

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis
Vestry Meeting Draft Minutes
July 13, 2021, 7:00-9:00 pm via Zoom

Present: Stan Forbes, Sarah Conning, Jessie Ann Owens, Lisa Leigh, Bob Polkinghorn, Ann Liu, David Martin, Kimo Kimokeo, Honna S, Julie Knudsen, Margaret Grayden, Pamela Dolan
Absent: Chris Reynolds, Elizabeth Young
Guests:

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

- I. Opening Prayer
Pamela shared an excerpt from an audio book called “Love Warrior” by Glennon Doyle, invited reflection, and led the group in prayer.
- II. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Draft Agenda
A motion (Leigh) to approve the draft agenda was seconded (Owens), amended to add time for Executive Session, and passed unanimously.
- III. ACTION ITEM: Minutes of June 8 meeting
A motion (Forbes) to approve the draft minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting as written was seconded (Kimokeo) and passed with one abstention (Leigh, not present for June meeting).
- IV. REPORT: April financial statement
Julie shared the June financial statement, noting that pledge income is above budget and expenses are below budget. She pointed out that utilities have gone down to a more expected level and that the personnel line is currently below budget. The only overbudget items on the expense side are music supplies and equipment leases; Julie and Jessie will take a look at those items. Julie is not sure what the explanation is for above budget pledge income. Stan suggested some analysis of the pledge income to better understand the patterns.
- V. RECTOR’S REPORT:
Pamela reviewed the Regathering process, which has been a priority of her work in recent weeks, and the decision to begin in-person hybrid worship for the 10am service (in-person with livestream). She has observed that expectations seem to be rising to continue the re-opening process. She wants to move forward with some caution, especially given concerns over Covid variants and questions about ventilation of the building. She continues to work with the Regathering Task Force: Maria, Chris Reynolds, Elise Keddie, Gabe Avila (now staff), and Joanie Cavanaugh (worship committee). Pamela emphasized that the decision to resume in person 10am worship was her decision.
- VI. Vestry Committees
Kimo highlighted the document in our packet outlining the structure of Vestry Committees, noting that it is a living document that will help the vestry as well as the parish as a whole to have a reference about what committees are at work. *A motion (Owens) was seconded (Leigh) and passed unanimously to adopt the committee structure outlined in the document.*

VII. Report of Senior Warden
Racial Justice Audit

Bob brought the group's attention to the Episcopal Church racial justice audit report included in the vestry packet. He summarized that The Episcopal Church contracted with the Mission Institute several years ago to do a racial audit of the church's leadership. A set of recommendations for the church were developed. He noted that the audit has some potential to inform us here at St. Martin's in our own parish. A motion was made (Polkinghorn) and seconded (Leigh) to refer the report to SJO for their review and recommendations. Discussion ensued. Ann suggested that organizing a reading or study would be a good approach and that a separate group or task force would be preferable. There was discussion about whether the nature of the topic is better addressed outside of our regular committee structure.

After further discussion, an alternate motion (Liu) was made to take a three-prong approach to the social justice audit: (1) Share the diocesan audit widely with the congregation and encourage all to read it; (2) Commit as the Vestry to a facilitated study of the audit during our meetings; and (3) Refer the report to the Social Justice and Outreach Committee for their review and recommendations. This motion was seconded and passed with a vote of 10 (Conning, Leigh, Polkinghorn, Martin, Kimokeo, Liu, Dolan, Owens, Steissberg, Knudsen) to 1 (Forbes).

Vestry meeting schedule

Bob proposed adjusting our meeting schedule for August and September in order to include Chris Reynolds, who is out of the country in a far away time zone. He proposed meeting in person after church on Sunday with a zoom link available for any needing it:
Sunday, August 8 (in place of Tuesday 8/10)
Sunday, September 5 OR Sunday, September 19 (in place of Tuesday 9/14)
We will not meet on Sunday, September 12 due to church activities on that day.
A poll will be distributed to gauge availability for Sept 5 vs Sept 19.

Pamela reminded the group that the Vestry will participate in the Invite, Welcome, Connect training on September 22 and 29.

Stewardship

Bob noted that the Stewardship Committee needs volunteers.

VIII. Report of the Junior Warden

“Sacred Grounds: A Landscape Vision for St. Martin's”

Report of the Landscape Planning Task Force

A motion (Owens) was seconded (Dolan) and passed unanimously to receive the report of the Landscape Planning Task Force, with gratitude; encourage a process of broad dissemination, with the help of the Task Force; authorize the establishment of a new Landscape Committee, with broad representation (Vestry, Ministry Council, parishioners-at-large, possibly a professional consultant), fixed renewable terms and a chair; charge includes: recommend priorities following appropriate consultation with relevant constituencies; establish a timetable; identify forces needed for implementation; specify funding needed for the projects; present specific proposals for action by the Vestry.

Irrigation proposal

A motion (Owens) was seconded and passed unanimously to approve the irrigation proposal received from the Buildings and Grounds Committee:

In order to conserve water and in order to correctly water 18 trees in the labyrinth area, we would like to spend \$833.25 from regular maintenance and repair to change the irrigation in this area. At no cost to the church, we will cover the area that is currently grass with mulch. Secondly, considering the current drought conditions in California, we would like to reduce water to the Great Lawn grass and the grass in the area near the lych gate on Hawthorn, resulting in these two areas not looking as green as they currently do.

IX. Forbes Ranch

Stan provided a brief update and suggested moving forward with a lease of 15 acres.

X. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve the consent agenda was seconded and passed unanimously.

Executive session started at 8:51pm and ended at 8:57pm. No decisions were made.

Pamela closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Conning, Clerk

Exhibits

Draft minutes of June 2021 meeting
June 2021 financial report
Vestry Committees in 2021 DRAFT
2021 Vestry Committee Membership
Social Justice Audit summary
Sacred Grounds: A Landscape Vision for St. Martin's
Buildings and Grounds irrigation proposal

Reports for the Consent Agenda

Buildings and Grounds Report