

St. George's of Forest Hill

Parish Council Minutes for 26th. March, 2019

Present:

Fr. Stephen Hendry, Chair	Valerie Cuthbert	John MacKellar
John Dale, Secretary	Murray Gamble	John Shaw
Jim Fox	Cheryl Fox	Cameron Mott
April Couzens	Debra Barclay	Catherine Carlson
Terry McCoy	Nelson Cuthbert	Connie McCoy
Lesley Burland-Prong	Cameron Olmstead	John Ryrie
Charlotte Cromarty		

Regrets: Anne Taylor, MaryLynn Forrest

1. Call to Order at 7.35 p.m., by Fr. Stephen Hendry.

2. Attendance/Regrets. As above.

Motion to shift the date of the October 2019 Parish Council meeting to Tuesday 29th. October to avoid a conflict with the Bishop's Friends' Dinner: Proposed, Catherine Carlson; Seconded, Charlotte Cromarty.
Carried.

3. Devotions and Leadership Moment. Fr. Stephen.

As requested by the Bishop, Fr. Stephen introduced a brief learning opportunity into the P.C. meeting by distributing a handout from the Fresh Start programme entitled 'Decision Making: Style and Clarity', and leading a brief seminar thereon. He mainly explored the four different decision-making methods: Unilateral, Unilateral with Input, Majority Rule, and Consensus. He asked that the handout be read prior to further discussion at the next PC Meeting.

4. Approval of Current Agenda.

Motion to accept the Agenda for the March 26th., 2019 meeting, as presented: Proposed, John Shaw; Seconded, Cameron Mott. **Carried.**

5. Reading and Acceptance of the February 26th., 2019 Minutes:

John Ryrie asked that he be included in the 'Regrets', and not shown as 'Not Present', since he had emailed his regrets some time prior to the meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes of the February 26th., 2019 meeting as amended. Proposed, Cameron Mott; Seconded, Charlotte Cromarty. **Carried.**

6. Business from the Previous Minutes

a) Music Concert Fundraisers. Fr. Stephen indicated he was still in the process of setting up the September concert, and that arrangements for others would follow.

b) New Fridge/Freezer. Nelson Cuthbert and Jim Fox reported that research into the replacement of the two existing units is still ongoing. It is hoped to have a recommendation for Council at its April meeting.

c) 10 am Coffee Hour Volunteers and d) "Adopt & Maintain a Space" Volunteer Groups. Cameron Mott reported that he had lists of custodial duties and the contact people for church groups, and would be contacting the latter soon in the hope of allocating responsibilities.

e) Vacation Bible School.

When: July 15-19 and Aug 19-23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Who: 30-50 children aged 4-12

Theme: 'To Mars and Back'. Feedback from youth concerning content may be requested.

Charge: Minimal; maybe \$20 per week

Funding: \$1500 from Optimist Club plus \$2000 in other donations

Volunteers: About 8 per week needed (3 or 4 have already come forward). Teenagers needing Volunteer hours are urged to apply. Volunteers can apply for only one, or both, weeks.

Motion to accept the report on the Vacation Bible School Plans: Proposed, Catherine Carlson; Seconded, John Ryrie. **Carried.**

7. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Wardens' Report.

1. *PC Membership 2019.* Jim Fox circulated a sheet with the contact information for the members of the 2019 Parish Council for verification.

2. *Rental Request from St. Louis.* The request is actually from a worker with the House of Friendship, who needs a new space to distribute recreation and bus vouchers to needy families on a one by one basis. John Dale reported that information on fees, insurance etc. had been given out and that we are awaiting a response.

3. *Rental Fee Review.* It is some time since these fees were reviewed, and the Executive will do so before September. Clarification will also be brought forward regarding which how groups qualify as 'Community Groups' for the free provision of space.

4. *Mailboxes:* Ongoing, in view of Jim Fox's absence in Australia.

b) Rector's Report.

Fr. Stephen first reported that 72 people attended Evensong on March 24th, and that the offering of \$438.65 had been given to the Farmtown charity, which seeks to rehabilitate those rescued from human trafficking (the Dean of St. Paul's, London, the Very Rev. Paul Millward, delivered a homily on this topic at the service). Fr. Stephen asked that those who attended email him a few sentences reflective of their experience at the service. Connie McCoy voiced a desire to give broader, and ongoing, publicity to the issue of trafficking. Fr. Stephen said that the Dean and the Bishop are working on documents that will be widely circulated. John Ryrie indicated that the Social Justice committee was considering inviting more speakers on this topic. Fr. Stephen directed him towards Joyce Hendry, who knows of contacts in this field. On Sunday March 31st, Kevin Dixon, ex-dean of St. Paul's, and currently acting director of International Justice Mission (an organization which seeks to combat trafficking from, and the production of child pornography in, developing countries), will speak at both services, and will conduct seminars at the coffee hours following the services. Donation envelopes for IJM will be available at the services. Jim Fox suggested an eblast might be used to publicize this event, and Lesley Burland-Prong volunteered to put details on the church's Facebook page.

On Saturday April 6th, there will be another seminar given by Wycliffe College at St. Jude's, London, on the topics of Faith Sharing, Children and Youth, and Small Groups

Motion: to accept the Rector's Report as presented. Proposed, Lesley Burland-Prong; Seconded, Valerie Cuthbert. **Carried.**

c) Communications: The latest edition of the Dragonflyer has gone to print, and the April daily calendar will be distributed on Sunday 31st. March.

Motion: to accept the Communications Report as presented: Proposed, Cheryl Fox; Seconded, Charlotte Cromarty. **Carried.**

d) Finance:

Nelson Cuthbert presented Anne Taylor's written report. At the end of February parishioner donations were \$2500 below budget (the budgeted increase over last year being merely 3.4%), and, more disturbingly, they were \$400 below the sum collected at this time last year. Since the financial pattern is often hard to discern this early in the year, the situation will be re-assessed after Easter.

50:50 Matching Sign Donations: about \$2700 in genuinely new donations has been collected. The aim is to collect \$10,000 by the June 30th. deadline. John Ryrie suggested that fortnightly updates be provided to the congregations to stimulate giving. So far Nelson Cuthbert has publicized the 50:50 scheme by means of information distributed with the tax receipts, and through an article in the Dragonflyer.

Motion to accept the financial report for February 2019 as presented: Proposed; Lesley Burland-Prong; Seconded, Cheryl Fox. **Carried.**

e) Property:

The new sign is scheduled for installation on the Tuesday after Easter and installation should be finished by the end of that week. Quotes for the replacement of the railings on the back stairs are being obtained. It is also intended to paint the sanctuary; this should take about 3 or 4 days; colours to be decided.

Motion: the re-painting of the sanctuary should be carried out in July or August during a week which does not conflict with the Vacation Bible School or the proposed Music Camp: Proposed, Murray Gamble; Seconded, John Shaw. **Carried.**

John Shaw pointed out that the carpet in the sanctuary is badly worn.

Motion to accept the property report as presented: Proposed, John Shaw; Seconded, Cheryl Fox. **Carried.**

f) Worship – Holy Week services: On the Wednesday of Holy Week there will be a service at 10.00 a.m.; the Maundy Thursday service will be at 7.00 p.m. On Good Friday there will be two services, a traditional 8.00 a.m. ‘High Mass’, and a contemporary service at 10.00 a.m. at which children and youth will be involved. The Easter vigil begin on Saturday at 8.00 p.m., and on Easter Sunday there will be a traditional service at 8.15 a.m., followed by a contemporary service, with a great deal of music, at 10.00 a.m. Debra Barclay suggested that information on the timing of the Easter services should be posted ‘front and centre’ on the church website.

Motion to accept the Worship report as presented: Proposed, Catherine Carlson; Seconded, Cameron Olmstead. **Carried.**

g) Atmosphere:

Catherine Carlson reported that distribution of name tags continues, and that the Good News bulletin boards are updated weekly. All tickets have been sold for the Mediaeval Feast and Murder Mystery (April 5th).

The Car Rally is on May 11th., and the Picnic (this year at St. George’s) is scheduled for June 9th., although consideration is being given to changing the date to Fathers’ Day. The Atmosphere committee will take on the arrangements for the Fall Barbeque. John Ryrie requested that photographs of newcomers to the congregation be posted.

Motion to accept the report of the Atmosphere committee as presented: Proposed, Catherine Carlson; Seconded, Connie McCoy. **Carried.**

h) Social Justice Committee:

Letters, signed by many, regarding the banning of single-use plastics, and protesting the balancing of the provincial budget to the manifest

disadvantage of the poor, have been sent to governments. John Ryrie submitted an article entitled 'Fiscal Responsibility Should Not Hurt Our Students' to the Waterloo Region Record, and it was published in the 26th. March edition. The committee will be examining the changes recently made by the Ford government to supports for autistic children.

Motion to accept the Social Justice committee report as presented:
Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Terry McCoy. **Carried.**

i) Refugee Committee:

John Ryrie reported that the Refugee committee met last week and expects to welcome the 6th family they will support in September or October. One of the families already supported has split, but both the father, and the mother and children, are living in good situations. Although support for this family should have ended in December, it was extended for a while, although the feeling now is that the committee, having helped set up the two separate households, should withdraw and allow them to manage their own affairs.

Motion to accept the Refugee committee report as presented:
Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Lesley Burland-Prong. **Carried.**

j) ASCEND:

No report. Meeting on Saturday 30th March.

k) Children and Youth Ministries

Cameron Olmstead reported that \$1100 was realized from the Youth Group's scrapbooking fundraiser. The next fundraiser will be a breakfast held between the services on Mothers' Day. A movie night is also planned. There will be a Deanery Youth event at St. George's on Saturday and Sunday, October 5th. and 6th.

Motion to accept the Children and Youth Ministries report as presented: Proposed, Cameron Olmstead; Seconded, Debra Barclay. **Carried.**

1) Outreach Committee

Debra Barclay said that 440 pairs of socks had been collected for the homeless. The Childrens' Community Closet will be held on April 13th; help with set-up on the previous Thursday and Friday would be appreciated. The drive to collect chocolate treats and potatoes (in paper bags only, please) for St. John's Kitchen will start soon. At the last Outreach committee meeting, there was considerable discussion regarding how to diversify the outreach activities undertaken by the committee and how to involve as many members of the church as possible. One new initiative is a 'Christmas Bells' activity, proposed by Linda Stredwick, to provide gifts for isolated seniors, similar in some ways to the Angel Tree, except that the tree bearing the bells (invitations to donate) will be housed in a neighbourhood Walmart rather than the church.

Charlotte Cromarty was invited to the next committee meeting to discuss how her initiatives in support of overseas missions could be coordinated with the Outreach committee's mandate.

Jim Fox suggested that any 'Thank You' letters received by Outreach should be posted on the church website.

8. New Business.

Nelson Cuthbert reported on discussions he has had, at the request of the Executive, with Rob Azmies regarding the latter's request to run a Music Camp at St. George's for two separate weeks during July and August. The musical instruments would be made available from The John Knox school in Brampton. Rob has a planned curriculum for the

camp, which would run 9-5 on weekdays at a cost of \$125 per student, 25% of the income would come to St. George's. He hopes to attract up to 50 students per week from grades 4 to 8.

Discussions with Rob centred around making adequate provisions for medical emergencies (including allergic reactions), receipts and refunds, fill-in staffing, comprehensive registration forms (including day contact numbers and alternates, and understanding regarding the withdrawal of disruptive or otherwise unsuitable students), theft of personal items, and insurance.

Motion to endorse the utilization of St. George's premises for a summer music camp, pending the satisfactory provision of the arrangements outlined above: Proposed, John Ryrie; Seconded, Terry McCoy. **Carried.**

9. Upcoming Parish Dates.

March 31st. Preacher Kevin Dixon (President, International Justice Mission) at 8.15 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

April 5th. Mediaeval Feast and Murder Mystery.

April 13th (and May 18th. and June 15th) Men's Breakfast.

Also: Community Clothes Closet.

April 14th. 8.15/10.00 a.m. Palm Sunday.

April 18th (Thursday) 7.00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service (note time change).

April 19th (Good Friday) 8.15 and 10.00 a.m. services (note time change).

April 20th. (Saturday) 8.00 p.m. Easter Vigil (note time change).

April 21st. (Easter Sunday) 8.15 and 10.00 a.m. services (note time change).

April 23rd (Tuesday) 7.30 p.m. Parish Council.

April 28th. Ploughman's Lunch.

May 4th (Saturday) 4-6 p.m. Messy Church.

May 11th. (Saturday) Car Rally.

June 9th. Parish Picnic, at St. George's.

10. Next PC Meeting.

Tuesday, April 23rd, 2019. 7.30 p.m.

Chair: Fr. Stephen. Minutes: John Dale. Devotions: Fr. Stephen

Refreshments: Connie and Terry McCoy.

11. Closing and Adjournment.

Adjournment and Grace, 9.55 p.m.

_____ Fr. Stephen Hendry: Rector; St. George's

Of Forest Hill

_____ John Dale: Secretary; Parish Council.