April 10, 2018

IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Minutes of the Vestry
April 10, 2018 5:00 PM

Attendees:
The Reverend Ray Buchanan
Vestry Members:
Joe Mulino, Sr. Warden
Ray Zentis, Jr. Warden
Craig Reitan
Margo Farrara
Steve Walsh
Evelyn Reynolds
Robin Mills
Bob Earl
John Thomas, Assistant to the Treasurer
Church Staff: Ken and Donna Owens
Patricia Ingram, Clerk of the Vestry
Absent with Apologies: Debbie Prather, Treasurer

Opening Concerns & Prayers:- Fr. Ray

- Fr. Ray opened the meeting at 5:00 P.M. with An Order of Worship for the Evening Vestry Meeting. Fr. Ray asked for any prayers, concerns or celebrations. Fr. Ray asked for prayers for those who have died, especially Jose, Gretchen, and Sue Ellen.

Information:

- **Approval of Minutes:** Fr. Ray asked members to review March minutes, asked for any changes/additions.
- Bob motioned to accept minutes with additions, Robin seconded. March minutes approved to be filed with additions.

- **Group Ministries and LIFE Report:**

- **LIFE**- Steve Walsh
- Steve advised Nehemiah Action had 768 attendees, probably more that were not counted.
- Steve advised Chief Diggs agreed to institute civil citation policy, but would not commit to numbers. Steve continued stating they will continue to work on and monitor.
- Steve advised Chief from Cape Coral declined to attend, had something come up. Steve continued advising Chief will continue to work hard to keep program going.
- Steve advised no county commissioners were in attendance. Steve continued advising Commissioner Mann has put a proposal before the commission to vote on putting creation of a Children's Service Council on the ballot, has some support. Steve advised next Tuesday, April 17th, commissioners will be having a discussion and taking a vote. Steve continued stating

Chelsea would like as many LIFE members as possible to attend, 8:30 A.M. at the courthouse, this is a public discussion, can speak or yield to another prior to vote.

- Steve advised there will be a team leader meeting Monday night, April 16th, to get ready.

Fr. Ray asked for any questions for Steve.

- Bob commented there was good press on the Nehemiah Action.
- Steve agreed there was good press in the newspaper, well written.
- Robin commented Fr. Ray did a nice job at the meeting, nice to see Iona-Hope represented like that.
- Fr. Ray thanked Robin, asked for any other reports.

- **Announcements:** Fr. Ray
- Fr. Ray asked for any announcements.
- Margo asked if anyone has seen a blue bag with magazines which has been missing from AA meetings.
- Ken advised they have been on the look out for it.

Fr. Ray asked for any other announcements.

- Fr. Ray asked Vestry about opening executive issue so they can discuss openly.
- Vestry agreed to open for discussion.
- Fr. Ray advised this is an item on the agenda, will work through agenda and discuss when it comes up.

Discussions:

- **Senior Warden Report-** Joe Mulino
- Joe advised he and Fr. Ray met with Hope Clubhouse and Habitat for Humanity and presented them each with a $5,000.00 check, took pictures, do not have yet.
- Robin inquired if we can get into weekly bulletin/monthly newsletter.
- Joe advised we can.
- Fr. Ray advised there are letters from each for review.
- Joe advised Thrift Store volunteer party was Sunday, about 70 people attended, good time. Joe continued advising there were many compliments on store and job Ilene is doing.
- Joe advised Thrift store ytd income $73,612, last year $69,059, things are good.
- Joe advised Thrift Store still gathering information for grants.
- Robin advised that, as was requested last meeting, he has looked into 2 places which he got from Rev. Ellen Sloan from St. Michaels on Sanibel. Robin continued advising he visited both. Pine Manor supplies 3,000 people around the Summerlin/US 41 area with food, clothing, a community garden, courses and classes, very dedicated. Farm workers in Immokolee are associated with the Presbyterian Church and supply food, clothing and other things to the labor force there. Robin added he hopes Thrift Store will look at both.
- Joe advised that, with sojourners going back home, Thrift Store is in need of volunteers.
- **After School Program**- Joe Mulino
- Joe advised last day of program May 24th.
- Joe advised there will be 12 kids next semester.
- Bob added there will be 4 new kids.

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- Joe advised kids are going to Broadway Palm on April 21st, need volunteers.
- Joe asked other Vestry members who are going to Day Springs on May 5th if they would like to carpool.

Joe asked for any questions.

- **New Facilities Committee Discussion** – Fr. Ray
- Fr. Ray referenced email he received from Alison which he previously provided to Vestry. (copy attached)
- Fr. Ray advised he has spoken to Fr. John.
- Bob asked if it would be possible to have Victor or Fr. John speak with Vestry to explain whole building process.
- Robin added he thinks this is a good idea.
- Fr. Ray advised he thinks Fr. John can do.
- Bob stated he does not want to hold up process, asked if there could be a special meeting.
- Robin advised, as he recollected from last meeting, it was Vestry's position to get bids from Victor and a few others
- Steve and Joe both explained that to get competitive bids from several architects is fine, but should do all at the same time, not after Victor has invested his time/talents.
- Fr. Ray added to split the process would be unethical.
- Joe suggested Fr. John be brought in for next meeting to discuss.
- Fr. Ray added that Fr. John has been on both sides of the process.
- Robin stated he thinks written terms of reference is needed.
- Steve added we have to have a plan to take to architect.
- Ray added we are fortunate to have Fr. John and his experience and knowledge, is a professional.
- Bob motioned to invite Fr. John to speak with Vestry about architectural process, Steve seconded.

Fr. Ray asked for any questions/discussion.

- Steve inquired if there should be a special session.
- Vestry agreed it would be best to do in a couple of weeks, Fr. Ray will talk to Fr. John.
- Vestry voted to invite Fr. John and Alison to talk to Vestry and explain architectural process, passed unanimously.

Fr. Ray asked for any questions

- Fr. Ray reference report from Joe which was previously provided to Vestry regarding contact with next door property owner.
- Fr. Ray advised Joe has been in contact with the owner of the property next door.
- Steve inquired if there is any idea of price for the land.
- Joe advised he is not a commercial realtor, but has done property comparisons. Joe continued stating, if owner is realistic, price should be between $325,000 -$350.000. Joe added that he had not put a figure out to owner yet, but is maintaining open dialog with her.
- Craig stated it could not hurt to make an offer.
- Joe stated he believes we would need a commercial appraiser to come out and appraise the property.
- Margo stated she likes the idea of putting in bulletin for congregation to see

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- Robin stated he thinks we should put a verbal offer out there, good to register interest.
- Craig stated an offer could also give owner a baseline.
- Steve added he likes idea of making an offer, if we have that property it would change the building plan.
- Ray agreed it would change the plan completely.
- Bob inquired if property would need to be rezoned.
- Joe advised he does not think it would be that big of a deal.
- Robin motioned to make an offer on the property next door, Craig seconded.
- Joe inquired as to amount of offer.
- Vestry agreed on a $350,000 offer.
- Joe advised he will contact owner and make offer prior to meeting with Fr. John..
- Vestry voted and approved making a $350,000 offer on the property next door.
- Craig stated he sees nothing wrong with looking at Victor's price and then others if we do not share Victor's information.
- Steve stated he understands Craig's thoughts, but it will be a better comparison if we do all at the same time.
- Craig stated that, with Victor's knowledge of the property, he believes everyone will want to stay with Victor.
- **Small Group Structure Discussion** -Fr. Ray
- Fr. Ray stated he has sent materials to people, have not gotten together yet.
- **Strategic Planning-** Robin
- Robin referred to materials he put together(copies enclosed).
- Robin stated strategic thinking is where you want to be 5 years from now. Robin continued stating strategic planning is how you get there.
- Robin advised that usually with a church everything starts with mission. Robin added that one of the things that attracted him to Iona-Hope was our mission and how it has been presented.
- Robin stated he believes wording of mission should be looked at every 10 years or so to see if this is where leadership wants to take us.
- Robin stated he researched various mission statements from other congregations, most open their website with mission statement.
- Robin stated everything starts with mission, from mission rest of plan flows.
- Robin stated all leaders of the parish should be involved in the creation of the mission and how we get there. Robin continued advising the plan gives a framework of where parish would like to be in 3-5 years, goals to around 2025. Robin added he thinks both the Vestry and Rector should participate in the leadership of the parish.
- Robin stated he believes we are ready to start planning.
- Robin advised he thinks it would be best if Vestry went away together for 1-1/2 days to somewhere such as Day Springs. Robin further advised he believes it should be facilitated by Paula or someone from the Diocese. Robin suggested either June or July.

Fr. Ray asked for any questions/discussion.

- Ray commented he thinks it would be a very good thing, good idea, should happen sooner rather than later.
- Bob stated he thinks 1 day and local venue would be very beneficial.

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- Ray added it takes time, has done strategic planning in the past.
- Robin added advantage of going away is team building withing the Vestry, likes overnight, thinks Day Springs would be best. Robin continued suggesting we could offer help with paying for Day springs to any member who would have difficulties paying. Robin stated he thinks this would be very beneficial.
- Bob asked Robin what he is looking for from Vestry
- Robin advised he and Ray could look into possibilities of what is available and come back to Vestry with a couple dates as well as who could facilitate.
- Bob asked Robin if he is looking for a motion.
- Fr. Ray advised as this is part of discussion, Vestry can or not vote tonight.
- Robin stated he would like a vote if possible.
- Bob motioned to have Robin and Ray move forward on getting preliminary information on strategic thinking, Steve seconded, passed unanimously.
- **Stewardship 2019 Discussion –** Bob Earl
- Bob advised he and Mike are looking for guidance/input/suggestions from Vestry, would like more Vestry involvement, looking for direction.
- Bob advised he likes low key approach, works.

Fr. Ray asked for Vestry input.

- Bob advised Patrick Hunt will also be on the 2019 Stewardship Team.
- Robin commented he believes community meetings are very powerful, sets positive attitude, very helpful.
- Evelyn advised she like the testimonial videos.
- Joe stated he would like to see more information on the Legacy Program, believes allot of people don't know much about it, including himself.
- Robin stated it gets more complex when you get into program. Robin continued stating he thinks we could do more to encourage, tell them what is available, and then every now and then celebrate people who commit. Robin added he would be delighted to sit down with Joe.
- Margo advised she believes it would be helpful to show congregation what the “little bit more” is used for, where the money goes. Margo gave examples such as the new van, After School Program and outreach, maybe make a video.
- Robin stated he likes Margo's suggestion.
- John Thomas advised Ken Wright has volunteered to give a presentation on Legacy program when he returns.
- Fr. Ray advised suggestions do not have to end here, can go home and think about more.
- **Vestry Executive Summary** - Fr. Ray
- Fr. Ray advised minutes are a legal document, cannot post until approved. Fr. Ray continued stating anyone interested does not get until later.
- Fr. Ray proposed a vestry executive summary be prepared. Fr. Ray continued advising the summary would be bullet points, not too much detail.
- Fr. Ray stated one possibility would be to have the summary prepared with one week of Vestry meeting, could be printed in bulletin and/or newsletter. Fr. Ray added this would allow people to see what Vestry is doing and also allow them to engage, may create more interest.
- Bob advised he would like a sample.

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- Robin stated once received Vestry would need to respond quickly.
- John stated he believes the minutes should be finalized before summarized.
- Robin stated he thinks the communication would be good.
- Patty and Fr. Ray will work together to provide sample.

Decisions:

- **Finance/Finance Committee** – John Thomas (Financial Statements attached)
- John advised we are set up to receive stock
- John advised he spoke with broker. If we have excess funds, broker will reluctantly accept.. John further stated banks only interested if we want to put into something like a CD.
- John advised Robin has come up with some ECF suggestions that will be pursued. John continued stating that he hopes that within a month we will have a better idea what to do with the Capital Campaign Funds at which point Vestry will have to make a decision.
- John advised the Diocese apportionment will be due January 2019.
- John advised that with regard to financial statement, pledges might be down a little, may have to do with taxes.
- John advised they will do a recap on income/expenses on fundraisers when Marnie is back.
- John advised that at the finance meeting they discussed the principal paid to Diocese and whether we pay it.
- Robin inquired why it is not shown on the report.
- John advised we do pay it, have trouble showing it with ACS.
- Fr. Ray advised Marnie can write an explanation.
- John stated we can revisit.
- Robin motioned to to accept March financials, Joe seconded, unanimously accepted.
- **Jr. Warden Report-** Ray Zentis
- Ray gave a thank you to Steve and Roger.
- Ray advised 3 out of 4 sinks have been replaced, A/C has been reinforced, and allot of little things getting done.
- Ray advised the awning needs to be fixed/replaced, will get done this month.
- Ray advised there is a ADA issue with 1 or 2 toilets, need to make accessible, will bring proposal.
- Robin noted he has had very positive response from the ladies in his family regarding toilets.
- Steve inquired if there will be hand rails.
- Ray advised yes, 1 or 2, not all.
- Ray stated all else is business as usual, when something comes up, they work on it.
- Robin inquired about the floor in the Gathering Place, can we replace carpet, looks awful.
- Ray advised for next months meeting he will come back with 2 ideas.
- Margo advised carpet was done in patchwork originally so the whole thing would not need to be replaced.
- Ray advised at this point whole thing needs to be done, either carpet or something other than carpet, will have something for next month.

Fr. Ray asked for anything else for Ray, anything further.

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- Margo inquired if next month's meeting will be May 8th.
- Fr. Ray advised yes, next meeting May 8th.

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There being no further business, meeting adjourned with closing prayers at 6:24 P.M..

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A Ingram
Clerk of the Vestry