

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry
April 14, 2020

Attendees:

The Reverend Ray Buchanan ✓

Vestry Members:

Joe Mulino, Senior Warden ✓

Ray Zentis, Junior Warden ✓

Bob Earl ✓

Margo Farrara ✓

Alison Kinch ✓

Robin Mills ✓

Andi Jerger ✓

Debbie Prather, Treasurer, Member ✓

Patricia Ingram ✓

Guests - Persons of Interest:

John Gamble, Project Manager ✓

Paula Paquette, Clerk of the Vestry ✓

Guest: Douglass Lind, Consultant ✓

Opening Concerns and Prayers: Father Ray

Online services are now held: Noon Prayers, Mon. and Fri., 12:00. Compline, Tues. and Thurs., 6:30. Wed. morning prayer, from the church, 9:30.

Vestry Covenant not read this evening.

Minutes Motion Robin Mills, Second Joe Mulino, to approve previous minutes (March) as presented. All in favor.

Group Ministries Reports

Reports – The Saturday morning AA group is meeting at the library parking lot. They bring lawn chairs. There are other meetings, too, on other mornings.

Announcements

Mardi Gras discussion will be held til a future meeting. Columbarium discussion will be held til a future meeting. Documents are not in yet.

Diocesan Council and Diocesan finance committee had a virtual meeting this morning. Father Ray attended. Some of what was discussed will need decisions from this group tonight. Approved by Diocese was giving every congregation \$180 to pay for Zoom. There is lots of concern for financial health and general health of parishes at this time. Ways to assist finances without negatively impacting Diocese was discussed. There are 20 congregations in the revolving loan fund. Iona Hope has the largest loan in that fund. There have been five requests from congregations for assistance. All 20 loan recipients in this fund are being offered a two month deferment of payment. We will not need to pay for two months. Two months will be added to the end of the note. Interest will not be accruing at that time. This will free up cash for us to use for two months for operating the church. Every year, we get a rebate on our assessments for paying the assessment in full. It is prorated to each congregation based on the amount of their assessment. The assessment will be paid forward. In the next month, the equivalent of what we would get on the rebate will be deducted from the monthly assessment so our assessment will be lower now through the end of the year. This means that in 2021, we will not get a rebate.

New Facilities

Father John Gamble, executive summary concerning building projects, new facilities. Precast work around Columbarium should be completed by the 17th of this month.

Decorative fence will be installed on March 20. Stucco on rear of Columbarium will start on 20th. Fire road will be done. Repairs to labyrinth will be done by the 30th. Fountain will be done on the 30th. Fire chief will examine what has been done. Landscaping including crushed shells, work on the St. Francis statue, building lights repairs, pet scatter garden work, placement of ashes which have been stored in the church, and some other items still need to be done. \$4,575 would be the cost to replace well pump which was not working. Well is dry because of lack of rain. They will be deepening the well. It is for irrigation. We replaced the pump a year ago. \$550 is cost for water heater for family bathroom. We previously used the existing one and it is not operational and needs to be replaced. It is the under sink one, automatic on. (Insta-hot) Some items are maintenance items. Some can be funded by the building reserve fund, as was the fire lane. Pump and water heater are maintenance items. John McFadden is waiting to hear back from county whether bushes need to be replaced behind the church by the shell road. Father Ray said, yes, he was informed today that they do. Motion to take money from maintenance fund for water heater and well pump, Bob Earl, second, Joe Mulino. Vote passed, one voting in the negative related mostly to the cost of the Insta-hot.

Discussion

Senior Warden Report, Joe Mulino

Thrift Store lease. Sixth amendment to the lease to thrift store was included in documents for the meeting. April and May rents were forgiven. Senior Warden Joe plans to reach out to the landlord to request an abatement for June and July rents also due to the pandemic crisis and quarantine. Approval is needed for Father Ray to sign the amendment. Margo made the motion, Bob Earl, second to authorize Father Ray to sign the amendment document. All in favor.

Vestry Consultation

Douglass Lind, Consultant – in attendance. Nothing additional to report at this time. He is available for whatever needs may emerge.

2021 Mardi Gras Recipient

Will be discussed at a future meeting.

Sabbatical

Sabbatical is on hold and likely will not happen at this time. Father Ray does not think it is appropriate to step away at this time. He will look toward 2021 for a sabbatical.

Decisions

Finance Committee, Deb Prather

Financial summary for this past month was not written because finances are very fluid right now. Reports were emailed earlier today to Vestry. Any questions about finances? CPA review has been put on hold until next month. He can do two months at the same time. Treasurer Deb reported a fairly balanced budget, really. If pledges continue to come in, Iona-Hope will be okay. It won't be beautiful financially, but it will be okay. Financial reports were uploaded to Teams for all to review. We have a lot of people who send money by bill pay, or they use ACH to pay. Others are actively paying. Checks are being sent or brought in.

Votes needed from the Vestry:

1. Motion, by Treasurer Deb Prather, to request of the Diocesan Finance Committee and Diocese that we be included in the delay of payments to the revolving loan fund (two months), second, Bob Earl. All in favor.
2. There is availability of loan funds to nonprofits to cover expenses during this pandemic. We are eligible for \$44,000 minus \$6. 75% of that must be used for payroll; the remainder can be used for rent and other expenses. Marnie Ike and Senior Warden Joe Mulino have been looking into this. The Diocese advocates that all congregations do this. Marnie completed the forms for Mid West One today. We

need to apply with one bank only. Forms are ready to submit if the Vestry approves. Motion, Joe Mulino, second, Bob Earl, to proceed with this application. All in favor. Diocesan finance person suggests that these funds be placed in a separate account to keep all accounting very tightly documented. We can take payroll from those funds. It will likely become a grant if the expenditures are made in accordance with the rules of the loan. Some discussion followed the motion; vote continued to be All in favor.

Junior Warden Report, Ray Zentis

Security project is on hold since we are not at the church at this present time. Junior Warden will check that the final couple of lights are operable.

Columbarium Committee

Will be discussed at a future meeting.

Gathering Place Naming

It was requested at the last meeting that the naming of the Gathering Place be placed on the agenda tonight. Motion, Robin Mills to continue to call The Gathering Place "The Adler Gathering Place", second, Joe Mulino. All in favor.

Mother Suzy Post thanks all the Vestry members for making telephone calls to all of the members of the congregation. The members appreciated deeply the calls made. All concerns that may have been raised were elevated to an additional call by clergy or other people. We may advocate making those check-in calls again. They were very well received. In June, member June Lockhart will turn 100 years old. We will celebrate in some fashion depending on what we are able to do at that time. We will discuss again at the next Vestry meeting.

A thank you was raised to Father Ray and Mother Suzy for being at the church to do the Sunday services for online viewing. Additionally, thank you to the booth people, the musicians, and the assisting people.

Vestry agenda completed 5:52 pm.

Evening prayer continued.

Adjournment