

St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry 17 June 2020
Via Zoom videoconferencing

Present: Pam Brittain, David Dennehy, Terry Farrelly, Diane Gustafson, Rev. Roger Haenke, Mark Higginbotham, Muriel Kulikowski, Jim McDevitt, Judy McKay, Lynn Young

Absent: Ray Contreras

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. following prayer led by Rev. Roger Haenke.

Appreciation was acknowledged for the following: for the Task Force on Re-gathering, for Ryan Attaway for his preparations for the work the Task Force had to do, for Maria Love as the “glue keeping us together”, for Terry Farrelly and Sally Elliott for their financial work.

David Dennehy moved, Mark Higginbotham seconded approval of the Consent Agenda (Vestry minutes for the May meeting, Priest's Operations Report for May, Wardens' report). The motion passed.

Terry Farrelly gave the Treasurer's report. (All financial documents are filed with these minutes in the Vestry binder in the Church Office.) Despite neither fundraisers nor plate, the finances are positive and capital expenses can be handled. Consensus was that the expenses related to the pandemic should be identified. David Dennehy moved, Jim McDevitt seconded that the Treasurer and Priest-in-Charge be authorized to negotiate with the Diocese about restructuring the loan to 15 years and that the outcome be brought back to the Vestry so decisions can be made on how to use the money saved. The motion passed. Terry Farrelly reported that the financial audit has started and Sally Elliott has given information to the Diocesan CPA. A report will be given at the July Vestry meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no report on the Playground Funds because Ray Contreras was absent.

Regarding the drainage ditch at the southeast corner of Church property, Mark Higginbotham reported that he is waiting for an appointment with the Assessor for the City of Chula Vista. It is unclear to whom the property in question belongs.

Progress on capital projects was cited. Gutters and painting, paid with a grant from the Diocese, has been done. Ontario has replaced the HVAC compressor and has finished the ductwork. A decision on the alarm system is on hold awaiting the Fire Marshal.

NEW BUSINESS:

A task force was formed to address the Re-gathering issue. An Action Plan that meets guidelines of the Bishop and the State was created and received approval from the Bishop.

Discussion was held about whether to begin in-person worship on June 21 as would be allowed. Statistics on COVID-19 cases in the Chula Vista area, recommendations from an epidemiologist and other experts, and results of an internal survey of parishioners were presented. David Denney moved, Mark Higginbotham seconded to delay re-gathering, and the motion passed. Rev. Roger Haenke will send a pastoral letter informing the congregation of the Vestry's decision. Vestry members were encouraged to contact parishioners, especially through the Groups A-I, to further explain the decision.

Previously, the Church had a cleaning contract that cost \$700/month. At the beginning of the closure due to the pandemic, that contract was cancelled. With an eye to re-gathering in the future, cleaning is more important than ever. A job description was created for a sexton-plus-cleaning responsibilities; this is for 30 hours/week with more possible relating to the pandemic. Diane Gustafson moved, David Dennehy seconded approval of the job description. The motion passed. Rev. Roger Haenke, Mark Higginbotham, and David Dennehy will meet with Ryan Attaway to discuss the job description.

Rev. Roger Haenke explained Sacred Grounds, a conversation group that addresses racial injustice and prejudice. Free videos and texts are available. Several parishes in the Diocese have done this. More information is available on the Diocese's website. Sacred Grounds will be discussed at the next Vestry meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Diane Gustafson, Clerk of Vestry