

Vestry Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2017

In Attendance: Fr. John Dwyer, Jeff Jensen, Mike Sirany, Barb Swanson, Chris Huntley, Karen Hartman, Cindy Lee, Elizabeth Grayden, Jan Fillmore, Darlene Cross, Ann DePaolis-Jones

Not in Attendance: Mark Brilowski, Becky Lucas

This was an abbreviated meeting followed by a picnic with vestry members and families.

Volunteer for Pulse of the Parish: No pulse this month because of the shortened meeting

Approval of July Minutes: July and August minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Additions to the agenda: None

Financial Report: Fr. John reported that we are at 58.33% of the year. The month ended \$1,092 in the red. The water bill was double what we anticipated which is part of the reason we are in the red. We are \$18,113 in the black for the year. Abraham from Sambuus World has prepaid a month's rent for the kitchen. He will be using the kitchen to make meat pies and is paying \$10/hr as an introductory rate.

Ongoing Business:

Silent Auction Update: Cindy reported that Julie and Cheryl are not interested in chairing the silent auction this year, but would be interested in working on a meal or event for the auction. There was a discussion about changing the focus of the auction this year. Items for bidding in past years have fallen off in terms of volume and revenue generated. We will consider having a silent auction focused on dinners, and other events which has been where most of the revenue is generated. We would also include the gift card tree and libations raffles and a Saturday evening event. A scaled back silent auction will be easier for someone to take on. This would be a trial and we wouldn't have to do it every year. It would be beneficial to encourage folks to host new events. Mike suggested having pre-publicity information available during start up Sunday. Jeff suggested we solicit items (tickets, gift cards etc.) from businesses that could also be part of the raffle. Karen reminded us that it is important to reach out to new members and invite them to events after the auction.

State Fair Parking: There was a meeting for volunteers on Saturday and several from St. Christopher's attended. State Fair staff will set up tents and porta potties on Wednesday. They recommend not letting people go into the building. There will be a row of parking saved for people coming for church business along the Highway 36 fence line. State Fair Parking won't start until 1:00 on Sunday so our morning service will not be impacted.

Start up Sunday: Ann Trapnell agreed to lead a team who will work on food for the event. There will be a notice in the Christogram for teams who might want to advertise with a table. Vestry is encouraged to help with clean up.

Sewer Project: The bid for the sewer replacement from Valley Rich came in at \$225,900 for the entire project. We will wait for the second bid before any decisions are made. Father John described the proposed project which will begin inside the lower narthex, go out of the building, and out to the main sewer line on Hamline. It will take 10-14 business days to complete and will likely begin in mid-September. The whole project needs to be completed before the first frost. Mike suggested that we consider cancelling services on Sundays during construction. There will be porta potties and no running water available. We have approximately \$380,000 in the PIF, some of which will be used to fund the project. It was discussed that we should consider asking for donations to help replenish the PIF. Fr. John thinks this is a wonderful example for the Legacy Planning efforts that will be started this fall. There was a discussion about having some kind of campaign or thinking of some creative ways to raise money to help replenish the PIF. Cindy looked into the possibility of grants, but did not find any. Cindy wants us to get some clarifications on the bid before going forward. Once the second bid comes in, the vestry will be notified to make a decision. Mike proposes that as soon as a decision is made, the parish be informed. It was agreed that there must be transparency in the messaging to the parish. We will mail a letter to everyone regarding the decisions.

Jeff made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Mike seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Submitted by Ann DePaolis-Jones