

January 8, 2019

IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Minutes of the Vestry
January 8, 2019

Attendees:

The Reverend Ray Buchanan

Vestry Members:

Joe Mulino, Sr. Warden

Ray Zentis, Jr. Warden

Margo Farrara

Craig Reitan

Steve Walsh

Evelyn Reynolds

Bob Earl

Debbie Prather, Member/ Treasurer

John Thomas, Assistant to the Treasurer

Patricia Ingram, Clerk of the Vestry

Ken & Donna Owens, Church Staff

Guests: Fr. John Gamble

Absent with Apologies: Robin Mills

Opening Concerns & Prayers: - Fr. Ray

- Fr. Ray opened the meeting at 5:00 P.M. with An Order of Worship for the Evening Vestry Meeting. Fr. Ray asked for any prayers/celebrations. None noted.
 - **Information:**
 - **Approval of Minutes:** Fr. Ray asked members to review December minutes. Bob motioned to accept as submitted, Joe seconded, December minutes approved to be accepted as submitted.
 - **Group Ministries and LIFE Report:**
 - **Supper Club-** Joe Mulino
 - Joe advised Ardis updated him on Supper Club, December was hosted by Bob and Patrick Hunt, 40 attendees, \$495 raised for Hunger Ministry. Joe continued advising in 2018 there were 314 attendees with \$3,675 raised and since 2014, when Ardis started running Supper Club, there have been 1146 attendees and \$12,330 raised for the Hunger Ministry. Joe stated kudos to Ardis, all agreed.
 - **Announcements:** -Fr. Ray
 - Fr. Ray advised for security reasons the only door that will be unlocked for meetings will be the one to the meeting room. Fr. Ray continued stating members can come in any door they wish, but please lock afterwards. Fr. Ray further advised there are multiple doors with panic bars that can be exited without a key- one in the classroom, one in the workroom, one in the office, one just inside the Gathering Place, and one on the other side of the Gathering Place. Fr. Ray advised he has no specific concern, he is just trying to be prudent.
 - Fr. Ray advised people having meetings can do it any way they want, this is one way.
 - Fr. Ray advised he has shifted any visitor comments to the beginning of Vestry Meetings in order to allow Vestry to stay focused on their discussion yet still allow visitors a place to be heard
- Fr. Ray asked for any comments from Vestry members.

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- **New Facilities** – Fr. John Gamble (copy of Fr. John’s Executive Summary enclosed)
- Fr. Ray asked for any questions/comments on Fr. John’s Executive Summary.
- Bob inquired as the proposals referenced on page 3, December 21.
- Fr. John advised this refers to the three different illustrations prepared for the Annual Meeting.
- Debbie inquired as to what the presentation will be.
- Fr. Ray advised it is being developed, right now as is it will be a slide show containing all drawing to date, how we started, how we got to this point, and where we are today.
- Fr. John added they will go through each of the drawings and how they got approved. Fr. John noted there has been no approval for construction docs at this time.
- Debbie inquired as to who will answer questions.
- Fr. Ray advised he would like all Vestry members to be there to answer questions and he would like them to sit in the front when the presentation starts.
- Debbie inquired if Vestry will see prior to presentation.
- Fr. Ray advised unfortunately no, too much to get together by then.
- Debbie inquired as to who will be doing presentation.
- Fr. Ray advised Fr. Ray, Joe, and Fr. John will be giving presentation.
- Debbie inquired how it will be publicized.
- Fr. Ray advised he will get something out as soon as possible, as much as possible, encouraging all to attend.
- Steve commented he thinks what the Vestry is doing is trying to get a sense of the where the parish is, from where we are and where we are going, looking for their feedback so Vestry can make a decision.
- Fr. Ray advised that is his understanding.
- Debbie inquired if serious questions raised by the Vestry will be addressed such as a smaller gathering space, how all this will impact our outreach programs, and costs involved.
- Fr. Ray advised he believes all those things will be part of presentation in some way, invites any questions/comments.
- Fr. John added presentation will show initial budget from Victor on his preliminary drawings, which was way too high, then drawings/budget after Compass Constructions was brought in, still too high, and the third presentation Victor made wherein after Fr. John received he recommended eliminating the portico which lowered the budget even further.
- Fr. John advised, when he gets it from Victor, he will have budget which will include the removal of portico, adding on library in the back, and putting in the palm trees which, if Fr. John understands both Ian and Bruce, will put budget quite a bit lower than the \$400,000.
- Fr. John advised presentation will show how we got from A to B budget wise, and each time we moved budget has come down.
- Fr. John advised the square footage in the presentation Victor made compares existing space to the revised new space, the revised new space physically having more square footage to it because all the partitions will disappear, will be all open. Fr. John further advised the square footage will be more or at least break even.
- Fr. John advised that, in addressing the question from Tom Prather at the last meeting, Victor has indicated the space between tables will be 71/2 – 5 ft., but the final decisions will be made by planning commission and fire marshal.
- Fr. Ray added the tables as set up in drawing are not there because that is exactly how they will be set up, and he has asked Victor to go back and redraw the other space with similar tables so we can see how they compare.
- Steve inquired to Robins’ letter wherein he states he thinks our best course of action is to wait until we have money for the whole project, will this be brought up so people understand that is an option.

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- Fr. Ray advised it will be brought up.
- Fr. Ray asked Vestry what their tension is/concerns are.
- Steve advised his concerns were already addressed, wanted clarity all concerns would be brought up.
- Ray Z. advised he is concerned about Gathering Place, right now it is an exciting and dynamic place, Ray continued stating he is a little nervous about replacing it with something less.
- Fr. John advised spaces will be equal.
- Steve commented spaces will be very different.
- Fr. Ray advised yes spaces will be different, but usable space the same.
- Steve added the way space is now you do not feel like you are on top of one another, the feel is there is plenty of room, having difficult time envisioning the new space being as accommodating.
- Fr. Ray advised we do not have money to do whole project, have to phase it.
- Fr. Ray advised this is not the final plan, each time a plan has been brought to the Vestry there were concerns/questions raised and they have tried to address them.
- Bob added he is concerned, as are some other members of the Vestry, we are putting the cart before the horse, are the Columbarium and Labyrinth the most important pieces of this new construction. Bob continued questioning how many people will actually use Columbarium, many people he has spoken with have indicated they will be going back north or out to sea.
- Fr. Ray advised Columbarium was identified by congregation as the number one thing they wanted, must be aware.
- Ray Z. inquired what whole project would cost to build.
- Fr. John advised \$2,500,000 at today's cost. Fr. John added that is Phase II cost and does not include Columbarium. Fr. John continued stating whole project would cost around \$3,000,000.
- Debbie added it is not known how long it will take us to get to 2.5 million, this is a concern for all of people.
- Fr. Ray advised method used to come up with \$400,000 budget was based upon the way the pledges have come in, when all pledges come in would be \$550,000- \$600,000.
- Debbie advised she has worked on numbers and if we stop project now she believes we could come out with around \$550,000.
- Steve inquired if this amount is after Victor and Fr. John are paid.
- Debbie advised yes after the completion of the 2017 Capital Campaign.
- Debbie advised she would suggest that in 2020 we immediately have another capital campaign and hopefully we could raise the same amount that was raised before, \$1,100,000. Debbie further advised that at the beginning of 2023 we would then have approximately \$1,700,000, thought it may take us to June 2023 to have that in hand. Debbie continued suggesting we could then build what we could afford with the \$1,700,000 and then we would have a new building of some kind, maybe slab with cinderblock, a permanent building, up to code.
- Debbie advised she does not know what the square footage would be.
- Fr. John advised total would be 6,800 sq. ft. @ \$250.00 per square foot
- Debbie inquired as to the cost per square foot as provided by Victor, would have to do research.
- Fr. John advised Victor and Bruce have done that study and that is how they got that number.
- Debbie stated the plan she put forth would not work with those numbers, but neither would raising 2.5 million dollars.
- Fr. Ray advised we can project and have ideas about it, but there is no promise from anyone that we would or would not be able to raise a certain amount of money.
- Fr. Ray advised the bottom line is if we choose to move ahead with something there is no way to do it without risk and disruption. Fr. Ray continued stating this will be so no matter how we do it, even if we had 3 million there will be major disruption.

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- Fr. Ray advised we have to keep that in mind as well as somehow honor what we have said to the congregation, we have a commitment with them.
 - Joe advised he understands what everyone is saying, but a commitment to the congregation was made and he would like to hear from them rather than from just a few people and go from there. Joe continued stating a commitment to the congregation was made and their priorities were listed in the feasibility study. Joe stated their priorities may have changed, but he would like them to have the opportunity to voice their opinions as well.
 - Debbie advised we also have a commitment to a master plan, which we have parts of. Debbie indicated as long as all that is being discussed is included in the presentation she will be happy.
 - Joe advised nothing will be sugarcoated, all facts will be shown.
 - Fr. Ray advised it is taking a lot of time to put things together, Victor has gone above and beyond, Vestry will have seen almost everything prior to meeting.
 - Joe advised Fr. Ray will be putting something out, but please spread the word.
 - Margo inquired if Vestry members should announce at services.
 - Fr. Ray stated he thinks that would be great.
 - Debbie suggested feeding attendees afterward, maybe have some further discussion.
 - Ray Z. likes idea of Vestry members speaking briefly at services to indicate importance of attending.
 - Fr. Ray asked who would like to speak.
 - Evelyn and Debbie agreed to each speak at a Saturday night service, Steve and Ray Z. agreed to each speak at an 8 AM Sunday service, and Joe and Bob agreed to each speak at a 9:30 Sunday service.
- Fr. Ray asked for any other thoughts/concerns.

Discussions:

- **Senior Warden Report** - Joe Mulino
- Joe advised Mardi Gras is in full swing.
- Joe asked Vestry to get the word out we need donations. Joe continued stating they will be starting ticket sales soon.
- Joe advised Rob and Nancy are going to have their hands full, could use as much help as possible.
- Joe advised Norma has offered to help on the donations side for sponsorships, she is already working with Rob, she is really good at this-helped last year.
- Joe stated they can use any help we can give, let's get started.
- **After School Program** - Steve Walsh
- Steve advised they had a committee meeting yesterday, recommending no attempt be made to re-open the program this year or next due to lack of volunteers, lack of funds for a director, and space concerns due to the disruption during the building process.
- Steve advised the committee is suggesting to Vestry approving the possibility of exploring Iona-Hope volunteers to volunteer to mentor children at Harlem Heights Elementary School.
- Steve advised John Harries and Donna Kress had a meeting with Ms. Nichols at Heights Elementary and she indicated they prefer the volunteers to come in during the school day for consistency purposes as well as they would be working with a teacher that works with the child. Steve continued advising the teacher would be directing the volunteers as to how they can be of assistance to that child. Steve further advised they have people doing this currently and, if we do this, volunteers would have to have background checks.
- Steve advised that if Vestry approves they will see what kind of interest there is among the parish, how many people would be interested in doing this, and once they have that information they will do down to Harlem Heights and discuss specifics.

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- Steve advised that after all efforts that have been made, committee feels this is the best use of those folks who want to help out.
- Fr. Ray asked Steve to state for the record what the committee believes is the reason the program went away.
- Steve advised reason were lack of volunteers- Donna had an ongoing issue of trying to keep program evenly staffed, sometimes not enough, sometime during season too many, Donna put in way too many hours trying to keep it going/was overworked, lack of funds for a director, money it would cost to bring in someone qualified too much for what we would get in return.
- Craig inquired if we will be selling the van.
- Fr. Ray advised we are still using van until end of the school year.
- Steve advised there is a possibility we may continue transport children if St. Columbkille continues their program.
- Bob advised he would not prefer not to continue with transporting the children due to difficulty getting drivers during off season, Ken Owens ends up driving most days.
- Bob motioned to approve Committee suggestion to further develop mentoring program with Harlem Heights Elementary School, Margo seconded.
- Margo noted we need to make sure volunteers understand there will be a commitment to go on a regular basis, can't just go once in a while, consistency important, need to be clear.
- Steve advised that they do have seasonal people who mentor, our seasonal people would still be able to do.
- Vestry voted and unanimously approved.
- **Stewardship**- Bob Earl
- Bob advised as of 1:13 this afternoon there are 127 pledges totaling \$353,464.96.
- Bob advised there were 28 new pledges, 43 increased, 33 stopped.
- Fr. Ray advised stewardship will continue, focus will be year-round.

Fr. Ray asked for any question

- **Finance/Finance Committee** – Debbie Prather (Treasurer's Report and Preliminary December Financial Statement attached)
- Debbie advised December financials are preliminary, still adjustments to be made for end of year. Debbie continued advising Vestry will have final statement by next meeting and she looks forward to reporting on yearly performance at the Annual Meeting.
- Debbie advised over all we did very well this year, ended in the black.
- Debbie advised that contributions form pledge, non-pledge and plate were actually down in 2018, but they were down the amount the Christmas letter brought in which is designated.
- Debbie advised the Christmas Letter for designated funds took in \$11,267.14 as end of year, may change, anticipate possible additional money coming in.
- Margo inquired if this amount includes the matching funds.
- Debbie advised no, this was raised simply from the letter announcing the match.
- Debbie advised the estimate for the new audio/visual system is around \$24,000.00, don't have final cost yet.
- Debbie the SSGA account which Vestry authorized Treasurer to maintain \$60,000 in the restricted account currently has a balance of \$122,770. Debbie continued advising we have made co-contributions to State Street in the amount of \$225,899, book value as of end of November of \$219,152, don't have December statement yet, could go up or down.
- Debbie advised that, due to the volatility of the stock market, she is asking for a monthly review of that money and for a dollar direction of what Vestry wants done with that money, invest or keep in the bank.

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- Debbie advised the Finance Team is recommending Iona-Hope designate the “Mission and Ministry Funds’ of approximately \$2,000, which is our rebate from the Diocese for paying our 2018 apportionment, to the South Fort Myers Food Pantry.

Debbie asked for any question on the investment, what does Vestry want to do with the \$122,770.

- Bob inquired if that includes the apportionment for the Diocese.
- Debbie advised that is included in the \$60,000 which is kept in the account. Debbie continued advising the total amount of apportionment for this year is \$45,000.
- Bob suggested maybe putting the money into a money market account.
- Craig added we could put it in a 12-month CD.
- Joe advised there is a 13-month CD yielding 2.75% right now, doesn’t feel good about prospect of December statement, thinks it may go down. Joe continued inquiring if decision can be made to do nothing in the short term, wait it out for 30 days and see what happens.
- Debbie advised yes.
- Fr. Ray asked if everyone was in agreement, all agreed.
- Fr. Ray advised Finance Team has moved to designate the rebate from the Diocese of approximately \$2,000 to South Fort Myers Food Pantry, Bob seconded, unanimously approved.
- **Junior Warden Report** – Ray Zentis
- Ray advised most serious issue right now is a hole in the copy room floor, Steve and Jim Foster hopefully going to be able to do something with that.
- Ray advised he is calling a contractor to handle the uneven pavement, it is dangerous, people can fall.
- Ray advised he is calling in a specialist for the mold in wall and carpet.
- Ray advised there are bunch of other little things they are working on.
- Craig advised there is an issue with the outside lighting, dark after Saturday service.
- Ray advised he will adjust, re-set timer, something will be done.

Fr. Ray asked for anything further for Ray.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned with closing prayers at 6:01p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A Ingram
Clerk of the Vestry