



ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS
E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Date: December 14, 2023
Meeting Open: 7:04 p.m.
Next Meeting: January 11, 2024

Submitted by: Deanna-Marie DiPirro
Adjourned: 7:56 p.m.

Present:

Fr. Nick Evancho
Pete Schlau, Sr. Warden - *Via Zoom
Irene Ehde, Jr. Warden
Melodie McEvoy - *Via Zoom
Allie Porter - *Via Zoom
Kris Dodge

Dawn Farquharson
Jerry Cahill
Amy Heist
Joe Childs - ABSENT
Carol Northrup
Sharon Jones - ABSENT

1. Fr. Nick Evancho led the Vestry in prayer.
2. Call for Additional Business
 - Amy Heist would like to add an update on the Air Freshener fundraiser.
3. Review/Acceptance of November Minutes
 - Fr. Nick asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 9, 2023 meeting, and there were none at this time.
 - Dawn Farquharson motioned to accept the November minutes as written, and Amy Heist seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted by a unanimous vote.
4. Financial Reports – *from Mike Somer
 - Fr. Nick wanted to emphasize that the financial report is only listed as of November 30, 2023.
 - We received an anonymous donation that helped our Operating Budget.
 - Christmas letters with offering envelopes have been mailed out.
 - Fr. Nick has updated parish giving for 2023.
 - He looks forward to a Stewardship campaign next year.
 - Quarterly reports will be able to be sent out next year due to new software.
 - Fr. Nick stated that the cost of this year's convention was placed in the office category, instead of convention, and will be corrected.
 - Amy Heist motioned to accept the financial report for the month of November, and Jerry Cahill seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
5. New Business/Reports
 - a) Rectory Fair Rental Value Assessment Report
 - Fr. Nick stated that he had the Rectory reassessed by a licensed realtor at Howard Hanna. It came in at the current amount and was reviewed by the manager of the realty office. Fr. Nick has the paperwork if anyone would like to see it. Therefore, the budget numbers do not change.

b) 2024 Housing Allowance Resolution

- Fr. Nick proposed \$34,000 be designated to housing for tax purposes.
- Jerry Cahill motioned to allow \$34,000 to be designated to housing for the Rectory for tax purposes for Fr. Nick, and Amy Heist seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

c) Endowment Board By-Law Changes

- Pete Schlau stated that the Endowment Board recently had their quarterly meeting and was reporting to the Vestry.
- He stated that the market has gone up.
- The Endowment Board recommends a change to the by-laws to expand the Board by one position and eliminate term limits. Both Mark Korzelius and Carol Northrup wish to remain on the board. This proposed change is being presented to the Vestry.
- The Vestry discussed the recommendations of the Endowment Board and how to move forward, including what options are available.
- Irene Ehde motioned to expand the Endowment Board to 4 at-large members, and Amy Heist seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- Melodie McEvoy motioned to eliminate term limits for the Endowment Board, and Dawn Farquharson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- Pete Schlau continued with the discussion that the Endowment Board recommends a distribution of \$2,000 from the 001 account to the capital campaign in Q1 2024. The distribution will be taken when market conditions are favorable. The distribution amount will be verified by the year end endowment performance spreadsheet.
- Pete Schlau stated that the Endowment Board also recommends a distribution of \$2,000 from the 002 account to support the church operating budget. The distribution will be taken in Q1 2024 when market conditions are favorable. The distribution amount will be verified by the year end endowment performance spreadsheet.
- The Vestry discussed the timing of these funds and when would be best to move them.
- Fr. Nick added that the Endowment Board by-laws state that we are able to accept these funds.
- Kris Dodge motioned to accept the Endowment Board's recommendation of the distribution of \$2,000 from the 01 account for the capital campaign, and the distribution of \$2,000 from the 002 account to support the church operating budget when the market is in a favorable position in 2024. Amy Heist seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

d) Water Bill Issue

- Fr. Nick stated that we received our current water bill, and it was \$989 for 3 months. He also stated that our normal water usage is 5,000 gallons, and this bill showed our usage as 108,000 gallons according to our meter. This includes the sewer charge as well.
- Fr. Nick spoke with the town and checked to ensure the meter was working properly. There is currently not a leak, but it could have possibly been one of the toilets continuously running without anyone's knowledge. This could have resulted from a previous plumbing issue also. Fr. Nick is looking to the Vestry to decide how they would like to pay this bill, from the Capital Account or Operating Account.
- The Vestry discussed the options and the by-laws that pertain to the Capital Account.
- After the discussion concluded, Jerry Cahill motioned to use the funds from the Capital Account to pay the \$989 water bill. Amy Heist seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

e) Set Date for Annual Meeting

- Fr. Nick discussed possible dates for the Annual Meeting and suggested that it take place after the cruise, after football season, and after the Superbowl. He proposed the last Sunday in February, which is February 25.
- Pete Schlau stated that another church that he attends down south combines their services to only one on the day of their Annual Meeting to allow more parishioners the opportunity to attend.
- Kris Dodge suggested having the Annual Meeting in the Church immediately following the service, and then going downstairs for Coffee Hours and snacks, i.e., pizza, etc. She also requested that the Annual Report be published electronically for the congregation, to include those that could not attend in person.

f) Identify Possible New Vestry Members

- Fr. Nick stated that the following Vestry members terms are ending:
 - Melodie McEvoy
 - Allie Porter
 - Kris Dodge
 - Pete Schlau (Sr. Warden)
- Fr. Nick stated that Melodie, Amy, and Kris are eligible to run for Jr. Warden.
- The Vestry discussed those individuals that have expressed interest in being on the ballot for the upcoming Vestry.

6. Additional Business

- Kris Dodge asked if Fr. Nick will be sending out a letter to the congregation before the Annual Meeting. Fr. Nick stated that he will be, and it will include detailed information.
- Amy Heist provided an update for the Air Freshener Fundraiser stating that 61 were sold as of today, for a total of \$244.

7. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn was offered by Jerry Cahill and seconded by Amy Heist. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Vestry Meeting

- The next Vestry Meeting will be on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7pm.

Attachments:

1. Vestry Meeting Agenda – December 14, 2023 – Fr. Nick Evancho
2. November Financial Statement – Mike Somer
3. Vestry Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2023 – Deanna-Marie DiPirro