

Zion Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 12, 2024

6:30pm Zion Meeting Room

Present: Pastor Marsha, Sue Askeland, Lon Mueller, Ron Berg, Barb Reck, Bill Nibbelink, Phyllis Chang, Frank Scamman, Kent Smith, Beth Spenler; **Staff:** Kari Clark

On February 6, 2024 Pastor Marsha sent a job description for an Administrative Assistant position to help Kari in the office. In an online exchange a motion was made to approve it, it was seconded, a vote was called for, and the motion passed by majority vote so advertising could begin for the position.

- I. **Opening Prayer** by Pastor Marsha, all shared one person who has been important in our faith life.
- II. **Minutes** of the Jan. 18, 2024 regular council meeting and executive session meeting were voted on and accepted.
- III. **Treasurer's Review and Financial Report:** We've already spent \$4,000 of the \$5,000 budgeted for snow removal this year. There will be line-items added to the budget for Pastor Julie and a Mental Health position. The Financial Report was voted on and passed.

Finance Committee Goals for 2024 were presented and discussed. They included completing a Gift Policy, creating a statement supporting our current practice of borrowing on our Line of Credit before using restricted funds, reviewing our Mortgage by Nov. 2025, deciding what to do with Rental Properties, conducting a fund-raising campaign for a new Sound System, Recruiting committee members and a new Treasurer candidate for the 2025 Council Election.

- IV. **Pastor Marsha's Report:** The Administrative Assistant Position will be 20 hrs/week, in the building, and will be advertised on the SE Iowa Synod & Iowa Workforce websites, at Gloria Dei and LCM. Lenten Speakers have been scheduled during her absence: Pastor Julie, Steve Smith, Sally Leme, John Allen and Clarice Faber.
- V. **Committee Reports**
 - A. Personnel/Barb – Has not met. Needs another member, and is waiting for the new Constitution to be ratified for items that pertain to personnel.
 - B. Mission Endowment – Applications were taken, money has been awarded.
 - C. Engagement & Stewardship/ needs Council Rep.
 - D. Constitution/Ron and Pastor Marsha – updated sections of the Constitution will be presented to the congregation on March 17. Change highlights are the Pastor's right to vote, Proxy votes, and Supervision of staff.
 - E. Pastoral Care Team/Pastor Marsha – has lost a couple members. Pastor Julie goes to Oaknoll once a month. As of today, nobody is hospitalized and we have 32 homebound members.

- F. Adult Learning/Phyllis – Feb. 25 will be a Mental Health discussion and information, March 3 will be Coffee with Council, March 17 will be the proposed new Constitution presentation and discussion.
- G. Social Justice/ - needs Council Rep.
- H. Mutual Ministry/Bill – is trying to reorganize.
- I. Children, Youth & Families Ministry/Kent – Valentine’s Day event had 10 children participate, was a big success; Noisy Offering during Lent will help purchase Hurricane Relief Kits for our 3 representatives to take to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer; this committee is sponsoring the Lenten Soup Supper on March 20 (proceeds from Soup Suppers this year are going to Youth Gathering and EWALU camper scholarships); Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday; Confirmation on May (12?); High School Graduates Recognition on May 19; VBS July 10-12 (tentatively) – working on theme & curriculum; considering offering a Parenting Class.
- J. Worship Planning – Lent is planned, will plan Holy Week after Marsha’s surgery.
- K. Property Committee/Nick & Dan – needs Council Rep. They need more interaction and guidance, creating an operations manual is a goal.
- L. Organ Update/Bill – Have identified missing parts. Patrick knows where they are. Lubbert’s easy to work with, needs strong men to help move wind chests, and drivers for trucks to and from his workshop in Vermont.
- M. Communication – Lon just volunteered to be Council Rep.

VI. Other Business

- A. Council Retreat – need to set date. Sue will send out survey of available Saturdays and Sundays in March, April & May.
- D. Dates:
1. Monthly Meetings will be the 3rd MONDAY of each month.
 2. Council Installation date discussed, no decision made.
 3. Coffee with Council – March 3, open format, one council member at each table, will take notes.
 4. Council Retreat date to be determined (see above).
 5. Website – Ron asked that we check it out, send suggestions for improvements and corrections.
 6. Restorative Conversation – need to find a date.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Reck, Council Secretary

Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 18 at 6:30pm.

