

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF BRYN ATHYN CHURCH

Wednesday, September 25, 2019, 7:30 pm

Heilman Hall

The meeting convened at 7:36 following a brief worship service by Rev. Eric Carswell. The minutes from the Annual Meeting on April 25, 2018 was approved as published.

Pastor's Report (Rev. Eric Carswell)

Rev. Eric Carswell introduced the Fall Journey series "Angels" which is running for five weeks beginning on October 10. The kick-off event on September 29 will be a performance of C.S. Lewis' novella *The Great Divorce* by Philadelphia local Anthony Lawton at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center. Eric raised the challenge of achieving a quorum at the annual meeting last April. Possible solutions could be: change the quorum number in the bylaws; make absentee ballots count towards the quorum; have different quorum numbers for ordinary versus extraordinary events (i.e., significant policy changes that would affect the society); put more effort into advertising the meetings and making individual calls to members to encourage attendance. Eric encouraged the society to think about possible solutions to increase attendance at the annual meetings. A brief Q&A session then followed.

Facilities Update (Amie Leighton):

Amie Leighton gave a recap of her building analysis including a PowerPoint presentation of the traffic concerns, layout challenges and space needs. After that analysis, the building committee chose four architectural firms to present a proposal for a design analysis. Metcalfe Architects was chosen for this project. Amie introduced Alan Metcalfe who gave an introduction of the company. Over the next few weeks, the architects will meet with a group consisting of community members, teachers, and staff to gather further information on our building needs. Amie outlined the timeline for the project. The goal is to have the final schematic design and bidding in 2020, and the project completed by 2022. She encouraged the community to direct their questions and concerns to any of the building committee members. A Q&A session followed.

Cathedral Report (Meg Rohtla)

Meg Rohtla gave her first report as Director of the Cathedral. She presented a slideshow highlighting the many different functions, worship services and events held at the Cathedral throughout the year. There were over 50,000 visitors in the last year--32,000 in attendance for church and special services, 9,000 adult visitors, 1200 school tours, and 7,000 other visitors. Meg gave special recognition to the many volunteers (120 consisting of tour guides, sound operators, ushers, flower arrangers, refreshments providers, gardeners, etc.) and staff that help with the day-to-day operations. She also acknowledged the retirement of Jens Langlotz, head stonemason. Many major projects were recently completed--two new handrails, repointing of a terrace as an Eagle Scout project, new signage to match existing historic district building signs, installation of security monitors, repointing, and repaving the upper parking lot. The Cathedral has received a grant from the Glencairn Foundation to replace the flagstone path on the West side of the Cathedral, and the plan is to begin this project next year. October 5, 2019 marks the centennial of the Cathedral dedication. As part of the centennial year celebration, there will be special tours by craftsmen in the morning on October 5 as well

as organ demonstrations and a scavenger hunt for kids. A model of the Cathedral made by Midje Kerr will be on display and special centennial items will be for sale in the Book Room (stained glass coloring books, glass ornaments, pens made from a 100-year-old wood stored in the basement). There has been an ongoing problem with visitors entering the grounds during worship or private events and many of them are not English-speaking so a new sign which includes a picture was put up.

Treasurer's Report (Stewart Asplundh)

Stewart Asplundh did a recap of the FY2018-19 budget. The General Fund ended with a surplus of \$504. There was an increase in contributions as well as BATS income (up \$50K) but this was offset by an increase in total expenses over the past year. The Cathedral ended with a \$9k surplus. For FY2019-20, he is forecasting a surplus of \$51K in the general budget, resulting from a reduction in medical coverage expenses. The expectation is that the Cathedral budget will have a \$27.5K surplus. Lastly, Stewart encouraged the society to keep up the trend in increased contributions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.