

VESTRY Minutes

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Present: Cal Woodard, Katie Chipman-Bergsma, Sandy DePlonty, Bruce Lynn, Nikki Clark, Steve Stiling; Absent: Johny Stephens; Guest: Susan Harries

1. Opening: Bruce opened the meeting at 11:10 a.m. with a prayer
2. Review Agenda
3. Public Comment
 - Last year one of the mutual ministers in the Marquette area went to a suicide prevention workshop. It is called Soul Shop. Gin asked Susan to bring this to the vestry meeting to let us know about this program. Marna Franson is trained and willing to do this for us here. We do not have a date right now, possible late spring or early summer. Susan read the vestry an overview of this program. This program teaches how to have conversations about suicide. The proper term now is “They died by suicide.”, not “They committed suicide.” There is some cost involved with this program, but there are grants available for this as well.
 - Wondering if we could offer this to others in the community? Sue said we could indeed offer this to our community and maybe fill the parish. We would have an informational session first to explore this. Katie, David, Margaret and Susan are open to exploring this program.
4. Ministry Support Team
 - Discussion to be held on 2/26 about morning prayer, whether we will continue and what the changes might be. Gin is still formatting the meeting.
5. Review/Approval of Vestry Minutes December 18, 2022
 - **Motion to approve the minutes made by Cal Woodard with a 2nd by Katie Chipman-Bergsma . No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.**
6. Treasurer’s / Endowment / Budget Approval
 - Report placed on file.
 - Katie mentioned that Cloverland has changed their calculation that energy will cost more during daytime hours (8a-9p) and was asking if we accounted for this. We did increase the heating budget.
 - Vestry reviewed and agreed for the budget to be sent to the annual meeting for approval.
7. Committee Reports
 - a. Christian Education
 - b. ECW Report
 - c. Outreach
8. Senior Warden’s Report – Annual meeting reports are due by Monday or Tuesday. Bruce did contact Johnny and he no longer wants to be part of the vestry.
9. Junior Warden’s Report
 - Sidewalk snow removal services. DDA has contracted Cardinal Construction for snow removal services. Our two parcels are considered to be part of the downtime community. The cost will be \$1.7 per linear foot x 200 feet for a total of \$340. The city

is not obligated to provide sidewalk snow removal services. Our church does not have the manpower to do this, but we want to provide pedestrians safe crossing on our property. Our snowblower would not have the capacity to clear ice and snow left by the road snowplows. At last week's discussion, those in attendance felt this was fair, even though this is technically a "tax". We did feel this is our community donation if we do this too, since we are technically exempt from this. However, it is still a requirement for the downtown area to keep your property sidewalks clear. **Cal made a motion to support sidewalk snow removal services under the contract the DDA has set up for a cost of \$340/year. Second made by Sandy DePlonty.** The agreement with the contractor is that they will be cleared if there is 1" or more of snowfall. A question arose asking if, regardless of snowfall, we will still pay this dollar amount. Cal will talk to Stephanie Sprecker to get clarification on that. Katie feels we should support this, but her main issue is more with how the city is doing this. The concern was with some of the snow last year being put against our windows and would we have any ability to talk about where they put the snow. This removal is ONLY for the Bingham side of the church, not the side streets. Cal will work with the contractor to make sure they don't fill in the parts we are responsible for cleaning in the interior. **No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.**

- Cal got hold of Michigan IPL and talked to energy program manager, Jennifer Young. Talked to her about the age of the building and problems heating and asked if there was the possibility of a grant for this. They introduce companies to the church to get work done and serve as a point of contact, not as an organization to get grants. There is a community engagement committed through IPL that we can talk about grants with. Cal will get hold of the head of that committee to see if there is an avenue for grants through that committee.

10. Old Business

11. New Business

- a. Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 29, 2023 – 11 a.m.
- b. Cub Scout Use of the building – request for the cub scouts to use the building, as needed, when available. Katie has a couple more events in the future without dates yet and does not want to have to come back for approval for each event. **Motion made by Cal Woodard to support the Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts for upcoming events. Second by Bruce Lynn. No oppositions or abstentions, motions carried.**
- c. Next Vestry Meeting – Sunday, January 29, 2023 – After Annual Meeting to Elect Officers
- d. Next Vestry Meeting – Sunday, February 19, 2023 11 a.m.

12. Adjournment and Closing Prayers

- **Motion to adjourn made by Sandy DePlonty with a 2nd by Nikki Clark . No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra DePlonty

Acting Clerk of the Vestry