

St. John's Cathedral
Vestry Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2017

6:00 p.m. – Vestry Meeting begins

Members Present:

Tommy Donahoo, John Sefton, Claude Moulton, Joe O'Shields, Martha Cox, Faye Wisner, Debbie Baker, Patricia Young-Jones, Chris Steilberg, Kirk Altman

Members Absent:

Lindsey Riggs, Bill Fouraker, Robert Hyde

Quorum:

Yes

Treasurer:

Charles Winney

Chancellor:

Steve Busey

Clergy/Staff Present:

Kate Moorehead, Meredith Cataland, Tina Hutcheson

Clerk:

Tina Hutcheson

Guests:

Ginny Myrick

Devotion:

Led by Claude Moulton

Moment of Gratitude:

Chris Steilberg and Debbie Baker thanked Tim Tuller for his work with AGO. Dean Kate thanked Megan Cochran and Chuck Womack for their work with Church on the Mat. Martha Cox thanked Joe and Laura O'Shields for leading EFM. Claude thanked Church Without Walls. Chris thanked David Erickson and his family for the time at St. John's Cathedral.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:

Chris Steilberg offered an amendment and alternate language to the discussion around the status of the kitchen improvements. Debbie Baker seconded the amendment. There were no additional edits to the previous meeting minutes. John Sefton moved approval of the minutes as amended. Faye Wisner seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved as amended.

Consent Agenda:

The Consent Agenda, consisting of council reports and financial reports, was provided to the Vestry.

Calendar and Assignments of Vestry Meetings:

Tommy Donahoo explained the intent behind and the benefit of the use of the consent agenda. He also introduced the idea of beginning to focus the monthly Vestry meetings more closely on the happenings of each month at the Cathedral. He gave the examples of September being the stewardship month, so perhaps the stewardship council would be prepared to offer a more detailed report, or October being more focused on the budget. He presented a calendar and asked the Vestry to consider it and offer feedback. Dean Kate added that the hope is to give each council an opportunity to go deeper into their activities and engage in more substantive discussion. It would also help the Vestry be more aware of the happenings at the Cathedral. Martha Cox also added that it gives the Vestry a chance to get to know council members, and that it is also an opportunity to think about future leaders in the church. Dean Kate invited the Vestry to go to Parish Life and discuss their topic or month.

Cathedral District-Jax Presentation:

Dean Kate introduced Ginny Myrick to present on the status of the Cathedral District-Jax. Ginny invited John Sefton to briefly explain the amendment to the Articles. John explained a technical amendment to increase the number of Directors from three to eight. He explained the second resolution is a technical amendment that says the Bylaws provide for eight Directors. And he explained the last resolution is an invitation to the Bishop or his designee to join. He stated that the amendments have also been provided to Steve Busey. There was brief discussion regarding the Board Members and Vestry approval. Mr. Busey summarized that the amendment permits the Board of Directors of Cathedral District-Jax to determine how many Board members there will be, they will present nominees, and the nominees will have to be approved by the Vestry.

Martha Cox made a motion to approve the amendments. Joe O'Shields seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the amendments were approved.

Ginny updated on the progress of the District. She discussed hiring a master development company, Torti Gallas, through a grant. She briefly explained the plans for the surrounding blocks that comprise the District and also the inclusion of the surrounding churches. She also briefly discussed the potential for a charter school in an existing building belonging to the Presbyterian Church. She updated on the status of the Community Connections property. There was follow-up discussion regarding the plans for converting the property to residential and the potential for retail business to move to the area.

Properties Discussion:

Martha Cox updated on the work in the kitchen. She also briefly explained two endeavors the Properties Committee is working on. One is creating a comprehensive schedule of maintenance and replacement to help guide decisions regarding the Preservation Fund. The other is introducing signage to direct people on campus.

Election Task Force:

Tommy Donahoo discussed the Vestry election process. He and Dean Kate explained how other churches offer a slate of nominees instead of having an election. Tommy invited a couple of people to begin discussion. Claude and Chris volunteered.

Dean's Report:

Dean Kate discussed the departure of Fr. David Erickson. She stated that Fr. David was hired on a three- to five-year contract to do development and to build a Development office but is leaving in the middle of the endowment campaign. There was follow-up discussion regarding how to best avoid this situation going forward. Steve Busey concluded the conversation by recognizing that the Cathedral has been a fertile launching ground for young priests to do great things and that the Cathedral should be grateful for that tradition. Dean Kate also briefly discussed the event given in Bishop Frank Cervený's honor.

Other:

John Sefton discussed four funds. Three are managed by the Preservation Board and one is managed by the Vestry. He explained a recommendation to the Preservation Board that the percentage of equities of their three funds be increased from 35% to 50%. He stated that they would like to make the same recommendation for the Saints Fund managed by the Vestry. There was brief discussion, after which John Sefton made a motion that the fund manager be authorized to increase the percentage of equities from 35% to 50% with the timing up to his discretion. Chris Steilberg seconded the motion. Debbie Baker expressed concern in making the decision without seeing something in writing and requested to see the recommendation, the current balance and how the new recommendation would benefit. Dean Kate suggested that the Vestry rely on the expertise of the Finance Committee. Martha Cox offered that since it is a financial matter, it be brought up at the next meeting in order to give everyone time to answer any concerns. It was agreed to bring the matter back up at the August Vestry meeting. John Sefton withdrew the motion.

Debbie asked about the Brown House. Tommy briefly updated that it has been mostly quiet and not much has changed since the last update.

With nothing further, the meeting was closed in prayer.

Minutes submitted by Tina Hutcheson