

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

Attendees:

The Reverend Ray Buchanan ✓

Vestry Members:

Joe Mulino, Senior Warden ✓

Ray Zentis, Junior Warden ✓

Steve Walsh ✓

Bob Earl (excused with regrets)

Margo Farrara ✓

Robin Mills ✓

Andi Jerger ✓

Debbie Prather, Treasurer, Member (excused with regrets)

Patricia Ingram ✓

Guests - Persons of Interest:

Ken and Donna Owens, Church Staff ✓

The Reverend Suzy Post ✓

John Thomas ✓

Alison Kinch ✓

John Gamble, Project Manager ✓

Paula Paquette, Clerk of the Vestry ✓

Guest: Douglass Lind, Consultant ✓

Opening Concerns and Prayers: Father Ray

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

Group Ministries Reports

Reports – None at this time.

Announcements

On the 5th, 12th, and 19th, first three Wednesdays of February, there will be interfaith programs. Prayer is the first topic and will be held at Temple Beth El. 2nd one is at Iona-Hope. 3rd one is at Quality of Life Center. Details will be forthcoming.

Today is the final meeting for Steve Walsh. Thanks was offered for all he has done as a dedicated Vestry member.

New Facilities

Father John Gamble, executive summary concerning building projects, new facilities. Report was emailed. Are we confident about the timing for completion we are presented now? The project completion date is April 1. This is indeed still the date that they are scheduled to finish. This includes the patio. Patio work will commence soon. Pavers are scheduled to arrive. Grading will then be done. The report includes numerous issues about maintenance. Power washing should be done annually, at the minimum every other year. Temporary kitchen was started today. One of the main issues with the kitchen is ADA compliance. Compass construction will cut down the existing cabinets and make them functional from the ADA standpoint. The cabinet height must be no more than 34" high. We might be able to use the existing cabinets as the final cabinets. We will be informed as to what the difference in cost is between correcting code compliance with the existing ones

versus purchasing the new cabinetry. Will we be installing gutters? One section has gutters. It will be reviewed as to whether more are needed. Demolition will begin early next week on the landscaping and then the former Gathering Place. Work day is Thursday to move things from the Gathering Place to storage pod on grounds. Maintenance agreement for air conditioning system was discussed. We are soliciting bids. They were received. Coastal \$1,740, per year, for all the air conditioning. Kobe \$1,980 for all. Father John recommends we go with Coastal. Margo Farrara made a motion to accept the bid from Coastal, seconded by Joe Mulino. All in favor. Vestry will be informed as to what happens with the cabinetry.

Discussion

Senior Warden Report, Joe Mulino

Received a note from Mother Suzy Post thanking the Vestry for her Christmas gift. Thanks was extended to Mother Suzy Post for all she does for Iona-Hope. Received a phone call from Gail Hamlett this morning. Women's Breakfast Club wanted to pool some money to go toward church building fund. They had a cookie jar and they collected money all year and \$427 to date has been collected and will be donated to the church. It will be presented at annual meeting. I have been talking about the Mardi Gras since the summer, the need for sponsorships, the need for help. Very little response has been received from the Vestry. Six weeks from the event and there are very few sponsorships. Bob Earl did donate toward sponsorships. First Citizens Bank was contacted by Joe. Royal Shell will contribute. Mulino/Ricca will donate. Silent auction has received few items. Someone else will need to take over the fundraiser in 2021. The current committee is fatigued. Hope Kids Care is the beneficiary this year. Victor Latavish, Compass, will support it. Mother Suzy Post's sister's company will sponsor again.

Vestry Consultation

Douglass Lind, Consultant – Report. We have a date and a place for the Vestry Retreat. February 7 and 8. When can people get there and when must people leave? We need the whole group together for all of it. Friday, 6 pm until 8 or 9 pm. Saturday, 8 am until 3 or later pm. The issues that emerge from the retreat will be addressed throughout the year. They will be enumerated at the retreat. The retreat is the beginning, not the end of all this. Vestry handbooks will be available. Please review them before the event.

Junior Warden Report, Ray Zentis

Trying to get together a team to address the security recommendations that have been put forward by the Lee County Sheriff office for houses of worship and Iona-Hope. The importance is greatly underscored by an event that happened at the 9:30 service this week. Someone came to the doors and came in asking to see a priest right away. He was wearing pajama pants. He was texting and went outside and then went around the building to another door and did the same, demanding to see a priest right away. Someone asked Father Ray about it during the peace. Father Ray asked the person to ask him to come back the next day. He went and sat in a car and then he took off in his car. 911 was called and a report made of this not typical activity. We do need to control the access to the building during services. Father Ray expressed concern over the calling of 911. He asked if there was any threatening behavior from this individual. There did not appear to be a threat. He was not wearing a trench coat; he did not seem to be able to have had a concealed weapon. We need to be very careful of rejecting or scaring people away because then we are not able to do ministry. Safety and security- seems like we have gotten stuck on active shooter issues, but, safety and security are about lights in the parking lot, people possibly fainting, etc. We need to observe people, but calling 911 perhaps was too much. It was, though, somewhat of an unusual situation. We need to do ministry here and all of the ministry we

do concerns some measure of risk. At the 8 am service, two people came in late and caused more disruption than the person described above. Pastoral staff greeted them and asked how we could be helpful after the meeting. Threatening behavior is when we call the police. Some of our attendees come in pajamas or not fully clad.

Invite Welcome Connect

January 22 is the next meeting. Kathy Hart is willing to take over primary leadership of the group. We may split the primary group into three separate groups and each take on one topic.

Strategic Planning

No report at this time.

Small Group Structure Discussion

No report at this time.

Decisions

Finance Committee, Deb Prather

Financial statement for this past month. Reports were emailed. Treasurer Deb Prather is excused. Assistant Treasurer John Thomas is here in her stead. All reports have been provided to Vestry. She will be contacting people to ask them to complete their capital campaign payments as soon as possible. Decreasing sales at the thrift shop and being locked into the lease is an issue. We need to encourage Eileen so that she knows it is not her fault. We need to come up with ideas on creative ways to use the thrift store to help generate revenue. January statement shows the budget is balanced. There is an open space near the Kmart facility. Can we downsize and use that space for higher end items that require less space? And get out of the other space? We would need to deemphasize furniture if we go to a smaller space.

Christmas Letter- What went out in the letter was to acquire more folding chairs to use around the round tables in the new Gathering Place, also, to acquire patio furniture, and get a large monitor to put in the corner for announcements and programs. 64 folding chairs like the ones we have now, on two carts, delivered, from Costco, for just under \$2,100. Monitor, from Team Logic, initial proposal is 55" ultra high def TV, Dell microcomputer mounted on the back with a wifi bundle, hanging on the wall, finished out, just under \$2,000. We are going back to ask about slightly a bigger monitor so it's really visible. Just started looking at patio furniture, needs to be heavy, not blow away, less likely to be stolen. Gathering Place will start to be used this weekend. Can we sell the blue chairs we do not need to keep so many of? Do rectangle tables help the space any? Probably not. The blue chairs are bulky around any shape table. We will see if we can add some chairs to the seating in the church. We will stack remaining chairs in the back of the church for now. Motion to purchase the new chairs by Joe Mulino, second Robin Mills. All in favor. Motion to purchase the monitor bundle by Joe Mulino, second Robin Mills. All in favor.

Junior Warden Report

Electric company coming in to repair some lighting. Water incident has been taken care of. Parking lot lights, proposing to put up several lights to illuminate the area. We have front lights that don't work and the back lot lights don't work. The electric company will look at it all.

Columbarium Committee

No report at this time.

Vestry agenda completed. 5:57 pm

Evening prayer continued.

Adjournment