

## **Parish Council Meeting Minutes October 13 2016**

**Attendance:** Fr. Tom Sutton, Deb Lupo, Tim Markel, Bill Zimmerman, Jessica Reder, Christine Junga, Renee Krager, Sue LeVassuer, Karen Willsie, Mary Ellyn Gushow, Janet Woronoff, Sally Czabala, Betsy Anderson, Shelley Helmreich, Sandy DesJardins, Tim Hadd, and Stephanie Schacher.

**Excused:** Deb Ora

**Review of Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed. Mary Ellen Gushow moved to approve and Bill Zimmerman seconded the motion.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Christine passed out the contact list for everyone to review for accuracy.
2. Election of Officers—Tim Hadd was elected Parish Council Secretary.
3. A Post Parish Picnic meeting was held and the feedback was positive. Commissions have given feedback to Christine. Renee Krager from Christian Service did ask about when should clean up start. The picnic was communicated as going from noon until 4:00 p.m. There was a discussion about other menu options for meats.
4. Status of Commission/Parish Council Membership—Education commission is short 4 members, and with Pam Spenser moving, is short a chair person too. The Administration Committee is down 1 member. The rest of the Commissions are down at most 1 member, and while they would all like more, are ok.
5. Shepherd's Care Committee has been created. The intent of the committee is to reach out to parishioners that have become inactive since we moved to one worship site. It is being led by Sandy DesJardins with members being Debbie Powell, Christine Junga, and Tim Hadd.
6. Evangelization – Sandy DesJardins presented a 3 minute video on Evangelization. It had good content saying to speak from the heart about our faith. Sandy also brought up bringing in Paulist missionaries to speak to the council and the commissions, maybe on a Friday and Saturday. This led to asking about making this a Mission for the Parish. Sandy will evaluate the possibility with the Education Commission, going through details like timing, etc.
7. Annual Religious Education / Formation Report:
  - Elementary Religious Education – St. Gabriel has 82 families with children of school age, and all but 7 are enrolled, that is an outstanding 92% participation.
  - Children's Liturgy of the Word –is greatly attended averaging 32 children
  - Nursery – averages 5 children.
  - Vacation Bible school – offered in July or early August.
  - Youth Ministry – the new Youth Minister is Stephanie Schacher. The youth group consists of 10 High School members and 10 Middle School youth. 15/50 families are registered, 30% participation, when compared to other youth ministry programs is still good participation.
  - Sacraments –
    - Baptism: New training program added for those who already have had a baby baptized.
    - Confirmation and Eucharist / Reconciliation: 22 Children in the preparation program.
  - RCIA – 1 Adult Candidate
  - Adult Enrichment Formation – workshop held for the AACS teachers meeting diocesan requirements for continuing education in Religious Studies.
  - Scripture Study – meeting Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center.
  - Technology – website is being updated. Christine is working on an App.

- Many on the council did not realize how much was going on in Religious Education. Sandy will make several hard copies of her report available at the entrances of the church building for the Parish to take if interested.

#### 8. Planning Group letter to parishioners

- Betsy Anderson discussed the survey being developed by SVSU students that will be sent to the Parish. There will be four different surveys sent: Parishioners, Parish Council and Planning Committee, Teachers, and Staff. Not known, but assuming one could get multiple surveys. The fact to expect the survey and letter will be communicated in the bulletin, and as announcements at Mass.
- Betsy communicated that the Planning Committee update letter was mailed to the Parish the day of the council meeting.

#### 9. Stephanie Schacher was introduced as the new Youth Minister – welcome Stephanie!

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

#### **Education/Formation:**

- Sandy previously presented on Religious Education / Formation
- Jessica Reder gave an update on Education Commission
  - AACCS - Each grade level is participating in an outreach program, exposing them to different programs in the community.
  - AACCS received their letter of accreditation.
  - They are starting a twitter page, and are pursuing a website.
  - Also, they are trying to understand the best methods of contacting people. What is their preferred method of contact?
  - Debra Lupo commented on the excellent behavior of the children during the Mass with the Bishop.

#### **Worship:**

- Finalized details for Anointing Weekend which will be October 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>.
- Remembrance Weekend is November 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>. Greeters and rest is organized. Sally Czabala suggested trying to avoid processing in with candles when people are still being seated for Mass. Sally recommended processing in at the start of Mass verses just before.
- Thanks Giving Mass– they have someone to bake bread.
- The commission will have a workshop for everyone who is involved in Ministry (lectors, EMs, etc.) in January. Fr. Bert Gohm will be a speaker at the workshop.

#### **Administration:**

- Received a quote for evaluation of parking lot lighting from Pyramid Controls. The analysis was to add 4 lights on the east end, and 6 lights on the west end, 10 lights in total would be added. First bid was for \$35,000.
- A purchase agreement has been received for the sale of the St. Anthony rectory property to Toni and Trish House.
- A Church Bell Ringer has been ordered.
- The Boiler has been repaired.
- Sunday and Holy Day collections are down. Overall expenses are held to budget with surpluses coming from other sources.
- The Administration Commission received the proposal for storage from the School Principal, DRE, and Worship Commission. The Commission reviewed the proposal and has asked some questions back to the proposers.
- Playground equipment is being updated for safety reasons, meeting codes.

#### **Christian Service:**

- The parish blood drive was held September 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. with 18 participants. Discussed moving the time to the week-end, or changing from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. to increase attendance.

- Coffee and Donuts – We were to try Crispy Creams from Speed Way, but Crispy Cream did not deliver to Speedway on Saturday morning. So, they were not available for the 4:30 Mass. Donuts were purchased from Meijer. We are going to give Crispy Cream / Speed Way one more chance. Otherwise consider going to 7/11.
- The Sharing tree will have the same organizations as last year.
- The Tony and Trish House has “Come and Sees” twice a month, one during the week and one on the weekend. These are tours of the facility. Tony and Trish encourage small groups of 6 to 10 people to tour the house. Christian Service to consider coming as a group.

**Staff Report:**

Fr. Tom communicated most things were already covered, but added that the Parish Picnic technology fund raffle had a net profit of \$4563.00. Fr. Tom highlighted the importance of reading the K Statement letter from the planning group, and the Surveys being sent out to the Parish, Staff, Teachers, and Parish Council.

Tim Markel brought up reconsidering the Mass and event weather cancellation policy at the next meeting.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Anointing Weekend—October 29<sup>th</sup> /30<sup>th</sup>
- Remembrance Weekend—November 5<sup>th</sup> /6<sup>th</sup>
- Trunk and Treat—October 30<sup>th</sup>
- Sharing Tree will be set up November 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Next meeting is November 10<sup>th</sup> with prayer being led by the Administration Committee.

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

*Submitted by Tim Hadd*