

**Sunday, November 13, 2022**

**Episcopal Church of the Atonement Vestry Meeting Minutes**

Time: Sunday, November 13, 2022, 1:02 p.m. to 2:36 p.m.  
Location: In-Person at Church of the Atonement and via Zoom  
Present: Father Dan Puchalla (Interim Rector), Liz Sarnik (Warden), Dave Beil (Warden), Natalie Archie (via Zoom), Jennifer Ash, Richard Benson, Steve Britt, Ann Cassidy, Rufus Gonzales, Amanda Kim, Barbara Newman, Rick Velon, Mike Trumbold (Treasurer), Michael Waltz (Clerk)  
Absent: No one  
Guests: Curt Schmitt, Charles Segal, Jack Taipala, Christopher Windle

Next Meeting: Sunday, December 11, 2022, 1:30 p.m. – in-person at Church of the Atonement and via Zoom.

Liz Sarnik (Warden) called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. followed by a prayer by Father Puchalla.

Because of known problems with the organ a committee made up of the four guests at this meeting was formed in 2021 to oversee the assessment of its condition. With Vestry approval and using funds donated for this purpose the committee hired R. Karsten’s Organ Works to do a thorough assessment. The committee provided the Vestry with copies and discussed their report. As suspected the organ is in need of a great deal of work and is living on borrowed time. We have three options for addressing the problems. 1) Repair it as it is now, which is “kicking the can down the road.” This option would cost around \$300,000 and, because so many modifications have been made in the past it won’t address some of the problems; further work will be needed in the not distant future. 2) Rebuild the organ using salvageable parts at a cost of approximately \$800,000. This option would make it possible to repair and improve the existing instrument without completely replacing it. 3) The ideal solution, but by far the most expensive, is to replace the organ with a new one at a cost of \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000. Charlie stressed that if we undertake a capital campaign for repairs/improvements to the buildings the organ must be a part of that effort. Whether the decision is to repair or replace, the time-line for the work would be 18 months to three years. The committee suggested that the Vestry consider purchasing a high-quality organ if one becomes available from a church that is closing, which could save some money if the decision is made to rebuild it. After considerable discussion about the options **a motion was made** (Rick Velon) **and seconded** (Ann Cassidy) to receive the committee’s report. With no further discussion or questions **the motion passed** unanimously. After the motion the guests left the meeting.

Review of October Meeting Minutes: **A motion was made** (Ann Cassidy) **and seconded** (Rick Velon) to approve the minutes. With no discussion or questions **the motion passed** unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report:

*Statement of Financial Position:* Mike Trumbold reported that the Capital Projects and Columbarium CDs at Old National Bank were closed when they came up for renewal and the money was moved to the Operating Savings Account. By moving the money to a different financial institution we can earn significantly more interest. Byline Bank is offering a good rate but Mike is looking at other institutions as well; a decision of where to move the money will be made this week and new CDs will be opened for both accounts. Mike also will move some of the Columbarium Savings Account money to the Columbarium CD. **A motion was made** (Liz Sarnik) **and seconded** (Steve Britt) to authorize Mike Trumbold to establish new CDs for Capital Projects and Columbarium funds at Byline or another financial institution. With no further discussion or questions **the motion passed** unanimously.

Mike noted that the Endowment Fund had a positive market adjustment of \$65,000 and a distribution of \$8,300 to pay for the partial year salary for the Outreach Coordinator.

As reported in prior months' minutes a number of necessary repairs were recently completed including roof repairs, replacement of the alley door, and replacement of the exterior lighting. After discussion **a motion was made** (Richard Benson) **and seconded** (Rufus Gonzales) to authorize Mike Trumbold to draw down \$30,000 from the Endowment Fund to pay for the capital projects that had been paid from the Operating Account. With no further discussion or questions **the motion passed** unanimously.

*October Statement of Activity:* Mike noted that the revenue from ParkMobile continues to increase with over \$3,000 received for October. Total revenue for the month is under budget by \$8,941. Total building expenses are over budget by \$14,674 because of the repairs noted earlier. There was a small miscellaneous expense of \$138 for the Vestry retreat in October and a charge of \$456 under Office/Parish Expenses for the printing and mailing of the pledge cards for the stewardship campaign.

**A motion was made** (Ann Cassidy) **and seconded** (Amanda Kim) to receive the financials. With no further discussion or questions **the motion passed** unanimously.

*2023 Budget Process Update:* Mike explained that a draft budget will be delivered to the Vestry for discussion at the December meeting. The January meeting is the target for the Vestry to pass the budget

#### Reports:

*Rector's Report:* Father Dan reminded the members to bring their pledge cards to mass next week. He hopes to plan a phone bank or similar follow up with those who haven't returned pledge cards after next week.

The fireside chats were completed and were very successful.

He hosted a very successful brunch for those in their 20s and 30s with approximately 30 people attending. The group will plan some additional activities including a trip to the Lincoln Park Zoo lights in December.

Kate Myer is officially in charge of organizing coffee hour. All those who host have to do is bring the food; Kate will do the set up and clean up.

Father is planning sessions for reflection to be held on the four Fridays of Advent.

*Outreach:* The Guild provided a written report of its October activities. Three trips were made to the Alderman's office with bins filled with winter clothes for the migrants. Two carloads of coats and accessories were delivered to RefugeeOne.

A bulletin board has been ordered to alert parishioners to volunteer opportunities with the Guild and our partner organizations.

Peg Tomaszek-Witry has stepped down as the representative to Sarah's Circle because of her planned move. Charles Stewart is temporarily overseeing that effort. Phebe Tinker is also stepping down as the contact for RefugeeOne. The Guild is looking for volunteers to assume these roles.

The annual Advent donation drive will be for RefugeeOne, and the Guild's end-of-year meeting will be Sunday, November 20th at 1:00 p.m.

*Buildings and Property Guild/ S-4:* Dave Beil reported on activity for the month. They met with the architect from BauerLatoza Studio to go over the cost estimates. At no additional cost the architect will help prioritize what we need to do. Dave said BauerLatoza will submit two options for the existing ramp, either replacing it where it is on the north side of the church or moving it to the south side. The majority of the equipment for the A/V carts had been received and everything should be running soon. New exterior lighting has been installed; we are still waiting for the new controls.

*Fund Raising:* Rufus Gonzales said five people have volunteered to work with him on a block party for next year. He has started looking at what will need to be done to organize and run the event. He noted that block parties are usually intended for community building and typically don't charge for most activities; we'll need to look at ways to raise money at this event, but we'll also need other events for fundraising. He anticipates that the party will be late August or early September.

#### Action/Discussion Items

*Retreat Follow Up:* Father reminded the members of the projects agreed to at the October retreat and encouraged those who volunteered to move forward with them.

*CAT Survey Summary:* Father focused on a couple of things that came out from the CAT survey. The survey showed there is high energy at Atonement but it's not highly focused. He feels that the work the Vestry is already doing on some of the projects noted above is starting to do what is needed to focus on our mission. The survey also showed that Atonement has a very traditional focus on music and liturgy and very progressive values. This is unusual but highly desirable and he feels it is something about Atonement that we should be projecting to the rest of the community and the world. He distributed and asked the Vestry to review an article on Paraclete cultures that he feels is pertinent to Atonement.

Dates for Calendar:      Next Vestry Meeting – December 11 at 1:30 p.m.  
   Thanksgiving – November 24 (church office closed)  
   First Sunday of Advent – November 27  
   Christmas Pageant – December 11 following the 11:00 mass

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m. following a prayer by Father Dan.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael Waltz*  
*Clerk of the Vestry*