

## **Ascension Episcopal Church Vestry**

### **Minutes of June 25, 2015 Meeting**

The Vestry met in the church library in the Parish Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2015. Present were Senior Warden Mike Black, Junior Warden John Searle, Treasurer Matt Murphy, James Berrie, Cindy Breton by speaker phone, Cheryl Coppock, Clement Falayi, Thom Fenner, Michael Fox, and Carol Goulet. Father Todd was absent, ill. John Edel and Jeri Platt were also absent.

#### I. Opening Prayer/Call to Order.

Senior Warden Mike Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 and led the Vestry in an opening prayer.

#### II. Consent Agenda.

Matt Murphy moved to approve the consent agenda. Cheryl Coppock seconded the motion, and the motion carried by voice vote.

#### III. Jr. Warden Report.

Junior Warden John Searle presented the Junior Warden report. He and Jeff Hostetter have been exploring repairs to be made to the car pool parking lot along Seagler. They consulted with an expert on such matters and they obtained 3 bids from contractors. He outlined the three bids and recommended that the Vestry accept the bid of PaveCon. The PaveCon bid stood out as the most complete and encompassed all the things recommended by the expert. John talked to some of the references provided by PaveCon and they told him that PaveCon does a good job, but they cannot always do the job when you want them to. The bid encompasses a re-asphalt of the car pool parking lot, repainting of the lines, re-installation of the wheel stops, and concrete repair of a pot-hole near the dumpster. PaveCon also offered to install new topcoat on the lot for an additional \$5,000. John said this is strictly cosmetic.

Treasurer Matt Murphy said he has approached Mrs. Clausey about school financial help with the parking lot repair. John said that because the property belongs to the Diocese, parking lot repair is the responsibility of the Parish not the school, but the school might be willing to provide some financial assistance.

Matt said there is about \$9,600 in the Parking Lot Restricted Fund and \$70,000 "rainy day" Maintenance and Repairs Restricted Fund. John pointed out that the description of the "rainy day" fund as adopted by the Vestry specifically includes parking lot repair. John suggested that the repairs be paid for \$9,600 from the Parking Lot Restricted fund, then from whatever funds are provided by the school, and the balance from the "rainy day" maintenance and major repair restricted fund.

Mike Black suggested that the Vestry not meet in July. He said he will visit with Mrs. Clausey this week to see how much the school can help, and the Vestry will then act on a motion to approve the parking lot repair by electronic vote. Jeff Hostetter will try to obtain the necessary permit, and we will try to have the work done in August, after KidVenture is over for the Summer and before school starts in the Fall.

John said that Ann Seitz has been asked to order the new flower cooler. We will need volunteers when the cooler arrives to move the old cooler into the Parish Hall, and move the new cooler into position. The old cooler will then be listed for sale on Craig's List.

John met for 2½ hours on June 24 with a representative from Air Products Services, Inc. They took a tour and made a complete inventory of the air conditioning system. The company will give John a bid for a complete maintenance contract, to include changing of the air filters and other areas of maintenance. The contract would not include repairs. The company will also give John a "to do" list of items to be repaired.

#### IV. Mission & Outreach.

Michael Fox and Cindy Breton met and discussed some ideas for upcoming mission and outreach. Considering the recent storms, they suggested that the church create 25 buckets of cleaning supplies. An announcement could be made at the Sunday service to "adopt a bucket" and fill it with cleaning supplies. The buckets could be given to people in need during emergencies like the storms.

They suggested that we conduct a "thank you" program for local heroes on Labor Day weekend. We could contact the local fire stations, police stations, etc., and provide cookies and such to the local heroes during the Sunday church service.

#### V. Emergency Response Team.

James Berrie said that he and Sarah knew several people who needed help during the recent floods. He suggested we form interfaith response teams of people who would be willing to be on call to help during disasters. We could "open our doors" during disasters, and offer the parish hall and kitchen facilities. We could make "Go Bags" containing toothbrushes, soap, towels, etc., for people who must evacuate in a hurry.

Lee Nirider, Cheryl Coppock, and James Berrie are the Emergency Response Committee. Lee was set to make a presentation to the Vestry at the June meeting before it was rescheduled due to Tropical Storm Bill.

#### VI. New Business.

James Berrie suggested an "Opt In" procedure for offering envelopes, because he and Sarah never use the envelopes. There was some concern that the envelopes act as reminders for some people. Perhaps an "Opt Out" process would make better sense.

There was also a general discussion about other methods for making donations or pledge payments to the church – through paypal or some other electronic means. It was decided to leave this issue to the Stewardship Team for consideration.

Todd Breton reported to the Vestry through the speaker phone that he, John Searle, and Mrs. Clausey had met regarding the timeline for expansion of the school. Mrs. Clausey will contact the fire marshal for the necessary approval. Todd has already received some bids for the renovations. He, John Searle, and Mrs. Clausey will review the bids as a joint committee of the school and the Parish. Mike Black suggested that the joint committee have a visionary goal, with

a view to the future facility needs of the church and school. Todd said the school does not need the expansion completed until January 2016.

Nancy the choir director left flyers in the meeting room asking the Vestry to approve the hiring of Mercy's Well musical group for a service. It was decided to send Nancy's request to the music committee and take no further action until the music committee makes a recommendation or request of the Vestry.

Matt Murphy said Mary Deacon's salary will be paid by the Diocese, but the budget needs to include costs of her CLE, supplies, and discretionary expenses. He estimates the costs for one year would total \$2,000. Because there are only six months left in this year, the budget needs to be amended to allow upto \$1,000 for this year. Matt moved to amend the budget to include upto \$500 for Mary's CLE, upto \$250 for Mary's office and supplies expenses, and upto \$250 for her discretionary expenses, consistent with her role to help the Parish in its mission. Michael Fox seconded the motion and it carried by voice vote.

Thom Fenner said that one of the moms appeared to have had her driver side window smashed in and something stolen from her car while she was bringing her child into KidVenture that morning. He saw the mom talking to a police officer by her car, there was no window on the driver's side, and Mrs. Peters was sweeping up broken glass by the driver's side door. Later that morning, KidVenture sent an email to all the parents warning them to keep their valuables hidden and their doors locked. Mike Black said the same thing happened to him a couple of weeks earlier at the Kroger down the street on Westheimer. He did not leave anything in plain sight, and the criminal apparently rummaged through his glove box looking for valuables. Several members also had noticed the older teenagers playing with the basketball goal.

Mike Black will take the lead in forming a Safety Committee to look into obtaining motion lights, or security cameras, or a presence by SEAL, the security guards who patrol Briar Grove Park.

## VII. Adjourn.

Michael Fox moved to adjourn, Matt Murphy seconded the motion, and the motion carried by voice vote. After reciting together the Lord's Prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thom Fenner