

Grace Safety, Security and Health Committee Meeting (via Zoom) – December 14, 2022

Attendees:

Alex Geffen
Kevin Walsh
Demetria Keck
Kris Doty
Rev Dcn Liz Klein
Niki Moquist
Sharon Loomis-Malin
Sibby Tower
Jeff Ewen

- De-Escalation training:
 - Dcn. Liz attended a de-escalation training run by Portland Street Response. She said it covered many of the issues as the session by the City of Portland, but it was 4 hours long and included role playing, which was very beneficial. For instance:
 - the group was broken into smaller groups and everyone was asked to list what leads them to a crisis. The Groups discovered that the factors leading people to crisis are very different.
 - reviewed 3 stages of crisis and how to approach them:
 - Stage 1: see stress and tension in another; de-escalation involves offering support
 - Stage 2: see agitation and anger (like a 2 year-old); de-escalation involves limits and choices...either this or that. At this point the individual's brain can't deal with much more
 - Stage 3: see threatening behavior/danger; priority is to ensure safety by moving away and giving the person space
 - To contact Portland Street Response, need to call 911, ask for a Street Response team
 - Portland operators have been trained to ask questions to be able to ascertain if the caller really needs police or the Portland Street Response team.
 - Liz said that the training supported many of the things we learned before...such as: not saying stay calm, I understand, etc.
 - There were about 30 folks in attendance, we would want to have a turn out like that to get them out.
 - There was a handout and Liz will circulate this to us.
 - We agreed, we would like to host such a training. Potential attendees would be:
 - Grace Campus staff and volunteers, including Grace Memorial, Grace Institute and PHAME
 - Also other churches in the area: St Michael & All Angels, Westminster Presbyterian, Central Lutheran, Augustana Lutheran, St. Philip the Deacon, All Saints Episcopal, possibly others
 - We also talked about local small business owners and folks from 1620 building; other nearby apartment buildings.
 - Agreed that those in the area are sharing the same issues and would be great as partners
 - Scheduling – first Fridays of month because of PHAME's schedule of classes and meetings

- Talked about logistics of weekends and would like to stick to weekdays due to need for staff members to attend
- Next Steps: Liz will follow up with Portland Street Response about potential scheduling.
- Sexton/Security hiring update
 - Kris let us know that she has posted the position on LinkedIn, Indeed, Craigslist, Diocesan website.
 - Suggested she look at Mac'slist. A few on the call mentioned that this is a good resource.
 - Next Step: Kris will look into this.
 - Liz was at Trinity Cathedral and spoke to a Sexton, who mentioned that one of their part-timers might be interested.
 - Kevin is going to try to scope out Trinity's salary range for the Sexton position. We listed ours at \$19 - \$22/hour.
- Review of 10/26 security walk-around
 - Jeff wants to get clarity on our priorities from the walk-around as budget constraints will probably make it impossible to move ahead with everything that was talked about
 - B&G has targeted securing the double doors into the Narthex and Nave. Jeff asked for any updates from B&G committee members in our group
 - Sharon said that no date has been set and did not hear any details of 'fixes' to the depth of the list provided by Nancy Entrekin (crash bars, plating/bolts, keypad entry locks)
 - Sharon mentioned the one door that is of priority in her mind is 17th Ave breezeway door.
 - Door materials are worn down and are easily compromised and anyone can walk in.
 - She has come up with a method to keep it locked, but not a permanent fix.
 - All comes down to budget!! Kevin said that Curt is working through this and will have the budget finalized by end of January.
 - Next Steps: Kris will contact Door Locks to get assessment of what would be needed and estimate.
 - Door from Parish Hall to Courtyard has been fixed and is closing properly...from both fully open and partially open positions!
 - Talked about door from Courtyard to Sacristy (one of this room's names – the one I know!)
 - It was noted that it is troublesome; door lock is not predictable; doorstop does not stay up (right now fixed with blue tape!); Kevin noted that it would be helpful to have a window in the door, so that those inside could see who is outside before opening the door. One issue with a window is that those outside could observe people meeting inside, donning vestments, etc.
 - Discussed getting a narrow, frosted glass window to allow detection of others, or a security peephole.
 - Might need Clergy and Vestry approval for this work.
 - Suggested a sign asking people outside to knock before entering.
 - Sharon mentioned that this is a standard size door; perhaps David Waldow and others could replace.
 - Next Step: Jeff will contact David Waldow about this.
 - Camera installations

- Martin had mentioned during walk around of putting 2 cameras on the half wall before Narthex and Nave (pointing either direction).
 - Currently have 2 cameras available for installation, one indoor and one outdoor
 - Kris mentioned that one to cover the Nave is on the list, but things are busy now with the holidays.
 - Next Steps: She and Martin can get the indoor camera installed to cover the Nave after the holidays
 - General agreement that a camera covering the Narthex and 17th Ave. entry would be a good idea.
- Emergency Guide – One pager:
 - Jeff wants to wrap this up and needs confirmation on the non-emergency Grace community phone numbers that should be on the back side (along with the campus map).
 - Agreed that the numbers should be for: Martin, Kevin, Charles, Kris, Alex and Sharon
 - Next Step: Kris will forward numbers to Jeff
 - Agreed that this completed document should not be distributed in pews or as take-home material. These phone numbers needed to be kept within the church buildings.
 - Jeff recommended making 2 versions, one with non-emergency Grace contact numbers to be laminated and posted around the building; the other without contact numbers could handed out during trainings and reviews, etc.
 - Both Grace Institute and Grace Memorial have laminators
 - Where to post?
 - Bulletin board outside of office
 - Posted at all doors
 - Hope to present at annual meeting [Note: Dcn Liz will present to Vestry at next week's meeting]
- Next meeting will be January 11th
 - Need to address Usher issue and asking people to leave backpacks, etc., in the back.
 - 'No Guns in God's House' sign for outside of church.
- Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sibby Tower and Jeff Ewen