

Parish Council Meeting Minutes November 10, 2016

Attendance: Fr. Tom Sutton, Deb Lupo, Tim Markel, Bill Zimmerman, Jessica Reder, Christine Junga, Renee Krager, Sue LeVassuer, Karen Willsie, Deb Ora, Janet Woronoff, Betsy Anderson, Sandy DesJardins, Pam Graul-Gwizdala (for Sally Czabala), Mike Jamrog, and Tim Hadd

Excused: Mary Ellyn Gushow, Sally Czabala, Shelley Helmreich, and Stephanie Schacher

Review of Minutes: The minutes were reviewed. Bill Zimmerman moved to approve and Renee Krager seconded the motion.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

1. Status of Commission/Parish Council Membership—The Education commission is short 4 members. The Administration Committee is short 1 member. Christian Service is down one member, but happy with what they have. Worship Commission is also down 1 member, but not sure if they need more. A need for commission members will be put in the bulletin.
2. Sandy DesJardins reported on the Shepherd's Care Committee which met two weeks ago. The committee has reached out via phone to 10 families who asked to be removed from the Parish roster, and 8 families who the Parish had not heard from in a while. Of the 10 who asked to be removed, 5 went to St. Agnes. A few families had disconnected phone numbers. There were other situations. Sandy asked to keep the Shepherd's Care Committee and those they are reaching out to in your prayers.
3. Evangelization – Sandy DesJardins reported back on a possible Parish Mission. The cost for a Paulist Evangelist mission would be \$2500 plus travel expenses, and miscellaneous expenses. Sandy did not recommend this expense at this time. Sandy presented a few other options for our Parish Council to consider for their own education. First, a 2 hour webinar on the Joy of the Gospel. Another option is for us to read a book and review at our meetings. Lastly, she presented a program with 6 sessions that have 6 pages of reading on the Joy of the Gospel. We could read the 6 page sessions ahead of time and discuss them for 15 minutes at the beginning of Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council proposed to do this last option starting in January, to get the 6 session in by the end of this fiscal year. Tim Hadd moved to accept the proposal and Bill Zimmerman seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
4. Christmas Social will start after Parish Council meeting at 7:30. Commissions will meet from 6:30 – 7:00, and Council will meet from 7:00 – 7:30. Bill Zimmerman and Deb Ora will not be present for the Christmas Social. Invitations will be sent out to include spouses.
5. October count – We had a count of 555 this year. For comparison, last year we had 590. For further comparison for Anointing of the sick – we had 100 participate, 41 on Saturday, and 59 on Sunday. Last year we had 104. And, we had 23 funerals last year, and 15 this year.
6. Parish Planning Committee - Betsy Anderson communicated that the surveys are out. It will be communicated in the bulletin that we request all surveys to be returned by November 18th. It was discussed that the surveys specific for the Staff, Teachers, and Parish Council were not consistently sent to the appropriate people. Betsy Anderson will follow up with the SVSU class. Father Tom communicated the positive, unexpected, “Evangelical” effect this survey process is having on the 40 students from the class. Father Tom visited the class and learned that some students visited the Parish for Mass and commented on the welcoming community. The professor commented that this has been an exciting assignment for the students. The students mentioned that with our proximity to the University we should extend an invitation to students to attend Mass and post our Mass schedule on their web site or on the bulletin boards. Also, Fr. Tom learned that students are looking for community service opportunities, we just need to ask.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Education/Formation: Jessica Reder reported

1. Jessica reported that the 1st marking period has come to an end. Parent teacher conferences were last night.
2. AACCS received a donation from Catholic Heritage Museum yesterday. They will purchase a series of books with the money.
3. A Wall of Remembrance is up for the month of November in the school.
4. Students had an election for the school dance theme. They had a choice between Holly Wood and Neon 80's, and Neon 80's won.
5. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd had an open house week-end with 3 attending, and 5 more touring later.
6. Trunk or Treat was a big success with 20 trunks, and 118 participants. Sandy is looking into 2 more family events for our Parish.
7. The Education Commission are all assigned to neighboring Parish's to audit, and look for other Faith Formation ideas/opportunities.

Worship: Pam Graul-Gwizdala

1. Anointing of the sick – 100 participated.
2. For Remembrance Weekend 15 were remembered
3. Preparing for January work shop for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers
4. Thanks Giving Mass is November 24th at 9:00 AM – 175 loaves will be blessed by Father Tom. 30 loaves will be given to the home bound.
5. November 27th starts Advent.
6. Reconciliation service - December 14th at 7:00 PM
7. The Christmas Mass schedule was discussed.

Administration: Mike Jamrog

1. Reviewed Proposal for storage facility – thanks for the answers.
 - o Unanimous, no one is really in support of a \$30,000+ permanent facility, but we need something.
 - o Recommend a temporary storage facility solution until we know what we are going to do with the church building. While the official request was recent, those needing storage emphasized that this need is going on since we moved from the west campus.
 - o The administration committee will have a recommendation / proposal for the January meeting.
2. No update on the parking lot lights bids.
3. The purchase agreement of the St. Anthony Rectory and associated property to Toni and Trish House is in progress.

4. No update on 9 mile property.
5. The new Church Bell purchase and installation is in process.
6. Financial side - We have a \$66,000 surplus for the fiscal year. We are behind \$21,000 in collections, but making up in other areas. The school is in great shape financially, running at a surplus. No update on CSA. We spent approximately \$3000 for the picnic. Felt it was money well spent. It was commented that we will not have a Parish Appreciation dinner this year.
7. Sewer back-ups. Latest issue, the kitchen floor drain backed up when the toilet was flushed. The lines in the kitchen were snaked and cleared to fix the problem. Tim Markel described the system as not being set up correctly, and he is looking into the issue more to see if there are better fixes to avoid further problems. The plug appeared to be a paper towel. Purchasing hand dryers to replace paper towels had been approved previously, so the administration committee will follow up on purchasing the hand dryers.

Christian Service: Renee Krager

1. Coffee and Donuts is this week-end. We will evaluate the donuts from Speed Way / Crispy Cream. Barney's and Elain's bakeries were mentioned as options if things do not work out.
2. The food pantry is also this weekend. It received a \$600 donation. When asked how many baskets are made, Renee was not sure. Janet and Christine explained that those who have used the pantry this past year are those who are approached and asked if they want baskets.
3. Sharing Trees - Notified 9 facilities. There are 337 tags made for the sharing trees. To accommodate one of the facilities the timing is a little earlier than normal. So, the trees will be put up on November 16th, and the trees will be up for the following 2 week-ends.
4. RCIA – Rite of Welcome, the new candidate Marty Spenser will be introduced at 9:30 Mass on November 20th.

Staff Report: Fr. Tom

1. Fr. Tom brought up the "My Parish App" for St. Gabriel. Christine gave some details. The app will have access to the bulletin, Mass schedule, and other pertinent information. This will be an easy way for those who have an app to receive messages from the Parish. This is now operative. Sandy brought up using the opportunity after Mass some time to have everyone pull out their smart phones and down load the app.

Upcoming Events:

1. Feast of the Immaculate Conception – December 8th
2. Advent bulk mailing goes out – November 14th
3. Giving Tree starts – November 19th
4. RCIA Rite of Welcome – November 20th
5. Thanksgiving Mass – November 24th at 9:00 AM
6. First Reconciliation - December 3rd.
7. Parish Council Christmas Social – December 7th at 7:30 PM.

Tim Markel moved to close the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Bill Zimmerman.

Submitted by Tim Hadd