

Vestry Meeting

04 March, 2026 530PM



ATTENDEES

Tom Manney, John Cherry, Karen Schaefer, Robert Cuthbertson-Twine, Shay Natchez, Becky Bennett, Joel Arnold, Jan Bugbee, Cindy Hall, Rayna Hauter, Walt Peake, Max Karpov (observing)

AGENDA

Rayna was out until 1745 during reflection, Jan took minutes during this time.

- **Reflection**
 - John Cherry led reflection
 - Becky read the mission statement
 - Reflected on her journey with cancer and returning to St. Paul's as church and family and the meaning
 - John spoke on transfiguration examples in the Gospel
 - Bob volunteered to read mission statement next meeting
- **Communities First and the Masonic Temple**
 - Walt and Joel explaining issue with Masonic Temple Alley
 - Alley is actively collapsing into basement of Masonic
 - City will not fix
 - Joel, representing Communities First, would like to create a legally binding access agreement for the alley preventing future owners can't restrict side lot access.
 - The question is whether the church would be interested in also entering the same agreement or avoid us from building on the easement as well
 - Bob mentions the sewer pipe through Brush Alley and the city may vacate the lot, however, still maintains requirement for access for maintenance.
 - Discussion also centered around parking accessibility once the Masonic is in more use.
 - Walt says that for Communities First it's a simple decision
 - They have a temporal relationship with the building, and not a permanent one like us.
 - We don't own the land, it belongs to all of us/the community/the parish.
 - St. Paul's owns the East and west sides of Brush Alley.
 - Clarification on whether this would constitute real property, triggering Diocesan involvement.
 - Concern on the alley being the only way to access the Masonic currently.
 - Concern regarding fire truck access
 - They would still have access

- If we entered into the agreement, who would be responsible for the maintenance?
- Walt says possibility of easement already existing
 - Discussion around maybe putting transformer in parking lot driveway gap to prevent pass through traffic.
- Potentially time to do a new survey of St. Paul's properties
- Next planning commission meeting is March 10
 - Vestry would have to vote via email
 - If failure to agree, or for the planning commission to agree, Communities First would lose federal funding via ARPA
 - Rehabilitation is ARPA funded and the deadline is June 30th for funding commitals
- Walt mentions the future potential for Lot 8 (currently parking lot next to Refinery Hair Salon)
- Field trip to see Christ Enrichment Center and the work Communities First has done with that.
- Bob moves that St. Paul's would support proposed vacation of Brush Alley with a reciprocal non-building agreement.
 - Shay seconds
 - Joel left the room for discussion
 - Walt drew a picture of the current situation on the whiteboard to better illustrate the discussion points
 - There were questions and discussion around the portion of Brush Alley in front of the Refinery.
 - Karen moved to amend the motion to include a maintenance agreement.
 - Bob seconded.
 - Bob made a motion that St. Paul's supports the proposed vacation of Brush Alley on the condition that a reciprocal access easement to the portion of land extending north beyond the wall of the Masonic Temple is entered into including a maintenance agreement.
 - Shay seconded
 - No dissent.
- **February Minutes**
 - Becky Bennett is two t's and not a singular t.
 - Bob moved to accept, Jan seconded.
 - No dissent.
- **Finance Report**
 - Jan moves to approve report, Bob seconded
 - No dissent.
 - Expense approval policies were presented from Finance Committee.
 - Small spelling errors.
 - Need to get a copy to each ministry.
 - Jan moves to approve policies, Becky seconds
 - No dissent.
- **Unfinished Business**

- Trust Fund Litigation
 - Nothing to report, communication seems to be similar to previous attorney.
- Vestry Retreat
 - May 2, 9a-1p
 - Review of policies and procedures
- Fr. Tom absent March 16-24
- **Rector's Report**
 - Health Care for Admin Assistant
 - Does not currently have health insurance
 - Contribution to HSA
 - 300-400/month
 - Any other uninsured employees?
 - No
 - Discussion around setting precedent
 - Bob makes a motion to approve the creation of an HSA account for Karein Russell at 400/month, contingent on no other part time employees being uninsured.
 - Cindy seconds
 - No dissent.
 - Motion to approve 2025 Parochial report
 - Shay moves, Jan seconds
 - No dissent.
 - Letter from Ed Sprague - Bill Sprague's brother
 - Thanking us for funeral and interment
 - GoDaddy Difficulties
 - Resolved
 - Website changing domains in the future
- **Report of the Senior Warden**
 - Done by Fr. Tom as TaMara was absent.
 - Nursery
 - Theresa Roach is name of hired nursery attendant, pending training and background check
 - Safe Church training discussion as new vestry members also require the training.
- **Report of the Junior Warden**
 - Congregants came to Bob about the welcomeness within congregation
 - Hole in the kitchen
 - Will cost \$211 to fix
 - Company is donating the time
 - Dishwasher
 - \$1800 quote to fix
 - Revisited and discovered solenoid was plugged
 - \$200 for fix.
 - Michigan Elevator Inc
 - Awaiting call about age generated letter re: motor for elevator
 - AMI
 - Going to do an infrared exploration of parking lot for seal coating quote
 - Possibility of ads in the Epistle
 - Epistle only reaches us
 - Placing epistle in the community, including locations where the Courier is delivered.
 - Cloister
 - Bricks need to be finished.
 - Increase the rental cost of Barth Hall

- Development of a futuring committee
- Survey of our property
 - Borne from discussion around Communities First, as well as to determine what exactly we are maintaining when we sealcoat.
- **Ministry Highlights**
 - Rayna has discussed with others forming a vigil planning committee with members from other downtown churches.
 - Palm Sunday Path
 - March 29 in Lansing at 3PM
 - Ministry Fair
 - No sooner than Pentecost
 - Karen mentioned Outreach is buying a gift for Denise
 - Barb is becoming a 4H leader
 - CrossOver not using Camp Chickagami
- **Courtesy Resolutions**
 - George Gibson for work on capital campaign
- **Next meeting April 1 at 5:30PM**
 - John closed the meeting in prayer
 - Bob moved to adjourn at 7:30PM, Jan seconded
 - No dissent.