

Vestry Minutes - August 22, 2022

Hybrid Meeting - 7:00 pm

Attendance:

Mother Minerva

Steve Kriechbaum

Kevin Flegal

Sandy Welles

Maria Caballero

Sandra Ward

Carlos Lugo

Maria Angie Hernandez

Carolyn Cline

Patricia Mata

I. Introduction

A. Opening Prayer

Steve Kriechbaum

B. Rounds

Mother Minerva

C. Focus

Mother Minerva

II. Bible Study

Steve Kriechbaum

III. Adopt Minutes

- No changes/questions regarding minutes

- Kevin motioned to approve minutes, Sandra second the motion, no discussion.
- Minutes Approved

IV. Treasures Report

Sandy Wells

- Good month July \$7500.00 surplus
 - Building fund is on schedule
 - Balance \$82,000.00 which is great
 - Activities - 5 different supply priests during Mother Minerva's vacation
 - Making checks to several places using money from some of the funds that were discussed last month
- (last report has information)
- Mobile Loaves and Fishes sent a thank you note
 - Foundation Communities and Refugee Services of Texas- sent checks in July
 - Fan drive almost \$1200.00 , which past our goal of \$1000.00
 - School supply drive is still underway. Margaret Beare took lots of items today to McBee Elementary School. Can continue to give through August.
 - Minor maintenance expenses are rather high, a little over \$800.00 left for the year
 - Security System will have a deficit, we have had 1 alarm go off, for a charge of \$100.00 since using new alarm system
 - No questions regarding reports
 - We have changed to the new bank, Velocity. Make a copy of the deposit slip because we do not have deposit slips that has our name on it as of yet. Routing number for Velocity is on the blue folder. Cash needs to be placed in the blue bag to deposit. So far this is working fine.
 - Question was asked, can the vestry have a file cabinet assigned that we can have a couple of folders/deposit supplies in it? Having to dig

through the current file cabinet drawers to find the supplies needed for counting. Sandy will try and find a new place for this. We will be getting a new stamp and deposit slip. A new adding machine is available for counting if needed.

- Information is locked away because it has account information, is there a way to have this more easily accessible? Sandy will work on this as well.

- OK to continue to use current stamp (Deposit Only) for back of checks.

- Sandy will be retiring as treasurer at the end of September 2022. She will be around for questions. If we know anyone who would be interested in becoming treasurer let her know.

- Mthr. Minerva thanked Sandy for all of her hard work, especially with all the changes that have occurred and were needed.

V. New Business

A. The Park option for field

Neighborhood association reached out to the City Parks and Recreation

Department regarding building a neighborhood park. There was a meeting to see if St. John's was

interested in being a part of this. We needed permission from the diocese since they are the owners of

the property. The Parks Dept. reached out to us, and the city is interested in using the land we have for the park. If we think it would not hurt the mission of St. John's, or impede the mission of the church. The

corporation would be willing to work with the city. This decision is not up to the vestry, the vestry would need to discuss if we want to go further with this request and then take this to the congregation to get their input on if this is something we want to be part of. The

diocese would be responsible for the process. The city would acquire rights to the property, and they would ask the neighborhood what they want.

The following discussion/concerns were expressed -

- Prefer it not a community center building, maybe only bathrooms building wise.

- Sounds like a great idea, but give the city the rights to the land and they change what they plan to do with the land and possibly not use it as a park

- Is the garden going to be part of this plan? They would incorporate the garden into the park, but we need to know who will have rights to that property? Good question and we would need to get clarification on this.

- Many concerns that it would be really easy for the city to change there plans/switch the plans and find a way to change what they want (find a way to trick us into it). The city has been known to say one thing and do another thing

- Diocese of Texas will be the ones that will negotiate with the city, that we are going to partner with them. Steve believes that the lawyers from the disocese will assure that the property is used for park.

- Why don't we use the land for something that would benefit the church/us, for example a soccer field (easy to do and can then rent on Saturday and Sundays). Others agreed with this, if a park is needed to bring in people, the same can be done with a soccer field.

- Concern expressed was that we have not done anything with this land as of yet, and the land has been hard to maintain, the folks currently maintaining the property are getting older and will not be able to keep it up.

- It would take lots of money to do anything with this land.

- The church will be seen as opening the door to the community.

- We have been a soccer field but no facilities are availalbe, such as water so the land has not used as much.

- It was the neighborhood association that approached the church not the city Parks and Recreation department.

- It would be good for the neighborhood, good for the church as the lot will be maintained. We don't have the resources to develop that land with anything. The reason there has not been anything done is because we don't have funds or the diocese wouldn't allow.

- Comment made, protect ourselves and the church regarding development

- The diocese is not going to take one step unless we approve. They have put it back on us, they will not oppose us moving forward.

- Comment made - why wasn't this property offered to us (church community), to be used as needed, agree with soccer field recommendation.

- First time hearing that help is needed to maintain the land, can find help to take care of the land.

- This will be discussed further at a later time/date.

- Another comment was made that when they listened to the meeting, the city did not want a lease hold but ownership.

- We need to figure out what is the best for the church

- Really important to see what the church/congregation wants, as people have all been "burnt" by the city, and the city can be hard/difficult to work with.

- Some members didn't know they could have access to the property and that help is needed to maintain it.

- Question - Is this something we can do in house or partner with some entity?

- The following motion was made by Steve - Take to Growth committee, idea of partnering with the neighborhood association with conjunction with the Parks and Recreation, leasing the land, and take to the congregation the idea and find out what they would like to do. Maria Angie and Kevin second the motion. All were in favor of the motion

B. Diocese help with our books

our
Discovering we really need to have the diocese assist us on how to keep
books more streamlined. When we meet with the diocese and they make
recommendations, we may incur some costs to make the recommended
bring
changes. Keeping the books in order is becoming a real time cost. Will
the
this back to the vestry if recommendations will require cost that are not in
budget. A member thought it was a requirement for the diocese to do this.
What the diocese requires is if you have a budget for a certain amount
then
they will audit. If the budget is lower than the specified/certain amount
then
they do not audit.

Old Business - Vote on if we want to be formal members of Central Texas Interfaith

- Any questions or any discussion regarding membership need to be asked as we will vote in September.
- What we had with Monique was a grant from Central Texas Interfaith, there will be a cost of \$2500.00 per year if we join. 1 percent of the budget.
- Question was asked if there has been any progress on a Liaison person? Someone through - Buen Samertario will provide this service. They provided a name of person and phone number that can be called.

VI. Junior Wardens Report

Kevin Flegal

- Two things are being worked on

- AC Air Handling unit is broken. Getting 3/4 bids and will sit with Finance

Committee to make decision and where money would be coming from.

- Used to have a company that would come in and change the air filters and they have not come and done this since August 2020. They are looking to see why the service stopped. Kevin has a bid for the company to start up again, this will have to be payed every 90 days. Somebody will have to be available to open up

the church and behind the gate to complete this . Can they be asked about

year/two year filters that are available for residential and blue light to

help with allergies? Kevin will call and ask these questions.

- Parish Hall - Getting with ABA consulting that put in the new AC's last year, they are going to help with the Nest thermostats. We are currently locked out to control them, security key code does not work. They are one of the few companies that will work on a commercial building. Question asked, did we change the thermostat first or the internet service first, it was the thermostat first, but the thermostat knows to go to Spectrum internet. The thermostat is changing the temperature to Eco on itself. We also have issues with humidity in the building and not sure if that may be part of the problem.

- Wi-Fi guy coming, wi-fi is very strong and he will look it over and get recommendations.

- Working with diocese on emergency preparedness. Five folks are working with Kevin on this. Trying to get the fence fixed. Carlos is doing great work for the church.

- Help from the 1:00 service folks, a family has someone who is a roofer and would like to see if they can look at it and report what the issue may be.

VII. Senior Wardens Report

Steve Kriechbaum

- Busy with the growth committee and Jamaica
- Walk scheduled on 9/17 through the neighborhood from 9:00 am - noon.

Maria Angie is going to make flyers for the walk

- Foundations Community - they are going to have a fundraiser on 10/18 and they needed parking and they will use our parking lot from 9 am - 2 pm. They will have attendants to help with the parking and they will provide

a charter bus to take the folks to the luncheon.

- Central Texas Interfaith - Meeting about affordable housing, fired up for Jamaica, let Steve know if you want to volunteer and what you would like to volunteer for (need help with games)

VIII. Mother Minerva's Report

Mother Minerva

- Working with Central Texas Interfaith, presentation to city council for \$20.00 minimum wage. Also, working on keeping cooperations from getting tax breaks from paying school taxes. Mother Minerva was interviewed regarding this and she was invited to be on a panel in New York to discuss why people of faith are concerned about these issues
- Baptisms and weddings are coming up - people express how grateful they are to have found a home here at St. John's and being part of this faith community
- A meeting for pastoral care committee to discuss how folks can be cared for, even if they are not able to be at church, let them know that we will continue to care for them and pray for them.
- The stewardship committee has kicked off and have a strong group. If you get a call to testify please say yes, these stories are appreciated and move people and invite people to participate.
- Any questions for Mthr. Minerva - hands up for her advocacy
- Jaimica - Is someone who is in charge of this? The growth committee is in charge of this, it will be one group and not one person. Meeting to discuss and see who would like to help, want to do this function as a congregation. The committee would like to hear ideas from everyone. Next meeting will be for 1:00 participants,
- Next full growth meeting has not been set as of yet. After the 1:00 church service they will meet this Sunday to provide opportunity for them to talk because many of them don't use email or zoom meeting. In person meeting is so they can be heard and provide ideas. Question was asked regarding when this meeting was announced? Last week, concern was that last week many folks did not attend church and may have missed the announcement. There have been lots of emails, contacting of people and inviting people. Some folks that attend the 1:00 service are on the growth committee. Concern is that for some reason the 1:00 folks are not getting the message.
- If you are interested in the Jaimica talk to Steve and/or Angie.

- Part of the challenge, is trying to figure out the best way to communicate with the different groups of people

IX. Closing Prayer

Mother Minerva