**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for February 27th., 2018**

***Present:***

Fr. Stephen Hendry, Chair Charlotte Cromarty MaryLynn Forrest

John Dale, Secretary Murray Gamble Vivian Harris

Terry McCoy Catherine Carlson Mike Stredwick

Mary Ann Millar Jim Fox Connie McCoy

Cheryl Fox John Ryrie April Couzens

John MacKellar

***Regrets***: Lynne Skanes-Bannon, Lesley Burland-Prong, Reta Risto, Anne Taylor, Nelson Cuthbert, Valerie Cuthbert, Nathaniel Couzens, John Shaw

**Visitor**: Dianne McCandless

**1. Call to Order:** At 7.35 p.m., by Fr. Stephen Hendry.

**2. Attendance/Regrets**. As above.

**3. Devotions**. Mary Ann Millar.

**4. Approval of Current Agenda**. John Ryrie indicated that, as noted in January minutes, the Motion under 6(d) of the January would be amended by a new motion under item 9(d) of this agenda.

**Motion** to accept the Agenda for the February 27rd, 2018 meeting as presented: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Connie McCoy. **Carried**.

**5. Reading and Acceptance of the January 23rd., 2018 Minutes**:

**Motion** to accept the minutes of the January 23rd., 2018 meeting as presented. Proposed, Mary Ann Millar; Seconded, Mike Stredwick. **Carried**.

**6. Business from the Previous Minutes:**

**a) Social Justice Committee Proposal**.

John Ryrie confirmed that the proposal for this committee’s creation was passed at Vestry. He and Fr. Stephen will meet soon to select a Chair and Co-Chair and discuss a procedural framework for the committee. They will report at the next P.C. meeting. Concerns were voiced about the possibility of petitions/group letters being sent, apparently on behalf of St. George’s, expressing opinions with which some of the congregation might disagree. John confirmed that there was no intention to speak on behalf of the church and that these procedural issues would be ironed out. Jim Fox offered two suggestions: that coffee hour speakers or films might be included, and that there should be regular updates of the committee’s activities in the bulletin.

**b) Chairperson of Parish Council Proposal**.

As prescribed by canon law, Fr. Stephen will be acting as Chair of P.C. meetings going forward. In that context he requested that he not be asked questions and that opinions should not be solicited from him.

**c) Stewardship Task Force.**

John MacKellar is leading this initiative (the ‘step-up’ campaign), which was introduced at Vestry. John distributed the draft contents of a package to be distributed to parishioners. It contains a graphic showing the numbers of parishioners at various levels of giving and a pledge sheet inviting parishioners to ‘step up’ to the next level—the aim is to secure a 10% increase in giving, as required by the 2018 budget. On the back of the pledge sheet there is an invitation to participate in the activities of St. George’s, and an opportunity to identify areas of personal interest. It was indicated that John has the support of P.C. in going forward.

**d) Photo Directory.**

Cheryl Fox and her team will soon start calling parishioners to schedule their photo sessions. Catherine Carlson will organize the support staff at the photo sessions themselves.

**e) Auction (April 21st).** Nelson Cuthbert being absent, there was no report or discussion concerning this item.

**7. Rector’s Report.**

Mike Stredwick indicated that Lynne Skanes-Bannon had asked him to announce that, owing to a number of commitments, she cannot continue as a member of P.C. Canon Law allows Fr. Stephen to appoint a replacement, and he has been in touch with a potential candidate. **Motion** to thank Lynne for all her commitment and contributions to P.C.: Proposed, Cheryl Fox; Seconded, Jim Fox. **Carried**.

Fr. Stephen circulated a report showing his activities for February 2018. **Motion** to accept the rector’s report: Proposed, Mike Stredwick; Seconded, Terry McCoy. **Carried**.

Fr. Stephen also reported that 10 new families had joined St. George’s since last summer; he has conducted follow-up with all of them, and all speak highly of their experience with us. This is an encouraging start for the attendance goal set for 2018, which is a total Sunday attendance of 200 (at present attendance is approximately 35 for 8.15 a.m., and 70/75 for 10.00 a.m.). the goal of 200 includes 20 Sunday School attendees, 20 Choir members, 4 servers and 3 clergy. 200 is the number that the sanctuary can comfortably accommodate and a congregation of this size is required for St. George’s to be financially self-sustaining. Fr. Stephen also circulated a list of Objectives for 2018, as follows:

1. P.C. members are to approach, greet and generally make comfortable newcomers and any others who seem isolated and non-engaged at the 10.00 a.m. coffee hour.
2. Pastoral visits will be carried out to invite children and families to Sunday School and Jr. Choir, invite servers, and recruit Praise Team members
3. A Telecare system will be implemented (volunteers needed) to phone families who have been away for more than 2 weeks and elicit their permission (as canon law requires) to be the objects of prayer.
4. Continue with the upgrading of our website to attract newcomers.
5. Consider once-a-year billboard or newspaper advertising.
6. Consider having 2 locations for the 10.00 a.m. coffee hour; one in the Thomson Hall and one in the narthex for those who have difficulty with stairs.
7. Undertake follow-up mailing/phone calls to those who join or visit the parish. Fr. Stephen made the point that research shows that 70% of visitors will return if they are enthusiastically and positively welcomed. Catherine Carlson indicated that photographs of newcomers will appear in the DragonFlyer.

It seems that the DVDs of the homilies have been well received, and consideration may be given to providing DVDs of Fr. Stephen’s radio talks.

**8.Wardens’ Report.**

No report.

**9)** **Standing Committee Reports.**

**i)** **Rector’s Report**. See (7).

**ii)** **Finance**. Anne Taylor being absent, there was no discussion. Mary Ann Millar reported that Ann had verbally indicated to her that revenue and expenses for January were close to budget and that there are no major concerns at the moment.

**iii)** **Outreach**. Dianne McCandless reported that 25 bags of winter wear had been collected as part of the ‘Share the Warmth’ campaign, and 444 pairs of socks for the homeless have also been collected. Susan Butt will begin collection of potatoes and sweet treats for St. John’s Kitchen in March. There will be a Children’s’ Community Closet on April 28th. Since there was a problem with stock selling out very quickly at the last event, with the consequence that latecomers had slim pickings, the time-frame for the Closet has been reduced this time. Outreach and Social workers in the Community have been informed of the Closet. Catherine Carlson and Jack Nahrgang will begin collecting dry baking goods for Innisfree House soon. With respect to next Christmas’ Angel Tree, although Family and Children’s’ Services and Westmount Public school are always approached to provide names of families who might welcome help, Dianne asked P.C. members to let the Outreach Committee know, on a confidential basis, of any additional candidate families of whom they know.

**iv)** **Property**. Murray Gamble said that progress was being made on the items reported on previously. Mary Ann Millar pointed out that the paint in the Sanctuary was peeling in a number of places. Murray agreed to place this task on the list of ‘to dos’.

**v) Worship.** Fr. Stephen said that Holy Week services would be discussed at the meeting of the committee next Thursday. He emphasized that this was an open meeting which anyone can attend.

**vi) Atmosphere**. Catherine Carlson reported that there will be another Family Games Night the Friday before the next Messy Church. She is waiting for a response from our Food Truck contact regarding the next Food Truck event. Jim Fox is organizing the next Car Rally for the first Saturday in May.

**vii) Ascend/Renew**. Nelson and Valerie Cuthbert being absent, there was no report.

**viii) Youth Group.** April Couzens said that 8 youth and 2 leaders will be going to the next CLAY event in Thunder Bay during the summer. $6445 has been collected to defray costs, leaving $4404 to be generated. The Youth Group helped at the Pancake Supper, have held 2 scrapbooking events (the most successful fundraisers), have held a bottle drive, sold poinsettias, and will be running a crepe breakfast on April 29th. Consideration was being given to dropping some fundraisers that generate modest profits, particularly if these have to be shared with outside providers, and which are a disproportionate amount of work. There was discussion around the ’Fill-a-Bag’ fundraiser recently announced for May the 5th. It was decided that conflicts with pre-arranged events at the church precluded this event being run, but that the event could well run next year.

**ix) Memorial Garden Committee**. John Ryrie reported that Linda Hill had joined the committee, following the withdrawal of Karen Baker. A report to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario has been generated. At the next P.C. meeting, John will bring forward some purely housekeeping amendments to the Memorial Garden Byelaws. It has been noted that a number of parishioners have paid in advance for 2 engravings (husband and wife) but that only one has been done, the other awaiting the death of the remaining partner. The second engraving was paid for at historical rates for the engraver, but rates will inevitably have risen when the second engraving is actually done. This may represent an unfunded liability for the committee and they will investigate the scale of this problem.

In view of the fact that the motion passed at the last P.C. meeting regarding the transfer of funds to the diocese was out of order, John introduced two new motions as follows.

**Motion** - Parish Council recognizes that the wording of the motion recorded in item 6 (d) of the P.C. minutes for January 2018 is out of order in that the Parish Treasurer does not have the authority to transfer funds from the Memorial Garden accounts: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Mary Ann Millar. **Carried**.

**Motion** – Parish Council endorses the transfer of $1200 by the Memorial Garden Trustees to the Memorial Garden Trust Account: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Mike Stredwick. **Carried**.

**Items 10, 11 and 12**. The Chair tabled discussion of these items until the next P.C. meeting.

**13. Upcoming Dates and Events:**

**March 3rd**. CLAY scrapbooking day.

**March 9th (Friday)**. Family Games Night

**April 9th. to 14th.** Photo Directory

**April 21st. (Saturday)**. Auction

**April 28th**. Community Clothes Closet.

**April 29th**. CLAY Crepe Breakfast.

**May 5th. (Saturday)**. Car Rally

**May 26th. (Saturday)**. Food Trucks (?)

**June 10th**. Picnic

**14. Next PC Meeting**. Tuesday, March 27th., 2018. 7.30 p.m.

Chair, Fr. Stephen; Minutes, John Dale; Devotions? Refreshments?

**15. Adjournment**. 9.20 p.m. Proposed Catherine Carlson; **Carried**.