members of the Vestry

Elyssa de la Cruz
Andrew Eshleman, Sr. Warden
Robin Gault
Curt Germundson, Treasurer
Charles McGee
Nora McLaughlin
Peyton Snead
David Waldow

Ben Snead, Youth Representative

Clergy

The Rev. Martin Elfert
The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

Others

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk
Nancy Entrikin

Members of the Vestry Absent

Cameron Denney
Phillip Koop
Louise Tippens

Prior to August 20, 2019 Vestry Meeting

Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes from the June 26, 2019 Vestry meeting were distributed and discussed via e-mail prior to the August meeting. Robin moved to accept the minutes as amended, and Elyssa seconded the motion. The motion passed with an e-mail vote on July 23, 2019.

1. Formation

1.1 Opening Prayers

- The meeting began at 6:05pm with a reading from Acts in an abbreviated form of lectio divina, followed by an opening prayer from Martin.

2. Items

2.1 Development Updates

- Due to changes in their organizational priorities, the board of QUAD, Inc. has made the decision to withdraw from being considered for the role as developer for the Grace Commons project. However, QUAD, Inc. is still interested in the project and may participate in another capacity.
- A new developer will need to be found, and solicitations have been sent with the help of recommendations from Ross Cornelius and Brian Carleton. Questions were raised as to the desirability of the Grace Commons project for developers, and Curt offered an explanation about the balance of risk vs. reward and the capabilities of some non-profits, which points to the strong possibility that a good fit with a developer will be found. It was also noted the same architect would more than likely be retained once a new developer is found.
- Ross will step into a new role overseeing the committee involved in the Grace Commons project, and Nancy will serve as the liaison between the Grace Commons Planning Group and the Vestry, as well as assisting Ross. Due to many other commitments, Andrew will be stepping away from his current level of involvement in the Grace Commons Planning Group.
- Ross Cornelius is working to recruit a group of investors, all of whom would be friends of Grace Memorial, with the goal of purchasing the house known as the White House, which is across the street from Grace and currently for sale. If successful, this group would preserve an option whereby Grace could purchase the White House from them at a later date to be used in a way that would supplement the Grace Commons Project.
- The planning group requested an endorsement by the Vestry to search for a new developer. Nora made a motion that Grace representatives should work with other members of the Grace Commons Planning Group to identify a new suitable developer for the project. Peyton seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. It was further decided written communication with additional information regarding the changes to the project will be provided to the Parish.

2.2 Welcoming and Name Tags

- Elyssa and Jeanne met prior to the Vestry meeting to discuss welcoming in the style outlined by the College for Congregational Development. They are working together on a more robust welcoming program for new members and visitors. As an example of an area needing improvement, it was noted how difficult and frustrating it is to have a name tag made.
- The Vestry was asked for recommendations of Parish members who might be interested in being part of a welcoming committee. Jeanne and Elyssa will have conversations with new members to find out from them what seems to be working well and what is not, so improvements can be made. A menu of ministries will be part of the new welcoming program.

2.3 Auction Check-in

- Martin reported on behalf of Phillip, Mariann and Kristen. Approximately 60 tickets have been sold, which is ahead of ticket sales from last year. The planning is progressing as expected, and Martin will get

advice from the three of them as to the best way to divide the past donor list among the Vestry in order to contact them about a donation for this year's auction.

2.4 Coordinating Request for Gifts Towards Jeanne's Salary

- Martin reported the funding is very close to the goal with only about \$5,500 remaining to be raised. He asked Vestry members to each reach out to 2 Parish members who have not yet donated. Curt added he will include a graph in his financial report showing the funds raised to date.

2.5 Reports

- Grace Institute (GI) Liaison
 - Elyssa reported that Ashley Smith has left Grace Institute, but she did not have any other information about Ashley's leaving at this time.
- Rector
 - Martin spoke briefly about the upcoming Block Party. Jeanne is making a poster for the event as well as mini posters to distribute in the neighborhood. Ice cream sundaes are on the menu and having board games available was suggested.
 - An aerial work platform is on Martin's wish list. It would be great to have for easily reaching high places.
 - He noted one more Convention delegate is needed. Holly Puckett, Bob Zimmer and Kathleen Chapman are the current delegates for Convention, which is scheduled to take place in Salem October 26-27. After a brief discussion, Robin offered to be the 4th delegate.
- Treasurer
 - Curt reported the financial state is looking good with noted highlights of a cash increase and investments that are doing well.
 - The Diocese has asked Curt to audit Grace's books. He said he can do it himself but thinks it is better to use an outside source. He will ask for an extension as the audit is due soon and added he will take care of the audit. It was suggested he might swap audit duties with another parish.
 - Curt remarked he believes a CPA should be hired to compile financial statements and create a complete financial picture for Grace. He will investigate hiring a CPA to do this work and concluded his report by saying Jackie is just great to work with.
- Jr. Warden
 - David is working on a formal report, which he will e-mail to the Vestry.
 - The Parish Work Day is Saturday, September 14th.
 - The water heater issue for the dishwasher was briefly discussed. Rick Malin is looking into possible solutions, and David and Rick will discuss Rick's recommendations with Martin, Curt and Jackie.

2.6 Other Business

- Andrew and Nora will present the monthly update to the Parish on Sunday.

2.7 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk