**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, August 29, 2023**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke Deb Barclay Adriana Cronin

Nelson Cuthbert Ann-Marie Shaw Dulcie Tapp Catherine Carlson

Murray Gamble Susan Hipperson John Dale Ericka Babb

Guest Adam Alcroft, Lynda Hill

Absent: Morley King, John Shaw, Cindy Kellett, Tim Goodison, MaryLynn Forrest

1. Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer.
   1. Fr Stephen would like to see a 25% increase in attendance at church by the end of September. Some events are planned to help accomplish this goal. Sept 17, Back to Church BBQ; Home visits ongoing through August and September; Turkey Dinner in October; Messy Church in October; Deanery Youth event in November; Advent Retreat in November.
2. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as amended:

Lynda Hill will speak about the Memorial Garden

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from June 27, 2023 as amended:

Nelson would like the wording for the Livestream report to show that for every 10 computers signed in, he calculates 13 people watching so his numbers show approximately 1.3 times the number of computers signed in.

moved: Susan Hipperson seconded: Dulcie Tapp Carried

1. Financial Report: The financial report was sent to council ahead of the meeting. As of July we are $4000 behind the budget. Catherine reported that WRDSB asked to rent some the parking lot again this year. Nelson asked where the rental income came from. Perhaps the executive should look at increasing the fees for rentals. John Dale asked if the cycle club came back after covid. **Rental income for 2023 Jan – July**: Piano recital x 3, Bonsai club, Concert x 4, Hall rental x1, Girl Guides, Susan’s Toolbox, Teachers Choir, Maycourt, Optimists. We have not heard from the bicycle club.

Motion to approve report as presented:

moved: Nelson Cuthbert seconded: Ericka Babb Carried

Memorial Garden Proposal: Lynda Hill was at the meeting to make proposals to council about the Memorial Garden. The Memorial Garden committee is asking for funds to install a 3rd pillar in the garden. They are also asking for approval to increase fees from $600 to $900 per burial. After discussion it was decided that Lynda will get an accurate quote from Superior Memorials for a new pillar.

Motion: The Memorial Garden will operate on a “cost recovery” basis. Therefore a dollar amount is needed for the cost of the memorial and engraving and maintenance to determine a cost per burial.

moved: Murray Gamble seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

Lynda will get more information and bring it to council again.

1. Rector’s Report:
   1. The September 17 BBQ planning is ongoing. Hamburgers are purchased and in the freezer. A sign up list was passed around for volunteers to help.
   2. The next Deanery Council meeting is October 4 at St George's of Forest Hill. All are welcome.
   3. Stephen McClatchie is the new Executive Assistant to Bishop Todd.
   4. Deanery Messy Church will be held on October 14 at St George's of Forest Hill and at Trinty Cambridge.
   5. A Youth event is planned for November 4 and 5 at Trinity Cambridge. Keynote speakers will be Rev Hana Scorrar and Rev Rosalyn Elm. This event will be funded by a private donation. St George’s is hoping to send 10 youth.

Motion: Council will support this event in principle.

move: Ann-Marie Shaw seconded: Debra Barclay Carried

1. Wardens’ Report:
   1. Catherine told council that the Dragon Flyer will be ready for distribution on September 15. We will advertise Messy Church and the BBQ in the Kitchener Citizen in September. A Block Party is being planned for June 2024.
   2. Ann-Marie told us there will be a Turkey Dinner on Friday October 6 with seatings at 5:30 and 6:30. Tickets will be $25 and $10 for children. Part of the meal will be catered and potato and vegetables cooked at the church. Ericka will coordinate the take-out option.

Motion: Council will support the Turkey Dinner on Friday October 6.

moved: Nelson Cuthbert seconded: Ericka Babb Carried

Purdy’s Chocolate will be a Christmas fundraiser. No information yet.

1. Committee Reports

Building and Property: The cost of a report on the accessibility upgrades to the front and back doors with permits and pricing and site visits will cost the church $3200. There are 4 items that need to be addressed. 1. Making the front and back doors accessible ($25000); 2. Repair back outside stairs ($25000); Driveway repair ($25000); garden curbs ($4500). Council was divided as to which project should be prioritized. After discussion it was decided that Murray will make up a proposal to take to Vestry in January that will outline all of the work and propose a fundraising campaign for approximately $80000 to cover all the projects. A document will be prepared in pamphlet form to be handed out to the congregation.

Motion to proceed with consulting design preparation and pricing at a cost of $3200.

Moved: Murray Gamble seconded: Catherine Carlson Carried

1. Next Parish Council meeting September 26 2023 7:30 pm
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:45pm