

Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2023
6:00 p.m.
St John's Cathedral

Call to Order- 6 pm

Opening Devotion- Will Ketchum offered a reflection on disagreeing gracefully.

Members Present: Donna Walker Bell, Chris Collinsworth, Barbara Fiser, Glenn Guiler, Will Ketchum, Patrick Kimball, Lloyd Lewis, Lisa McKenna, Claude Moulton, Meg Sacks, John Sefton

Members Absent- Paige Hakimian, Tom Serwatka

Others Present- Steve Busey, Charles Winney, Meredith Belger, Joel Embry, Bob Hill

Clergy and Staff Present- The Rev. Mark Anderson, Megan Cochran

Quorum- Yes

Moment of Gratitude

Barbara Fiser expressed gratitude to Liesl Gavronsky Howsare for preparing the legacy dinner. It was a lovely evening due to her culinary skill.

John Sefton expressed gratitude to Bob Hill, Joel Embry and the Finance Committee.

Claude Moulton thanked Mark Anderson for all he has done with finances.

Patrick Kimball expressed gratitude to Brighton Hakimian for painting the Baptism Tree, George Booth for building the frame and baptismal boxes and artist Laura Johnson for making the glass flowers.

Approval of Minutes

After review of the March 16, 2023 minutes, Patrick Kimball moved to approve, and Chris Collinsworth seconded. The minutes were approved as presented by all members.

Finance Update –

Joel Embry introduced Meredith Belger, who has returned for approximately 10 hours a week to help complete audits and GuideServe onboarding, and invited Bob Hill to explain the difference between an audit and a review. Embry then reviewed the giving statements from January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023.

Finance Committee Audit Recommendation-

Joel Embry- The Finance Committee recommends the Vestry vote to complete reviews of the 2019 and 2020 finances and move forward with audits for 2021 and 2022. Glenn Guiler moved to approve, and Patrick Kimball seconded. The resolution passed with Claude Moulton voting against it.

Nursing Home Sale and Aging True Update- John Sefton updated the vestry on administrative matters.

ESJ Nominees

After reviewing the professional bios of ESJ Board of Trustees nominees Colleen Haley, David L. Nunes, Ty Petway and Catherine Mitchell, Chris Collinsworth moved to approve all nominees and Glenn Guiler seconded. All nominees were approved.

CD-J Nominee

After reviewing the professional bio of Allan Iosue, CD-J board nominee, Will Ketchum moved to approve, and Lloyd Lewis seconded. All members approved Allan Iosue.

Vestry Alternate

John Sefton informed the vestry that due to terminal illness, Tom Serwatka has missed the requisite number of meetings to remain on the vestry. Members discussed, with heavy hearts, whether to replace Serwatka with the vestry alternate elected at the last annual meeting, John Bass. Claude Moulton recommended that the vestry send a memorial. Patrick Kimball respectfully moved that the Vestry replace Serwatka pursuant to the rules. Lloyd Lewis seconded. All members voted in favor of bringing John Bass onto the Vestry.

Council Reports

WMA

Patrick Kimball reviewed upcoming music and art events. The council is working towards improving organizational tactics for events, including seasonal themes that allow all offerings to be coherent and work together through the year.

Development

Meg Sacks reported the Legacy Society Dinner has 28 people and the council will continue to promote planned giving and these dinners will be an annual occurrence. Soon, the council will launch a campaign to raise matching funds for water intrusion remediation. Laura Jane and Buck Pittman will be co-chairs of the 2023 pledge campaign.

Properties

The committee is moving forward with the Music Suite renovation now that the agreement has been signed. The PPE will be finalized in May.

Formation

Barbara Fiser updated members on upcoming formation offerings.

Subdean's Report

The Rev. Anderson discussed the retreat held in Cummings Chapel, The Blessing of Discord, which brought together clergy in the diocese with diverse theological viewpoints. The Honorable Judge Tjoflat led reflections on the law's place in learning to disagree gracefully. In April, there was a hearing at City Hall regarding the Duval Trio adjacent to the Cathedral School and the city's proposal to mothball the houses, meaning they would be shuttered and left as is. The CD-J and cathedral clergy advocated to have the buildings torn down. Cathedral clergy continue to go to St. Philips on Sunday mornings to fill in until a full-time rector can be hired. The staff has mapped out liturgical themes through summer 2024. This summer we are looking to build panel discussions based on civil discourse to broaden our thinking and wonder about contemporary issues in our society from the CD-J to the pros and cons of AI.

Closing Prayer

Minutes respectfully submitted by Megan Cochran