

**Parish Council St. Vincent de Paul**  
**Minutes 10/8/19**

**In Attendance:** Fr. Ray Chase, Dennis McMullin, Mark Palmer, Anne Freeberger, Peggy Meyers, John Moore, Al Reichelt, Alana Florio, Colleen McCahill (via phone), Dennis Moore, & Dave McGill

**Reports**

**Father Ray -**

- Lisa Faherty, our Archdiocesan Regional Controller, will be assisting us in reviewing and making recommendations regarding our accounting. She is routinely available to assist us with anything relating to our budget and finances.
  
- Reported on A&A evaluation of the trees in The Park. The cost to complete all their recommendations would be \$16,740.00. This will be brought to the next Finance Committee meeting. What is certain is that three trees need to be removed due to being identified as "hazards."
  
- Met a young pastor, Adam Wilson, from a Baptist Church in Highlandtown. His community is a young one and has a deep commitment to social justice. I will be meeting with him to discuss any possible relationship between his community and ours.

**Education and Enrichment** - Education and Enrichment committee has not met since the last Parish Council meeting. The October 20 Brunch has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

**Facilities** - Facilities Committee did not meet. We will meet next week Thursday Oct 17.

**Finance** - The finance committee will meet on Tuesday October 22 to review first quarter financials. The proposal for tree work in the park will also be reviewed.

**Liturgy Committee** - The Liturgy Committee chose "Build the Peaceable World" for this coming year's theme. There are 2 training sessions coming up, one for liturgy planners on 10/13/19 after the 9:30 Mass and one on 10/26/19 for lectors by the Archdiocese. There was some comment regarding the Liturgy Planners training session. Some felt that the planners should be limited to LESS than 175 words. Others felt the length did not bother them. Fr Ray mentioned that once the purpose of the opening statement was understood the statement would become shorter.

**Ad Hoc Committee for Church Reform** – If the council agrees the committee would propose dropping the "Ad Hoc" from the committee name at the November Meeting. Church Reform

seems to be taking a little longer. The meeting last Saturday, Oct 5 was the Inter Parish Reform Committee consisting of St Ignatius, St Mathew, The Catholic Community of Relay, St Bernadette, and St Vincent de Paul at this point. We changed the name of the Inter Parish Group to *Baltimore We Are The CHurch* (BWATCH) mirroring the name of the consortium of lay groups being organized by CAPACT in Northern Virginia. Currently that group consists of lay groups in Washington, DC, Northern, VA, Buffalo, Pittsburg, West Virginia, Milwaukee and North Carolina. We hope to be able to have Mass and good conversation with some members of this group if they are coming to the Bishops' meeting. November 11-14.

**Social Action** - Peggy reminded the council that tomorrow was the tour of the Materials Recovery Facility in Baltimore County and that there would be a car leaving St. Vincent's at 8:45 am if any one wanted to join. Another car was leaving from the McMullin's, for those north. The Green Team has been working to make Friday night dinners more "green". For example, instead of packing the 250 "to go" plastic bags with water, sandwich, fruit and snacks, we have used paper bags for the last couple of weeks. We keep looking for ways to improve and ask each committee to consider how they could make their events more "green".

#### **ALIVE -**

- September 18 ALIVE Movie Night at St. Vs (State of Pride) - 51 people attended and including 15 from other parishes
- October 23 "Night of Sharing" - sharing stories of LGBT individuals and their allies.
- November 5 - joint 2020 planning meeting lead by Ryan Sattler with 4-5 parishes that have LGBT Ministries
- December 3 - Advent Prayer Service hosted by St. Ignatius
- ALIVE intends to plan a Lenten Prayer Service at St. Vs. next year.

#### **Discussion of Park**

Father Ray and Colleen provided updates on the difficulties that have resulted in the closure of the park. There have been differing interpretations by law enforcement of how to enforce the peace order. The peace order can only protect an individual person, not an institution. Fr. Ray is the individual protected by the peace order. However, the instigator and his friends have still been frequenting the area around our property, and the drug use and selling of drugs seems to have simply migrated across the street to the Shot Tower park area. Fr. Ray did say that there had been a recent effort by the police to clean up that area a day or two before the Parish Council meeting.

The group decided that the decision to close the park would need to be on-going and for now indefinite. The group also decided to convene an Ad Hoc Committee to try to discern how our long-term relationship to the park might need to shift.

One issue that was raised is that education of the parish as a whole regarding how to interact with park residents might be called for so that we form more meaningful relationships. This will likely be an ongoing process that will not always come with defined goals or end-points. This

lack of concrete steps or a foreseeable end is a situation that might provide both unique opportunities as well as challenges for our community. It is very possibly a great spiritual gift to us, but one which we might need to think carefully about whether or not we have the patience and energy to receive.

### **Discussion of Documents**

We hope to continue discussion of Parish Council documents at a later time but are currently researching logistical questions. Nothing further to report at this time.