

Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Vestry Minutes
May 5, 2019

PRESENT: The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Junior Warden Zadinga Ogada, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Susan McLaughlin, Berenice Rodriguez, Luis Pedron, James Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis, and Bob Waters. Others in attendance: The Rev. Nancy Hildebrand. The meeting opened at 2:02 p.m., with a prayer and check in around the table.

CONSENT AGENDA: Gordon moved that the consent agenda be adopted; Berenice seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Committee. Received the costs for contracts submitted for the purchase of two A/C units in the Chapel. The options were narrowed to two companies, Precision HVAC (Precision) and TriState, with Precision including a 10 year warranty. Decided to use Precision based on our past experience and because we have an existing service contract with them. Motion was made and seconded to select Precision to complete the HVAC replacement in the Chapel at a total cost not to exceed \$16,000. The motion passed unanimously.

ARK proposals for fire safety maintenance, including the elevator shaft, were discussed next. A motion was made to approve the proposals for ARK to do the battery testing and the fire sprinkler system safety inspection at a total cost not to exceed \$3,000. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

Formation of Elections Working Group. Ascension's bylaws need to be updated. Berenice, Gordon, Susan and Zadinga will form a vestry subcommittee to begin the process. The goals of the update include 1) making the document more plain language for clarity and understanding, and 2) moving the date of the Annual Meeting to no later than January.

EDOW Strategic Planning April 25 Meeting Recap. The intent of the meeting was to identify strategies to accomplish diocesan objectives, as suggested by the parishes, over a number of years. There will be a follow-up retreat in June.

Contracts Update. St. Barnabas signed a contract with Ascension. Berenice and Zadinga will meet with St. Barnabas once again to finalize the agreement. There is a plan to meet with Dr. Tina to confirm what space is available. The first regular meeting with Sandy Ridge went well. They did a walk through to discuss their needs including regular maintenance needs, mulch, etc.

Rice Bowl/Meal Packing Event. The Lenten Rice Bowl raised \$1600. Another \$1700-\$1800 is needed to meet the minimum required for the event with Rise Against Hunger. June 9th is the scheduled packing date. We have a contract. The event will be announced to the church.

NEW BUSINESS

Health and Wellness Committee. Questions arose recently about when and how often the defibrillators and first aid kits are checked. An assessment of the church's needs is necessary. At present, most emergency assistance plans during service hours are under the purview of the Welcome Team. Also, should we consider emergency messaging by text?

Security Concerns. A discussion regarding the security of the Church took place. A decision to install cameras to the main building was made. In an attempt to refresh security practices, the door code has been changed to ensure that only those who should have it will know it.

OPEN MIC

Meredith shared that a music session with Ana Hernandez is planned for Saturday, October 26th from 10:00am - 2:00pm. We are partnering with Lutherans to bring her workshop to the community. 40 people minimum to cover costs but more can participate. Registration is required.

Gordon shared that Children's Formation wants to hand out a postcard during the Yard Sale with information about the Church and its Youth Offerings. They would also like to hold a children's activity during the sale.

The Parish Picnic is scheduled for 30 June following the One Ascension 10:00am service.

Wadai raised concerns about the safety and soundness of Ascension House. Berenice suggested the Vestry look into the insurance policy for certain endorsements and to plan an assessment of the property for common hazards of older structures such as it is. Berenice will contact some companies for quotes on an inspection.

Berenice has been in contact with a company that repurposes old lockers, from schools, to create storage solutions. That company has agreed to provide some to Ascension at no cost. They will meet with us in the weeks following the May Vestry meeting.

Javiershared that Katie Beth will be ordained and needs a letter from the Vestry.

Wadaibrought up the need for greater organizational leadership for volunteer activities. We should consider designating someone to coordinate a volunteer team.

ADJOURNMENT: At 5:07 p.m., the meeting ended with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Allen
Clerk of the Vestry