

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN LATVIAN CHURCH OF TORONTO
200 Balmoral Avenue, Toronto, ON. M4V 1J6
Tel.: (416) 921-3327

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING #621
Thursday, March 25th, 2021 - 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Karlis Vasarajs (Chair) Anda Kuksis-Kalviņš (Vice-Chair)
Ieva Osis Astrida Ezergailis (Secretary)
Lilita Tannis Larry Gifford
Ruta Silīņš Mara Strazdins
Anne Reinbergs Raimonds Rutītis
Amanda Sebris Gunta Reynolds

Regrets: Maija Sukse

Staff: Rev. G. Grietiņš, Normunds Goba, Inta Baze

Committee Reps: none

Call to order: 7:09 pm.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Grietiņš

1. Acceptance of the Agenda:

amended with 10 c) Other business - Discussion of Saulaine Capital Budget and excess lands

Moved: Lilita Tannis

Seconded: Ieva Osis

Motion carried

2. Review and acceptance of Council Meeting #616 Minutes

subject to correction of Main heading date & time

Moved: Larry Gifford

Seconded: Ruta Silins

Motion carried

Review of Action items outstanding:

- **KV** reach out to LELBA congregations w/ no pastors
- **AE** check re membership/givings tracking
- **LT & KV** contact Rob Adlers, Aldis Sukse re tech on hybrid services
- **GR** following up on book-table: has an inventory list, waiting for key from K. Kirkup
- **GR** waiting to hear back from Maija Sukse re LELBA, also encourages another Council member to participate
- **IB & RS** card for Inta Gifford

3. Review of interim resolution(s) over email

- a. Roof – approved
- b. 1. Mould – approved
2. Spire capping – approved
- c. Saulaine – split (see follow up in #9)
- d. Budget – approved
- e. Auditors' statements – approved

Action: KV forward resolution package to AE

4. **Clergy Update:**

- Multiple zoom services
- Vestis – thanks to Ieva
- Vards un Iugana, mailed and emailed “not just for the elders”
- Discussion group & Lenten discussions
- Confirmation group- confirmation itself postponed for this year, but group is ongoing
- Zoom services recorded & posted

See report for details

5. **Chair's update:**

- 2 council members' terms ending – who will replace them?
- proposing co-chair for coming year in anticipation of a new family member/less available to attend to Council matters
- waiting for response from Sv. Andreja re roof donations

6. **Administrator/Treasurer's Report:**

- preparations for year end/AGM completed – budget and other documents for mail out with Vestis March 26th

Action: prepare Jan- March financial activities for review in April Council meeting
NB Jan-Feb was emailed to all March 15th

7. **Committee updates:**

a. **Facilities' Management:** see report

Question re extra cost: none of the estimates noted lack of plywood underlayer – fiberboard was unexpected

b. **Finance Committee:**

Discussion re Membership & givings in view of past rupture in congregational life

Noted for future action: when meeting in person is possible – open invitation to meetings/discussions both in Toronto & Saulaine

c. **Saulaine:**

Introduction of potential sale of excess lands - further discussion re AGM in Other Business c)

d. **Fundraising:** see report

Noted: St. Andrew's congregation sends a thank you for donations, hand-written by individual congregants

Action: All consult with artistic members to create card design for thankyou.

Action: All consider potential thank-you writers

e. **Other committees (Aprupes, Worship, Liaison, Ecumenical, Collaboration):**

Larry Gifford reports re Worship: Holy Week: Thursday 6 pm YouTube (Mac Girts), Friday (Mac. Dags), Easter (Zoom co-leads Mac. Girts + Mac. Dags)

KV commends LG bringing 'guests' to discussion group

Noted: RS recommends inviting friends near and far to participate in Zoom services and discussion group

Liaison – see report.

8. Budget – Final questions

No changes to existing budget as sent out in early March

9. Saulaine Capital Allocation

Proposed \$57k - unknown final cost of septic, unknown summer income re COVID-19, etc makes it hard to commit to this amount.

Proposal: 25K + Bookstore revenue allocated to Saulaine Capital expenditures

Motions:

1) That 2021 Book Store revenues be entered as Saulaine Capital funds

Motioned: Lilita Tannis

Seconded: Ruta Silins + Raimonds Rutitis

Motion carried

2) That Saulaine Management Capital allocation be 25K (in addition to Book Store income), to be used prioritizing health and safety expenditures.

Motioned: Raimonds Rutits

Seconded: Anne Reinbergs

Motion carried

Noted: further allocations possible pending septic project progress and review of income generating activities

10. Other Business

a. **COVID-19 reopening plan:** Ruta Silins: given current conditions, not anticipating reopening soon.

Noted: request from Atis Bredovskis and Juris Kenins to use church for ceremony – Latvia's 3 zvaigznu ordenis/3-star medal presentation. COVID-19 committee accepts, keeping to all precautions.

b. **AGM Planning:** Discussion re committee reports – some misunderstanding re the call for reports, agenda items for AGM.

Motion: to accept AGM agenda as amended with additional item: Saulaine Long Term Planning

Motioned: Lilita Tannis

Seconded: Ieva Osis + Mara Strazdins

Motion carried

Discussion re vote counting approach for Zoom, other preparations

Note for Vēstis – Zoom meeting begins at 1 pm; link to AGM different than Worship

c. **Other:** Discussion of Saulaine Capital budget and excess lands

AGM 2019 – 3 action items. prepare to address them at AGM 2020

Action: SMC prepare talking points and discuss with FC prior to AGM

Action: All search for candidates for next Council

11. Review Action items:

AE circulate draft minutes #617 asap

Adjournment: 10:14 pm

Closing prayer

In Camera