

St. Vincent de Paul Parish Council

September 10, 2019

Minutes

1) Attendance

- a) Present: Amber Hendricks (9:30 rep, Parish Council President); Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor); Colleen MCahill (Pastoral Associate); ; Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee); Peggy Meyer (Co-Chair, Social Action Committee); Dennis & Rita McMullin (Facilities Committee); Alana Florio (ALIVE); John Moore (Chair, Education & Enrichment Committee), Al Reichelt, (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee); Peggy Shouse (9:30 rep, Vice-President), Corinne Agren-Barnes (9:30 rep, Secretary); laisha Payton (11:45 rep); Graham Yearley (Corporator); Jim Casey (Chair, Ad Hoc Committee)
- b) Absent: Anne Freeburger (Corporator); Gerry Fialkowski (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee); Chris Whitney (7:15 rep); Ned Banks, (9:30 rep)

2) Pastor's Report

- a) Fr. Ray shared that he has established a relationship with Sargent Black, from the southeastern district police force. They will be meeting to address issues concerning the Jonestown neighborhood--of particular importance is St. V's park.
- b) Fr. Ray and Colleen will meet with the regional controllers for the Archdiocese. They will help with issues related to St. V's finances; Lisa Faherty is the controller for our district.
 - i) Fr. Ray will ask if there is expectation to have the parish's financial report by a certain date.
- c) Fr. Ray received an email from Julie St. Croix, facilitator of the Sacred Purpose Workshop. She sent a summary of what we did on Saturday, September 7 at the workshop; She proposed a date for Amber, Fr. Ray & Colleen to meet with her and talk about how workshop went and what the parish will do with that information.
- d) Gil & Lee asked for special prayers as they deal with Gil's heart issue. One of the two proposed procedures has been ruled out as a possibility.
- e) Going forward, the goal is that the parish won't have more than one large project going on at a time.

3) Pastoral Associate's Report

- a) Fr. Dick went home from the hospital and is doing well; He has visits from a physical therapist and is doing his PT exercises at home.
- b) Fr. Chuck, who has been absent since Easter, moved back in with us. He is under strict orders to take good care of himself and is limited to how much work he can do.
- c) Joe Organ had a stroke. He is able to read and play music, but couldn't read words and numbers; He is now in a rehab program; He will be absent from his

role as Music Director well into October; Theresa Wolfe has stepped in to play during mass and at choir rehearsals.

d) Anne Freeberger was in the hospital, but is okay now.

e) Projects going on:

- i) Elevator quit working about a week and a half ago; It is an ongoing project. The workers are working hard to fix it but don't know what's wrong.
- ii) Bioretention filters are going well. Lots of check-ins. There has been at least one meeting between the participants. It is more or less on schedule. There is a broken city pipe that is holding things up.
- iii) The new signs are up on three corners of the property. Once construction is finished the last one will go up, and they will need flower gardens around them. They help identify our campus and came out of grant from Baltimore National Heritage area. There are two other signs on the Front St. door and the Parish Office door.
- iv) Painting company has been working on where there was water infiltration from the windows on the second and third floors. The window and frames were leaking. They had to fix both the outside and the inside. These windows—along with two others that were discovered during the process—have been repainted. The windows that require them will get new bars put on them.
- v) There are eight new Eucharistic Minister getting trained next week. They will start serving at mass in the late fall.
- vi) Scott Simon, at Helping Up Mission, has been working with us for about a year. He was contracted to wake people in the park before it closed at 7a, and then clean the park before it reopened at 9a. He did work above and beyond what he was being paid to do. A week ago, he submitted his resignation, rather suddenly. Colleen & Fr. Ray have reached out to him, and are hoping he will come back and be with us again.
- vii) The Liturgy Committee talked about lighting a candle for the Liturgy of the Word, as is done for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. After series of discussions they decided a simple stand—one next to the ambo and one next to the altar—will serve this purpose. They will be made from marble in the basement that is from the old High Altar. Colleen contacted stone restorers, one of whom is Laura, who made the parish's Easter fire sculpture. She has agreed to make them. The hope is that she will finish them by the feast of St. Vincent. There will be further conversations about the choreography of lighting the Liturgy of the World candle and who will do it—probably the Liturgy Planner.
- viii) Sound System Update: There is not a set start date. Once there is, it will take about a week from start to finish. The company has taken a sample of the color of the walls to color match the speakers. Preexisting contracts w/ schools took precedence. The company has been in contact, and should start soon. There will probably be a training on how to use the new equipment.

4) Committee Reports

a) Education & Enrichment Committee

- i) The “Brunch With...” Series is going very well—39 people attended for Arthur Jones, over 50 attended for Skip Sanders, and 40 people are signed up (with another Sunday to do so) for Mary Catherine.
- ii) The committee is working on an Advent program on the topic of racism. A sub committee is working on the details. They will share what they’ve worked on at next meeting.
- iii) The committee is going to ask Graham Yearley to do a lecture on the Ghent Altar Piece.
- iv) The stickers, magnets and slogans are on the back burner for now. Will be moved to the front burner next week.
- v) Rita McMullin is working on film recommendations.
- vi) Anne Gibson reported that the children’s Liturgy of the Word schedule is almost full.
 - (1) She is looking to using a Children’s Lectionary instead of MagnifiKids because the readings are a little simpler.
- vii) Will be a large class for First Reconciliation.
- viii) Dinner for Eight Update: Rita McMullin reported that Dinner for Eight is one couple short of having 5 groups, not counting the ongoing group. She is hoping to finalize the groups in the next day or two.

b) *Facilities Committee*

- i) Is in the process of establishing a meeting. It will be within a month.

c) *Finance Committee*

- i) First meeting will be in October. They will be looking at the final results from the last financial year.
- ii) Have been keeping an eye on attendance. There has been a drop in attendance this past year, in the last two quarters it reduced by almost 10%.
- iii) Waiting on the correct final June financial statements in order to do Financial Report.
- iv) Mark Palmer and Fr. Ray are working on drafting an expenditure control document; It will state that expenditures above the budget by a certain degree need to be approved by the Council.

d) *Liturgy Committee*

- i) Al Reichelt shared that the Liturgy Retreat was very moving for participants.
- ii) The committee has set all the dates for upcoming liturgies.
- iii) There will be a new approach to family liturgy on 10/20.
- iv) At the next meeting the committee will start to plan for the Feast of St. Vincent, Día de los Muertos and will look at the results from the Holy Week survey.

e) *Social Action Committee*

- i) The committee meets every other month.
- ii) Peggy Meyer asked the Council for help recruiting new members.
 - (1) She stated she wasn't repeating the information in the minutes from SAC, P&J, and Green Team that she had forwarded to the Council, unless someone had questions.
 - (2) She also shared that there is a lot of excitement around Community Solar and the Green Team.

f) *ALIVE*

- i) Meeting tomorrow: Wednesday, September 11.
- ii) Recap from the August meeting:
 - (1) It was the first real get-together since announcement of the ministry.
 - (2) Members set up what ministry wants to do in terms of activities and events.
 - (3) Some members went to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in D.C. for a service; there are plans to do some joint events in future.
 - (4) Upcoming Events:
 - (a) September 18—Movie Night featuring the 2019 documentary "State of Pride." 25 people have RSVPed, including people from other parishes.
 - (b) October 23--"A Night of Sharing." Members will be sharing their stories. Open to parishioners at other parishes. Still in the planning stage.
 - (5) Other things in works:
 - (a) Contacting LGBT+ ministries at other parishes, figuring out how they can work together; trying to do things in coordinated fashion.
 - (6) Members are planning a workshop to offer at the annual Ministry Convocation.
 - (7) St. Ignatius will be hosting an Advent prayer service during the 1st week of December; Alana said she would know more after tomorrow's meeting.

g) *Ad Hoc Committee*

- i) Jim Casey is now chair of the committee.
- ii) The committee has done a lot of outreach to other parishes & groups.
- iii) October 5--Invited other parishes to come to St. Vincent's to see if they can generate some mutual interest
- iv) In October, the committee will discuss whether or not it should disband or request to become standing committee.

5) Old Business

a) *Sacred Purpose Workshop Debrief*

- i) The facilitators, Julie & Daphne, are here to work with the parish, as we need them.
- ii) Overall, people felt it went better than they expected, and saw the benefit of expressing WHY we do what we do at St. Vincent's
- iii) What is the next step?
 - (1) Amber, Colleen & Fr. Ray will meet with Julie

- iv) Colleen & Fr. Ray are working on memo for the bulletin so the rest of the parish knows they are included.
- v) Questions as the parish moves forward with this:
 - (1) How does Sacred Purpose Statement work with Mission Statement?
 - (2) Does the Sacred Purpose Statement need to be more identified with the ways in which St. Vincent is unique rather than a broad statement that could work with any parish?
 - (3) What is the relationship btwn this and Mission Statement—how different & how should relate?
- vi) Peggy Shouse suggested giving something to larger parish to help them identify their WHY

6) New Business

- a) *Introduction of Review of Documents*
 - i) Amber Hendricks introduced the idea of updating the Constitution of the Parish Council of St. Vincent's
 - (1) She asked other committees to look at their Founding Documents and see if they also might need updates.
- b) *Proposed Executive Committee Language*
 - i) Amber Hendricks proposed that the Article IV, Number 3 of the Parish Council Constitution be expanded to include mention of Executive Committees
 - (1) She shared a working draft of the proposed language for this paragraph that would be included in the Constitution.
 - (2) One reason for this addition is so that when an issue comes up, and a quick decision is needed with time to gather the full Council, there is an option within the bylaws for what to do; also, so there is direction for future pastors.
 - (3) John Moore proposed that while the Executive Committee would make the decision, the parish council would then ratify the decision at its next meeting.
 - ii) This will be discussed more at the next meeting.
- c) Rita McMullin brought up having a bathroom in the park.
 - i) This idea will be revisited at another time, as it relates to some very complex issues.