

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Episcopal Church of the Atonement Vestry Meeting Minutes

Time: Sunday, June 13, 2021, 1:01 to 2:20
Location: Home Videoconference via Zoom
Present: Mother Erika Takacs (Rector) Greg Bradley (Warden), Liz Sarnik (Warden), Natalie Archie, Dave Beil, Richard Benson, Steven Britt, Will Cronenwett, Bill Hancox, Amanda Kim, Daniel Polley, Charlie Segal (Music), Mike Trumbold (Bookkeeper), Michael Waltz (Clerk) Chris Windle (Music).
Absent: Barbara Newman, Doug Wagner (Treasurer)

Next Meeting: Sunday, July 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – in-person.

Greg Bradley (Warden) called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Mother Erika gave an opening prayer.

Choir Report: Charlie Segal and Chris Windle gave a report on plans for the next program year, which is October through Corpus Christi. Choir members are paid per “call” (each time they rehearse and/or perform); because of budget cuts they will need to drop two or three “calls” next year. Also, during the pandemic the Schola lost four of the 12 people; because of budget only two of those will be replaced. The changes mean that there will be fewer rehearsals, less support for the St. Cecelia choir, and no orchestras for the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, he assured the vestry that the choir is in good spirits, the members appreciate the support they receive, and they like singing from the chancel.

Charlie reported that because the organ needs some work he has put together a small ad hoc group to assess what needs to be fixed and to determine if it’s worth fixing. He hopes this will help avoid future emergencies and get a start on the work of an organ committee if one is established in the future. There will be no budget impact by his group.

Mother asked for Charlie’s and Chris’ opinion about singing, either masked or unmasked. Because the choir members are all fully vaccinated both support singing unmasked.

Review of May Vestry Meeting Minutes: A **motion** was made and **seconded** to approve the minutes. With no questions or discussion the **motion passed unanimously**.

Treasurer’s Report: Mike Trumbold filled in for Doug Wagner who was unable to attend the meeting. Everything for May looks normal. Expenses for May and year-to-date are down a little from budget. The payment for past due water was taken out at \$2,500 again, rather than \$500 as it should have been, but this will mean that we’re done with our payments sooner. Revenue for May is down slightly but year-to-date is ahead of budget. Mike said the church is on solid financial ground and all bills are being paid on time.

Outreach Report: No report.

Rector’s Report: Mother Erika reported that Bill Hancox has put together some plans for the small group meeting that will be held with parishioners to discuss what about Atonement worked in the past, what has changed and what they hope for the future. Greg Bradley, Liz Sarnik, and Mother are looking at the timing of the meetings, which they hope will be finished by late July. They’re planning training for the facilitators and have determined that each meeting will also need a scribe to take notes.

Mother asked Dave Biel to report on the buildings and property evaluations. Dave said that they have received revised proposals that fit within our budget from both architectural firms. The group will be reviewing them and will recommend which to use to the vestry.

Mother reported that the damaged tree in the garden will be removed tomorrow. Once that's done the signage will be put in place and the book house moved out of the garden. She reported that there have been some issues with neighbors treating the garden as an off-leash dog park and insisting that the gate be kept closed even when we need to use the ramp. After discussion the vestry agreed that the gate should be removed to make it clear that, while visitors are welcome, the garden's primary use is not as a dog park. The gate will be stored so it can be reinstalled if necessary in the future.

Mother said that the diocese will provide guidance on Wednesday about what parishes can do to more fully reopen. She expects most decisions to be left up to individual parishes. After discussion the vestry agreed to move forward with whatever the diocese allows but with some notice to the parishioners that changes are being made. The suggestion was for an announcement of the changes in next Thursday's email with implementation the second Sunday following.

Endowment Report: The Endowment Guild report, detailing marketing plans and materials already distributed for the Legacy Society, was distributed ahead of the meeting. There were no questions or discussion about it.

Action / Decision/Discussion Items:

1. Sunday School. Amanda said we're on track to return the Sunday after Labor Day with one class for all ages to begin. She supports a "soft" reopening to see how everything works; children will wear masks at Sunday School and parents will determine whether or not they should wear them at mass.
2. Garden. Liz reported that there was a "planting day" a few weeks ago. The group from Heartland Alliance put together by a friend of Hector Hernandez helped work on the garden and it's looking much better.
3. Small Groups. Included as part of the Rector's Report.
4. In-Person Vestry meeting. In-person meetings will resume in July.
5. Realm. The feedback Richard has received from his individual meetings is that people don't want to take on more technology. He's looking for other uses for Realm and will be meeting with Greg to discuss the project.

Dates for Calendar: Vestry meeting July 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Waltz
Clerk of the Vestry