

HOLY FAMILY EPISCOPAL CHURCH VESTRY MEETING MINUTES – March 15, 2023

Attending: Father Bruce Gray, Betty Bogeman, Jon Manuszak, Katie Hamon (via Zoom), Tina Vawter, Tom Clines, Gary Snyder, Kristine Canter, Chris Beldin, Bethany Paden, Jessica Largent, Ruth Everett (joined at 7:30 pm), Jolene Johnston (joined at 7:30 pm), Lorri Batesky (left at 8:32 pm)

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm with prayer led by Father Bruce.

Proceedings:

Lorri introduced herself as the parish administrator and shared her need from the Vestry would be for ongoing communication. She is here most Tuesdays, but appreciates the opportunity for remote work due to family healthcare needs.

Celebrating Little Wins:

- Trivia Night Fundraiser: general consensus is that it was very well-received by the parish and was an effective fundraiser.
- In-person attendance appears to continue to rise at the 10 am service; Father Bruce shared that two-weeks ago there were 23 distinct logins for the livestream service.
- Nice turnout for Saturday's Lenten walk, and Wednesday evenings have been well-attended (two new couples tonight).
- Father Bruce was asked to visit with a 101-year old Episcopalian woman, who will now be part of his regular rounds.

Old & New Business:

- Discussion of the five proposed initiatives in the 2008 HFEC Strategic Plan, Led by Tom Clines
 - 1st Initiative - Growth:
 - Consider alternative worship services:
 - Bethany highlighted the need to think through what "alternative" means to Episcopalians.
 - Father Bruce shared we have approximately 8 individuals attending Music and Meditation.
 - Gary shared that perhaps we consider an alternative time, not just a type of service; Perhaps a Saturday or Sunday evening service.
 - Public safety employee appreciation:

- Dinner (perhaps a chili cookoff)
- Offer refreshments on New Years Eve and New Years Day (perhaps spearheaded by Youth Group lock-in)
- Tom will speak with Bob Murray about The Brotherhood of St. Andrew hosting a public safety event and will reach out to the police and fire chiefs.
- Bethany suggested that The Order of The Daughters of the King could also join.
- Develop job descriptions for the parish staff
- Annual parish survey
 - Bethany shared that she's seen better participation from paper surveys rather than electronic surveys.
 - Kristine suggested sharing the survey in advance prior to distribution at mass.
 - Bethany suggested considering an extended submission period.
 - Father Bruce supported the idea of a paper survey at mass because people are already engaged by being there.
 - Bethany asked if we have the original survey referenced in the Strategic Plan.
 - Lorri suggested we text the survey as well; perhaps consider texting event reminders as well; Jolene will need to research our MailChimp plan for functionality and financial commitment.
- Tom reiterated the need to increase the growth due to our financial situation
 - We are currently at ~90 families
 - 23 families have children
- Bethany reiterated the need to invite friends and family to HFEC events.
 - Father Bruce encouraged people not to be embarrassed about inviting others to the church and its events.
 - Look for ways to passively invite others.
 - Tom would like us to move forward with embracing messaging around "The Church accepts me for me."
 - Bethany and Gary will work with Ben Paden to create a video around this messaging.
 - Consider making this a tagline for the year.
 - Perhaps putting signage/clings in the parish hall windows
- Jessica suggested pitching our events to the Fishers magazine
- Discussion of Goals From Vestry Friday Mini-Retreat
 - Review of initiatives and leads

- Concern form and process policy have been completed by Bethany; Both paper and digital copies available for Vestry members, as needed.
 - Evangelism: Gary and Father Bruce will connect with Ben Paden for video creation
 - Building and Grounds: Jon is aiming for March 31st as a grounds cleaning day; this can be in conjunction with indoor cleaning/maintenance
 - Jolene suggested the creation of a punch list
- Review of Announcement Father Bruce wrote for bulletin
 - Jolene asked for clarification on who the audience was for this; Father Bruce clarified that the intention is inviting parishioners to serve on committees.

Finances & Budget

- **Treasurer's Report:**
 - Betty shared that March/April will see a bump in donations from a parishioner who will be contributing cash from a stock sale; Also during Easter week we usually see an increase in donations; summer is where donations and attendance are weakest.
 - Betty also shared that the 2022 and 2023 Annual Parochial Report for 2022 showed that 28 people who gave to alms were not pledgers in 2022, and in 2023 that number has dropped to 18.
 - Betty stressed the need to review the General Fund because that is the account that pays the bills; If the Federal money does not come in when needed, we would need to consider dipping into the Diocese Investment Account.
 - Money from the Diocese to pay the Chase loan ends in May; conversations with the Diocese are ongoing.
 - Lorri and Betty will be shopping for a new bank due to ongoing issues with Old National.
 - Flower sale is scheduled to be the first Saturday in May; Gary will assist Betty with picking up the flowers.

Review and Approval of February Meeting Minutes:

- Bethany made a motion to approve the minutes; Kristine seconded. The minutes were approved.
- Posting of minutes moving forward:

- Father Bruce will send out the minutes to Vestry members for a virtual vote.
- Upon approval, minutes will be posted to the parish website.

Rector's Report:

- Page and Stage facility usage vote:
 - Jolene asked for clarification on the space they will be using; Father Bruce confirmed it will be the Parish Hall for two weeks in June.
 - Jessica asked the rental cost of the space; Father Bruce confirmed we charge them \$1,000.
 - Gary made a motion to approve Page & Sage's facility usage; Kristine seconded. The motion passed.
- Father Bruce has helped to create a grant request with the Diocese for a middle school art class.
 - Professional artists instructs for six weeks, one day a week
 - Joint effort between multiple parishes
 - Each parish would host one week
 - Father Bruce will share an update once the Diocese makes grant decisions.

Other business:

- Tom encouraged all Vestry members to prepare thoughts around the Strategic Plans's second initiative for April meeting.
- Gary will speak with Lorri and Ben Paden about exploring a new phone provider for the Parish.

The meeting concluded with Compline and was dismissed at 8:47 pm.

Next Vestry Meeting: Wednesday, April 19th at 7:00 pm.