

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry
June 9, 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 Excused with regrets

Patricia Ingram ✓

Guests - Persons of Interest:

The Reverend Suzy Post ✓

John Gamble, Project Manager ✓

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager ✓

Paula Paquette, Clerk of the Vestry ✓

Guest: Douglass Lind, Consultant ✓

Opening Concerns and Prayers – Father Ray

INFORMATION

Minutes – Motion Bob Earl, Second Joe Mulino, to approve previous minutes May 12, 2020. All in favor. Motion Joe Mulino, Second Bob Earl, to approve previous minutes May 26, 2020. All in favor.

NEW FACILITIES

New Facilities – Father John Gamble, executive summary concerning building projects, new facilities. Any questions on the last summary provided? June 3, no work on the site. Fountain pump is not working. Today, there was a meeting of Father Ray, Bruce Downs and John Gamble. The cross was incorrect. The precaster will be there to review. Sod work is needed along the fire lane. We are looking for an end date. None given yet. Dates have not been met. Permits for fire and site and due in tomorrow. A few pavers in the labyrinth need some corrections. Compass did not make an effort to ensure that subs were on our job. They were working elsewhere. There was some blame placed on covid. It was supposed to have been done April 1. We are now in June and it is still not done. Cross will be removed and redone. Positive comments were offered about how nice the labyrinth area looks.

DISCUSSION

Senior Warden Report, Joe Mulino

Joe thanked Robin for organizing such a nice 100th birthday celebration for June Lockhart this past Saturday. Robin spoke with her two days later. She was still tired but she was SO pleased. She was so pleased with the parade and also the book that was given to her with everyone's notes and greetings in it.

Vestry Consultation

Doug Lind, consultant. He hopes to see everyone in person someday soon.

ACS/Realm Conversion

For many years, the church has used ACS for finances and people tracking both. For the last couple of years, ACS has been developing a new program called Realm. It enhances the people side of the program. An App can be used to communicate people with each other and for the church to use texting with people, etc. Diocese came up with an offer that they worked out with ACS for some churches to move forward with Realm. We want to do Realm for the people side and maintain ACS for the financial side of our operations. We can do this for a reduced cost because the Diocese has set this up. We have started the transition; it will take about 3 to 4 weeks for the transition. \$420/month is the cost for ACS. Moving to Realm, we will pay about \$200 per month so there is a savings.

Junior Warden Opening

We can discuss this tonight and then, perhaps, make a decision in July. We are grateful to Ray Zentis for all he has accomplished and done. He is continuing on on the Vestry. Is there a job description for this position? Father Ray said that the Junior Warden takes the traditional role related to supervising facilities. Father Ray would like to see the Junior Warden position also be a part of the executive leadership team. Perhaps we can make the job responsibilities more attractive to women as well as men. It seems to be more of an appeal to a male sort of position. Opinion was expressed that we have many talented women on the Vestry and they are very welcome and encouraged to come more forward in heightened roles of leadership.

DECISIONS

Finance Committee, Deb Prather

Financial reports were emailed earlier to Vestry. Any questions about finances? March and April audits have been completed. May audit is being done tomorrow. Annual audit will be underway and completed soon. Financials look well. People have still continued to stay on top of their pledges. Some gifts have been received, especially in response to people viewing online services. Some expenses are reduced such as electric since we are not using the buildings as much. We have received the payroll loan. About \$15,000 has been collected. That should all be able to be claimed under payroll. State Street is closed out completely. Money has not been deposited yet but should be in the account shortly. We are getting significant income from the Columbarium.

Hope Children's Donation (Mardi Gras)

A final report was not yet completed for the Mardi Gras proceeds. One accounting shows \$6000 to give away. Another accounting shows \$5000 to give away. Finances will be reconciled and a final report will be done. We need a bit of a tighter accounting system for this event. The event was praised not only as an outreach donation but also as a fantastic social occasion for the members and guests.

Thrift Store

RMC are the owners of the facility with investors. We spoke with an RMC person on a conference call recently. The owners do not know what they want to do with the facility/property. We have not paid rent or CAM charges for June. We have three choices. **1** Stay at the existing facility and hope something good happens with the plaza. **2** We decide that we will look for another place and get out. We received a list of about 16 possible locations. Perhaps 10 might be viable for a Thrift Shop project. **3** The other choice is to do nothing and close the thrift shop permanently. We can do a soft opening and then see what kind of foot traffic we get, what foot traffic will come back. People have been looking to shop with us. Only Thrift Store, Spinners and pool store are there. Manager Eileen reports we have no hope there. Eileen is there a couple of days a week. We do have a good following, but there is nothing there for foot traffic in the plaza. There is just not enough foot traffic to sustain us. Manager Eileen suggests a new location, smaller square footage.

Perhaps the problem is not the store concept, but actually just the location. Eileen has been cleaning and purging the store these past few months. She reports that a move would not be overwhelming. Clothes are on racks; we probably have a mover that can move the furniture at a reasonable cost. Perhaps none of us want to see the Thrift Shop disappear altogether. If it is smaller, perhaps revenue would be less. Eileen recommends we focus on best-selling and highest income producing items at a new location. Perhaps we consider a soft opening at some point and try to generate some income between now and moving. Square footage costs are up there somewhat, depending on location. All leases are triple net so we will be paying CAM charges again. It's all about location. Discussed location potentials for a new shop; needs to be somewhat within a close area to where we are now. Someone requested a mission statement that establishes what the relationship is between the church and the Thrift Shop. It would be good to codify the relationship in a written document. Do we have the fire in the belly to do this? It sounds like we do. Is that the consensus of the group? Yes, seems to be. Bishop suggested we establish an LLC for the Thrift Shop. It may offer some protection for the church. Diocese can help us with that most probably. General consensus, yes. The group sounds like it is ready to move and undertake Thrift Shop elsewhere.

Motion that we start researching to move the Thrift Shop into a better location and to make the necessary arrangements to move forward with it, by Joe Mulino, second, Bob Earl. All in favor. Bob Earl, motion, to establish an LLC for the Thrift Shop, second, Joe Mulino. All in favor. A sidewalk sale for furniture would be helpful, as part of a soft opening, but there would need to be help to move things in and out. It is a management decision. Eileen will speak with Father Ray to come up with a plan forward.

Columbarium Committee

As of today, 13 niches have been sold. With the sale of each niche, \$600 goes to capital campaign to pay for the niche, \$600 goes into a fund to purchase new niches, and the balance goes toward a maintenance fund. The funds for maintenance can perhaps be placed into an endowment with the Diocese and then some rules be established for use of the proceeds and how that will operate. The future niches money should be possibly placed into a money market fund and separate from other monies. We have over \$1300 now available for the maintenance portion/endowment. Motion by Robins Mills, Second by Alison Kinsh, that we establish the accounts based on \$600 into capital campaign, \$600 toward the future purchases, and the balance going into an endowment fund for maintenance. All in favor.

Ray Zentis, Junior Warden – Moving forward, he feels it would be helpful to have a definition of the Junior Warden position. He regrets he cannot continue with the job but he may be out of commission for quite a while.

Some upgrading on the streaming situation for the church is being accomplished. Creative Sounds of Cape Coral will be doing this for about \$2100. Money is in the budget. We believe we are losing the rear projector in the church. A bulb was replaced last year, but more is needed now. Some improvements will be made using budgeted monies so that there is a better broadcast experience. The planting beds were dismantled and soil used elsewhere. They were in disrepair. Peaceful prayer vigil will be held this Saturday at Centennial Park. We are asking people to wear masks and to socially distance. It is at 9:30. It will be livestreamed too.

Vestry agenda completed 5:58 pm.

Adjournment