

Minutes of the Parish Council

St. Vincent de Paul Church

November 8th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:41pm by Joe Yingling, the President of the Parish Council. A prayer with a quotation from St. Vincent de Paul was read. In attendance:, Colleen Mc Cahill (Pastoral Associate),Laureen Brunelli (Administrator), Joe Yingling (President), Mary Kate Fries (Vice President), Graham Yearley (Corporator/Secretary), Anne Marie Freeburger (Corporator), Mike Jacko (9:30 Mass Rep.), Janice Bonner (Chair, Liturgy Committee), Rita Mc Mullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee),Eve Prietz (7:15 Mass Rep.), Deny McMullin (Chair ,Facilities Committee),Peggy Meyer (Vice-Chair, Social Action Action Committee), Ray Heil (Vice-Chair, Social Action Committee) and Codie Perry (Jesuit Volunteer Corps).

Pastoral Associate's Report

- 1 . Colleen reported she had a good, long visit with Fr. Lawrence today. He has been moved to Future Care on Charles Street near S.S. Phillip and James Church.
2. The 175th Anniversary Mass went well. It was presided over by Bishop Dennis Madden, the Urban Vicar. He spent time in the rectory in prayer before the mass and that contributed to the mass starting late. Bishop Madden said he was very pleased to be with us to celebrate our anniversary.
3. Honoria Bird thanked the parish for the medal given to her husband, Jerome, in honor of his service to the parish; she said the experience was "spiritually uplifting".

Financial Report

Laureen Brunelli delivered the financial report in Mark Palmer's absence. There was a drop in attendance in October; personal giving is also down. But neither is down alarmingly; but we need to be attentive to these drops in attendance. The parish has a cash flow shortage; there is only \$19,000 in the cash account. But there are avenues towards replenishing it.

2. Earlier in the fall Fr. Lawrence started the perpetual care fund for our cemetery with a payment of \$25,000 towards the ultimate goal of \$500,00. The requirement to have a perpetual care fund for our graveyards is Archdiocese-wide. The Friends of the St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery have many plans to make the space attractive.

Archdiocese Parish Planning Process

Colleen gave a detailed report on the Archdiocese Pastorate Planning. Over the weeks since the announcement of the plan, Colleen has received letters from parishoners expressing their views on the pastorate plan. Colleen said she would be sending some of the letters to Bishop Madden-those sent on had the permission of the letter writers to do so.

Rita and Denny McMullin asked why St. Vincent couldn't consider having a Pastoral Life Director to lead the parish since plans for that contingency had been drawn up years ago. It was noted that there were

no PLDs being trained by the Archdiocese at this point and, since the pastorate plan is designed to deal with the decreasing numbers of priests, it was unlikely they would appoint a PLD at this moment. .

There will be a meeting of city wide parish representatives and the Pastorate Planning Team on Friday November 11 at Archbishop Curley High School at 9am¹. Each parish was to send up to five representatives, the pastor and four others. Colleen will be standing in for Fr. Lawrence. Lauren Brunelli, Joe Yingling, Mike Jacko and Graham Yearley volunteered to go with Colleen. The meeting will start with a talk by Archbishop Lori and Daphne Daly, the director of the Pastorate Planning project. Afterwards there will be "table talk time" for the representatives of the parishes in a pastorate to introduce themselves and discuss the plan. Colleen noted that St. Leo's would be sending three representatives. There will be a worksheet for each parish to fill out with one checkbox at the bottom stating that the parish agrees with the plan as proposed. So far, the deadline for parishes to comment and request changes to the proposed plan will end December 11th. In February of 2017, the Archdiocese will present the finalized plan for the parishes.

Colleen reported that she had now had meetings with Fr. Bernard Carmen of St. Leo's and with Fr. James Casciotti of St. Ignatius. Both churches knew about the conversations with each other. At the Saturday, October 8th 7:15 mass, the day after Fr. Lawrence was taken to the hospital, Fr. Casciotti came to preside over the mass. Afterwards Colleen and Lauren had a conversation with Fr. Casciotti who asked about our buildings and their condition as well as other topics.

Fr. Carmen of St. Leo's was in Rome when priests were first informed of the pastorate. After he returned, Colleen waited a few days before contacting him. Initially she had some difficulty getting Fr. Carmen on the phone, but she eventually did and, subsequently, they had a face to face conversation. Colleen found Fr. Carmen an open and kind man, interested in greater women's and laity participation in the workings of the parish. He was very informative about the Pallotines who serve as pastors to St. Leo's. However, he did not ask any questions about St. Vincent's. Today, Fr. Carmen is in New Jersey meeting with the Pallotines partly to discuss whether they will stay in charge of parishes like St. Leo's ; we will know the outcome of that meeting when he returns. While Fr. Carmen was not enthusiastic about the pastorate plan, he was accepting of it and not frightened by it.

Colleen also talked with Fr. Casciotti and learned that he had already had discussions with the Archbishop and Daphne Daly about entering a pastorate with St. Vincent's. Fr. Casciotti thinks our pastorate would expand the Jesuit presence in Baltimore in a good and constructive way. He shares our interest in Saints James and John School.

After this discussion of the two pastors and two churches, the council took an informal poll asking which of us would prefer a pastorate with St. Ignatius; a majority said they would.

Mike Jacko brought up that St. Vincent often serves as a last stop for people questioning whether they want to remain Catholic. He argued this ministry should continue to be emphasized.

New Business

Colleen received a letter from Joanne Vizzini suggesting that the members of St. Vincent should appoint a day outside of our liturgies and a moment of that day to pray as a community about these proposals and changes for our parish. A prayer by Teilhard de Chardin would be appropriate. Some thought noon would be an appropriate time, others suggested 1:20pm to reflect our address on Front Street. Still

others said that year of our church's dedication, 1841, would translate to 6:41pm. Colleen thout Joanne's idea was a good one and the council agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48pm with the recitation of a prayer.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Graham Yearley, Secretary and Co-Corporator

Committee Reports

Education & Enrichment Committee update:

Our last meeting was 10/13/16.

Those present were: Rosemary Bitzel, Anne Gibson, Peggy Shouse, Denny McMullin, and Rita McMullin.

Our next meeting is 12/8.

We went over our **Retreat evaluations** from the last retreat back in May. They were excellent, with many comments that were beautiful!

Peggy Shouse and Gerry Fialkowski will give the **1/2 day retreat** at the Franciscan Monastery. The date will be 3/18, during Lent.

The book for **Advent reflection** will be Arthur Jones's book, Mary, A Mother Waiting: Raising the Messiah, which is written in free verse. Colleen is purchasing the books. We will offer the book for sale to those who would like to read it on their own and to those who would like to join discussion groups. The groups will meet in several locations (St. V or the Towson area or the Catonsville area) during the weeks of 12/4 & 11.

At the suggestion of Mary Catherine Bunting, we will be presenting the **film** "Cracking the Code" some time after Christmas.

During Lent, we will have a **discussion on the Psalms**. This will occur on the "off weeks" when the Liturgy Committee does not have a Wednesday event, such as stations.

It was decided to continue the **Cape May weekend**, in the fall, but we will make it very clear to the congregation that it is just a fun weekend.

Since the meeting, we have secured a retreat director for the **Spring Retreat** on 5/19/17. Dr. Monica Weis of the Sisters of St. Joseph will present; the topic will be Thomas Merton.

There is also a possibility of a **book discussion** on Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating by Norman Wirzba. This is merely "food for thought" at this point.

Respectfully submitted, Rita McMullin, Chair

Facilities Committee

Facilities Committee has not met formerly since last report. We will not meet formerly until after the first of the year. We did meet in October, but that was to review and identify needs and materials required to work on the undercroft and kneeled projects, in preparation for the 175th anniversary.

St. Vincent de Paul Church Social Action Committee

Meeting minutes for October 5, 2016. Attending: Peggy Meyer, Peggy Cronyn, Joe Cronyn, Jack Schmidt, Mary Laukaitis, Ray Heil, Marcia Metzler, Chuck and Pat Frascati

Next SAC regular meeting will be Tuesday, December 6, 2016.

Service day 9/24/26 We had 43 volunteers, some from Jesuit volunteers and some from Roots and Branches; Great participation, but there were fewer apples because of the rain and end of the season; seven people participated in weaving sleeping mats from plastic bags, but it is a slow, time-consuming process and will have to be completed at home.

St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day liturgy, Sept. 25: some positive feedback.

After the mass, the picnic in the park was successful with a large number of participants.

175th Anniversary mass: Nov. 6, 2016. Archbishop Lori to preside.

The Resource Exchange: Peggy C. indicated that there will be two extra days of moves in Nov. and Dec. We have sufficient volunteers for moving crew, but need "hospitality volunteers". Our inventory is sufficient also. Bob Betta and Bob Ball continue to pick up furniture on evenings each week. There are new protocols with HCH to address the problem of clients not being available for the moves. As an allvolunteer organization, we can only do 8 moves per month, even though there is a 4 month waiting list. Mary Laukaitis has volunteered to do site surveys prior to the move to determine what is needed and if there is adequate access.

One of the clients had a housewarming party for the TRE volunteers, which was a charming affair. She is doing much better than previously and is successfully employed.

Friday Dinner Program guests in Sept.: 183, 279, 217, 316, 222

Jonestown Planning Council- Meeting on Sept. 6.: presenter was Peggy Webster from City - Perkins Homes has new developer (same as for Old Town-Somerset Homes project), which will add additional acreage and permit less dense development as part of a larger Central Avenue redevelopment. 800 affordable units are to be built to replace 800 units being razed.

Ronald McDonald House is moving forward; the Hendler Building may move forward next year. Helping Up Mission expanding into MD Logix Building, which they purchased. They plan to start a women's program. HUM also plans to acquire old St. Vincent de Paul property on Central avenue.

UA House is new name for Carmelo Anthony Center; Under Armour is investing in the center.

Women's Civic League will have an apple festival in Shot Tower Park on Saturday, Oct. 8.

Chuck will introduce the Question J which will set up an affordable housing trust fund at next meeting on Nov. 1.

Homeless Coalition at Convention Center: United Way project Homeless Connect- provided dental, vision, and health services, and other practical services on Friday Sept. 30. The lines were very long, especially for vision. Mary Laukaitis has proposed that vision services be brought to St. V's undercroft several times per year. Colleen supports this idea, and Mary will pursue its implementation.

Emergency Services: Colleen was intending to reach out to City Springs housing community in the Jonestown neighborhood to inform them of the services available at St. V's'.

Men's program: 42 men in Sept., \$1064 was spent.

Food program: no funds spent in Sept.

Peace and Justice Committee: see minutes from Peace and Justice Committee meeting of Oct. 3, attached.

Pax Christi convention: Ray Kelly from St. Peter Claver and Sr. Patricia Chappelle led a cleanup of a vacant lot in Sandtown-Winchester, with several St. V's participants.

Day of Reflection Oct. 22 at St. Vincent's: "Advancing the Kingdom of God in the 21st Century."

BRIDGE- achieved 501c3 status; working on Port Covington Project.

Interfaith Activities: Murphy Initiative event on Oct. 29

Environment: Application to Chesapeake Bay Trust submitted by Ray for engineering of a stormwater management project for St. Vincent's property- results available in December.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted, Ray Heil

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2016

Present: Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Mary Laukaitis, Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm December 5, 2016. Dennis Moore will facilitate.

DISCUSSION

Habitat for Humanity – The next faith community build is on November 20, although it is unlikely that parishioners will participate in Sunday builds.

BRIDGE Maryland – Dennis attended the September meeting and reported on major discussions centering on The Home Act and Port Covington. The Home Act did not pass Baltimore County council, but BRIDGE is continuing to demand that Port Covington provide an acceptable percentage of inclusionary housing.

Beyond the Boundaries – The next meeting is Monday, October 10 with CPHA and Matt Hill to preplan for city inclusionary housing. The hope is that a bill for a statewide Home Act will be presented in the state legislature.

Interfaith Activities – The Murphy Initiative for Justice and Peace will host “Interacting with the Other”, an interfaith presentation on “race, religion, respecting, and receiving” at St. Ignatius Church on October 29, 9 A.M. - 12 noon. Panel will include Dr. Roseann Catalano, Ray Kelly, and Selina Keino. Brochure attached.

Pax Christi Events

Regional Meeting – 11/5 9:30 am at St. Vincent’s

Annual Peace Dinner - 11/15 at 6:30 P.M. at St. Vincent’s during the USCCB Fall Assembly. The soup and bread dinner is sponsored by the Catholic Peace Fellowship, Pax Christi Metro Baltimore/DC, the Community of Sant’Egidio and various Catholic Worker communities. Main speaker will be Warren Kinghorn M.D., Th.D. The theme will be on “creating a space in the church for encounter, listening, and accompaniment of military veterans and their loved ones. We hope to consider together what it means for the church to faithfully attend to what modern clinicians, philosophers and theologians call “moral injury” and what St. Augustine called “anguish of soul” or “heartfelt grief” stemming from combat and war.” A few Pax Christi members will meet with bishops the following morning to discuss Just Peace.

Day of Reflection - October 22 at 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. at St. Vincent’s. “Advancing the Kingdom of God in the 21st Century” with Tony Magliano from the National Capital Reporter as keynote speaker.

Advent Prayer Service - 11/27 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. at the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Prayer Center. Keynote speaker, Mary Slicher, will discuss “Peace in Our Hearts”.

New Ways Ministry Bridge Building Award for 2016 -10/30 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. Doubletree Hilton, Pikesville. Fr. James Martin, Editor at Large, *America Magazine*

Limay – Maureen Daly is planning a group visit to Limay in January. Justice and Peace groups are joining the “School of America Watch Convergence” taking place this month at the Mexican border.

South Africa Higher Education Fund – This begins the 10th year of St. Vincent’s funding this project begun by Sylvia Eastman to provide scholarships to poor students in S. Africa.

“Cracking the Code” – Mary Catherine will encourage the Education Committee to show this film in order to facilitate parish discussion of race relations in Baltimore and the nation.

SOCIAL ACTION

TRE – There continue to be at least 2 moves a week. There is a 3 month waiting list, so additional moves will be done in November and December. TRE volunteers will pick up home goods from Broadmead on October 8 and Charlestown on October 29. More volunteers are needed.

Jonestown Planning Council - Discussions included redevelopment of the Perkins Housing site, renovation of other public housing; progress of the renovation of the UA House (Under Armor) with grand opening set for November. Groundbreaking for the Ronald McDonald house is planned for the 1st quarter of 2017. The Helping Up Mission will expand with the purchase of buildings on Central Avenue and on Baltimore St. A bike sharing station will soon be at the nearby Metro station. Demolition of buildings around the Hendler Creamery will begin in about 4 months. The Women’s Civic League will hold its annual Apple Festival at Shot Tower Park on October 8. There will be a Jonestown Neighborhood Festival in April 2017.

Emergency Services – The Men’s Clothing Program opened in September. Women seeking clothing should be directed to the undercroft during Friday dinner or to Our Daily Bread.

Breaking Bread with the Hungry (Friday meals) – We continue to serve approximately 175-325 guests each Friday evening.

Project Homeless Connect - Peggy, Codie, Mary, and Maureen volunteered for this at the convention center on 9/30. Noticing the long lines for vision services (450 homeless people were examined and fitted for glasses that day if they were needed), Mary asked Colleen if we could use St. V’s undercroft quarterly as a venue for this much needed service. Maureen readily agreed and Mary will contact PHC to see if that would be possible.

Question J - A Charter Amendment to establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund (*for the purpose of amending the Baltimore City Charter to establish a continuing, non-lapsing Affordable Housing Trust Fund to be used exclusively to provide broadly defined projects and programs related to establishing and preserving affordable housing in Baltimore City. Revenue for the Fund is as provided in the Ordinance of Estimates, grants and donations, mandatory and voluntary payments made pursuant to ordinances establishing development policy, a portion of tax increment financing revenue and any other source established by ordinance. These allocation methods are not subject to discretion in the budget process, other fiscal priorities or constraints imposed by revenue limitations. The Petition authorizes oversight, governance, and administration of the Fund by the Department of Housing and Community Development and a 12 member commission.*) Chuck will get the information into the bulletin. Peggy will announce it at Mass on 10/23 and get it on the website after talking to Odette so we don’t duplicate efforts.

175th Anniversary of St. Vincent de Paul Church - The Anniversary Mass will be on 11/6 at 10:00 A.M. with Archbishop Lori presiding. Completed anniversary projects include the repair of the church kneelers on July 9; apple picking, apple sauce making, and mat making on 9/24; a mass planned by the Social Action Committee in honor of St. Vincent on 9/25 followed by an extremely successful picnic in the park.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary Laukaitis

Friends of St. Vincent's Park

Minutes: Meeting of Friends of St. Vincent's Park, September 18, 2016 In Downstairs Classroom

Present: Valarie Yingling, Mary Lynn Myers, Lauren Brunelli, Sue Woodman, Jack Schwartz, Codie Perry, Colleen McCahill, Peter Asquino, Mike Kelly

1. St. Vincent's Feast Day celebration including feeding etc. in the Park Sunday, September 25th, around 11:30 AM after the special Mass at 10 AM. Volunteers for helping greeting and being all around helpers and "floating ambassadors" where needed are:

Sue Woodman, Codie Perry, Mike Kelly, Peter Asquino, and Mary Lynn Myers. Both Colleen and Lauren will be on site. The Park will be open at AM and volunteers will be bringing in tables and chairs, and people from River Christian Fellowship, along with others from the parish, will be making sure they stay in the park. Colleen (following the recommendations of Shorty (the grill master) drew a sketch on a map of the park locating the line for food and the organization of the feeding, location for serving the "sides" etc. The job of the volunteers, other than to welcome and talk to people in the line is to fill where needed in the serving areas for the food.

Volunteers for final clean up of the park at the close of the picnic are Peter Asquino (along with a couple of friends), Michael Kelly and Codie Perry.

2. Ray Heil presented a map illustrating preliminary ideas for a planning grant to improve drainage in the park. He described approaching ways of controlling and channeling run off from the parking lot and the roofs of the church and related structures. He suggested plantings for the park, and the location of large water barrels to catch rain water that could be a source for watering suggested plantings for the park. The Friends of St.V's Park was not asked to give its approval, but people seemed comfortable, given that the plans were at this early stage very fluid and the deadline for the planning grant imminent, with Ray doing forward on behalf of the parish to seek planning funds. The location and viability of placing large water barrels in the park was discussed as an important open question and some people expressed skepticism about the viability of the extensive flower beds arranged in Ray's sketch plan on the periphery of the park—designed to absorb storm water runoff before it flows on to Fayette and Front streets and the Fallsway.
3. The group gave a warm welcome to the parish's new Jesuit volunteer, Codie Perry.
4. Colleen distributed our new "business card" to hand out to donors of food and clothing in the park.
5. Owing to the huge amount of clothing and food being left in the park on weekends, the group discussed a project to identify some select Fridays Saturdays and Sundays before cold weather sets in (i.e. October and early November) when we could have people (signing up for, say, two hours of duty) stationed all day (e.g. 9AM to 6PM) at the park to intercept "donors," get their contact information, prevent dumping, and distribute information about our needs and the needs of people who frequent the park. Discussion focused on starting Sunday after the celebration of St. Vincent's Feast Day to begin to recruit help, have sign up sheets and making a pitch at announcement time.

This project fits directly with Sue Woodman's efforts to contact donors about whom we have information—with the goal of organizing donors to more effectively serve the needs of people in the park.

6. Colleen mentioned that efforts are underway to gather cost data for improvements to the bathroom to make it more resilient in heavy use and the creation of a small office for manager. The numbers are not yet in and organized sufficiently to support a grant application.
7. The new text for the sign to the park has now been finished, and Colleen will contact Peter for moving the sign to a more prominent position.
8. No new work on the development of Fallsway institutions that support homeless in the area. A complaint by a hotel owner came our way, but city authorities do not appear to think it is actionable.
9. As long as the 7 AM wake up occurs daily, no one seemed much worried about trying to recruit cleanup volunteers from the parish who would be expected to come at 8 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kelly