

Old West Church Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2021

Attendees: Richard Maizell, Rodney Buck, Anne Connor, Barbara McAndrew, Donna Fitch (Sue Killoran unable to attend)

Barbara moves to open the meeting. Richard motions, Rod seconds. Review of the minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes. No changes, no comments. Richard moves to approve, Rod seconds all in favor. Minutes approved.

Caity Kaye was welcomed in role as Corresponding Secretary and after about 6 months she needed to step down and a new person was approved. Anne Connor began the role as of July 12, 2021.

Annual Report

The OWC went through the year with a modified approach and with the July state order to open we began hosting certain events.

In 2020 Richard spearheaded a virtual Christmas Eve and it was a winner in terms of appreciation, contributions, good cheer, and history. We thank Jamie Moorby for her huge role in helping to make that happen.

From July forward, we allowed for a number of events: Deb Flanders' Annual Concert, Words Out Loud, and two small weddings. The Fall Foliage concert occurred. Chuck Mayhood agreed to conduct for Fall Foliage and Christmas Eve.

Nick stepped down as building chair and choir director. Susannah Blachly agreed to come on as Program Chair in preparation for the 200th anniversary. She has ideas for a summer series of music and events. We had hoped to try something at the end of summer or fall but with rising Covid case numbers that was scrapped. We are focused on events that are low effort, positive for the community, and feasible. How can the building be better utilized?

We are thinking about having a cadre of volunteers to always have someone at the church for all events. This will require creating a larger volunteer base.

Building Committee Priorities remain: the sign, repairing the steps and the cemetery fence posts repair. We discussed the need for trustees to take leadership with the Cemetery Commission to get the historically correct changes needed with the OWC Cemetery. Rod asked that any to-do list for the building be shared with the finance committee.

Finances: Of note, the trustees increased the fee to \$400.00 per event for non-residents. In 2020 there were limited expenses, the largest of which was the portolet. Prior to the pandemic, the monthly cost was \$99.00. In 2020, it increased to \$140/month; this summer it

jumped again to \$165/month. Discussion about whether we need it at all, but general agreement that we want to avoid OWC guests who go to the neighbor's houses asking to use bathrooms.

The annual appeal went well this year. We target August/September for the mailing and sent 750 after culling through the list. We saved \$400 in costs over the previous year, along with our handling more of the steps ourselves.

We've made \$5,561 this year and we are only a month and a half in. We don't yet know about the increase in first time donors. Linking the fundraising letter to projects brings clarity to focusing our fundraising efforts. This is the 4th year of sending out this letter. We raised as much money as last year w/o rentals, just our fundraising letter and outreach efforts.

Preliminary work on the 200th includes our goal to build endowment by \$100,000. Rod thinks it's an aggressive goal but a great one. Discussion about identifying 5 major donors and the idea of doubling our endowment OR project-based giving. Another thought is to bring more people in and get them involved as volunteers.

Barbara thanks all those who are on the board and those who volunteer. Rod moved to accept annual report, Richard approved. All were in favor of acceptance of annual report.

Election of Officers

Richard nominated two positions:

Anne Connor as Corresponding Secretary and Sue Killoran as Recording Secretary

No discussion. Rod acknowledges they are both very good candidates.

All in favor – approved.

Next Annual Meeting date set for October 9, 2022

Donna moved to adjourned. Anne seconded. Approved.