

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

St. Vincent de Paul Church

January 10th, 2017

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Joe Yingling, at 7:40pm with a recitation of the Teilhard de Chardin prayer. In attendance: Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Laureen Brunelli (Parish Administrator), Joe Yingling (President, Parish Council), Kate Fries (Vice-President, Parish Council), Anne Freeberger (Co-Corporator), Graham Yearley (Co-Corporator; Secretary, Parish Council), Mike Jacko (Rep., 9:30 Mass), Eve Prietz (Rep., 7:15 Mass), Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee), Lee Krempel (Chair, Outreach and Engagement), Jack Schmidt (Finance Committee), Ray Heil (Vice-Chair, Social Action Committee), Peggy Meyer (Chair, Social Action Committee), Janice Bonner (Chair, Liturgy Committee) and Codie Perry (Jesuit Volunteer). Excused absence: Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep)

Pastoral Associate's Report

1. Laureen and Colleen have been working on ideas for a banner for the back wall of the church as "God Is In Our Cities" needs to be rotated out. A quote from the Gospel of John, "A Light shining In the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" might be appropriate. However, the Jesuits have also used the same quote on a recent banner.
2. Colleen discussed a proposed sign on the south-west corner of our property which would be highly visible to commuters on the Jones Falls Expressway as well as the Fallsway. It was discussed what information should be on the sign. It was proposed it should include our phone number and email address. Mary Kate Fries thought it should include "Roman Catholic Church" as many people might not know what denomination we are passing in their cars. Eventually, we might consider signs on all four corners. Janice Bonner suggested that signs should be covered with an anti-spray paint coating. The proposed sign in the south-west corner would cost around \$1,800.
3. Pastoral Plan Update: Colleen has had further conversations with both Fr. Cascotti of St. Ignatius and Fr. Bernie of St. Leo's. St. Leo's and Holy Rosary have begun working on forming a relationship based on the fact that both are ethnic parishes: St. Leo's, Italian and Holy Rosary, Polish. Fr. Bernie cannot commit to a long term relationship as the Pallotines may have to move out of Baltimore in the future. Fr. Cascotti is not "pushing" for the time being on the pastoral planning, so Colleen had no new information on this topic.
4. The question has been raised whether a statement on our mission is being disseminated through the parish. Colleen said a twenty two page document has been

developed and can be made available once permission has been given by letter writers whose letters are part of the document. It is frustrating to Colleen that a sense of continuity can't be increased; she added that the pastoral plan is "going to hurt" and is going to take longer than any of us wish. However, we have proven we can function smoothly as a lay led parish. Graham added that the comments about our celebrants being labeled "rent-a-priests" is offensive. The celebrants of our masses have worked hard for us and should not be denigrated. Janice Bonner said we are going through a process that all parishes will be going through. Jack Schmidt said we have a good reputation for our ability to carry on with lay leadership; we have three lay women giving leadership and doing it successfully.

New Business

1. Ray Heil announced that St. Vincent's has secured a grant of \$45,000 from Chesapeake Bay Trust for a design of a project to improve our drainage and to promote water conservation. It will be a two year process. Fundraising will be necessary to pay for the project. We hope to get some City money to help defray the costs. The Council approved a request for a sign explaining what we are doing. Construction costs for the sign should run \$175.00.

2. Colleen passed out three cards to everyone present asking us to write down a task we would like seen done in the next six months, another for a task to be done in the next year, and a third to state a wish. The cards were collected and some were read out aloud by Colleen. The cards reflected a wide range of parishioner concerns.

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee met yesterday. They recognized our budget is "in a tight place" and the committee will be meeting more regularly to address this concern. Some had wondered if Fr. Lawrence's absence would effect our income. So far, in the first six months, attendance is "dead flat"(the same as last year), but there has been a 2% rise in giving. There is \$37,000 in our general balance; it was at \$19,000 recently. Expenses are overall in line. Because Christmas was on a Sunday this past year, we lost a collection we get when the holiday falls on other days.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34pm when the recitation of a prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Graham Yearley, Secretary and Co-Corporator

Committee Reports

Facilities

Facilities Committee has no updates or new input from last meeting. We have not yet met for a formal meeting.

Blessings,

Denny McMullin

Education & Enrichment

The Education & Enrichment Committee has had no meetings since the last parish council meeting in Dec.

Rita McMullin, Chair

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2016

Present: Barbara Bowles, **Mary Catherine Bunting**, Maureen Daly (in part), Chuck Frascati, Mary Laukaitis, Peggy Meyer, Audrey Rogers, Jack Schmidt

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm February 13, 2017. Dennis Moore will facilitate.

DISCUSSION

Habitat for Humanity – A faith community build was held on November 20 on McCabe Avenue in the Northwood area. Kathy Ault, Liz Hasan, Nick Hershfeld and Alana Florio participated.

BRIDGE Maryland – The committee members present voted unanimously to cease participation in BRIDGE, at least temporarily and for several reasons. We do not know what the committee and financial structures will be when the upcoming pastorate reorganization is finalized; Fr. Lawrence has not yet completed his rehabilitation; and there is no one currently on the committee willing to be St. Vincent's representative. It is possible that this decision could be reversed in the future.

Beyond the Boundaries

- **Inclusionary Housing Bill** – Because this bill that would have required developers who receive taxpayer dollars to build housing for lower-income families was not passed by the city council, Audrey reported that it continues to be the main focus. Matt Hill, Jack, Audrey and Peggy attended the City council hearing prior to the vote. It was hoped that the major proponent of the bill, Councilman Bill Henry, would continue as chair of the Housing and Urban Affairs Committee; however, the position has been filled by John Bullock who has extensive qualifications in that area. Developers have suggested that there be a study to determine how

other cities have successfully implemented such a law. A group that includes BRIDGE and BUILD will meet with the new city council to discuss this.

- **The County Home Act** will be voted on again in 2 years. Planning has begun for grassroots activities including in city parishes. There is no hope that the state will ever introduce this.

Interfaith Activities – The Murphy Initiative for Justice and Peace hosted “Interacting with the Other”, at St. Ignatius Church on October 29th. Keynote speaker was Imam Yahya Hendi. Panelists included Dr. Roseann Catalano, Ray Kelly, and Selina Keino. Mary Catherine attended.

Pax Christi Events

- The New Ways Ministry Bridge Building Award for 2016 was presented on 10/30 to Fr. James Martin, Editor at Large, *America* Magazine.
- A Regional Meeting was held on 11/5 at St. Vincent’s. Chuck represented us.
- The Annual Peace Dinner was held on 11/15 at St. Vincent’s during the USCCB Fall Assembly with main speaker Warren Kinghorn M.D., Th.D. The dinner was attended by about 80 people including 8-10 bishops. Pat, Louise Gregg and Peggy served the dinner and Chuck and Jack transported bishops. Quite a number of other parishioners also attended. There was a panel discussion planned for the following day and a meeting with the bishops to discuss Just Peace that evening were both poorly attended but Jack and Chuck attended.
- A Day of Reflection was held on 11/22 at St. Vincent’s. Tony Magliano from the National Capital Reporter spoke on “Advancing the Kingdom of God in the 21st Century. Unfortunately, this was poorly attended except for our committee members, Mary, Jack, Mary Catherine, Chuck, Pat, and Peggy.
- Father Chuck also joined us along with a few other parishioners.
- The Advent Prayer Service was held on 11/27 at the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Prayer Center. Keynote speaker, Mary Slicher from Project Plase, discussed “Peace in Our Hearts”. Chuck, Pat, Mary Catherine, Jack and Peggy participated along with a few other parishioners
- Limay – Maureen Daly is planning a group visit to Limay in January.
- Regional Pax Christi needs a new board member. For more information, please talk with Chuck Frascati.

South Africa Higher Education Fund – We made a donation for this project begun by Sylvia Eastman to provide scholarships to poor students in S. Africa in 2016 and received a thank you from Sylvia.

“**Cracking the Code**” – The Education and Enrichment Committee will present this film on race relations in Baltimore and the nation on 2/15. Mary Catherine worked with them to initiate this.

SOCIAL ACTION

TRE – There continue to be at least 2 moves a week. There is a 3 month waiting list, so additional moves are being done in November and December.

Jonestown Planning Council – The next meeting will be on February 7th.

Emergency Services – The Men’s Clothing Program provides clothing to about 60 men on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

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

Project Homeless Connect – Mary will contact PHC to offer the use of St. Vincent’s undercroft periodically as a venue for the provision of vision services to the homeless.

Question J – The Charter Amendment to establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund was approved by the electorate.

175th Anniversary of St. Vincent de Paul Church – Bishop Madden presided at St. Vincent’s Anniversary Mass on 11/6.

NEW BUSINESS

Toiletry Donation - Anne Freeburger gave us 18 bags from a sorority filled with toiletries, socks, gloves and such to give to needy individuals. We will distribute them on Friday nights in January.

Gifts for Seafarers – Parishioners filled 56 shoeboxes with toiletries and other items needed by seafarers. Mary Catherine gave the boxes to the Apostleship of the Sea on 12/11 for distribution.

Bishop Madden’s Prayer Walk – The bishop leads a walk each month at a parish affected by violence in its neighborhood. The evening begins with a light meal at 5:30 p.m. and ends before 7:30 p.m. “During the walk, the group prays at specific locations that have been affected by violence, for all those individuals who have been so terribly affected by violence, and for a change of heart in those given to violence.” Mary and Jack joined the walk and we will include future dates and locations in our bulletin.

The 20/20 Vision – This is an effort by the Baltimore Housing Roundtable to call on city leaders to implement an extensive plan to create permanently affordable housing, employ city residents, strengthen Baltimore neighborhoods, and restore trust. They are seeking endorsements from individuals and organizations. Peggy will check with Matt to see if they want all parishioners to sign or for us to sign for St. Vincent’s. See attached brochure and go to website for details: <http://www.publicjustice.org/news/press/1475>

Respectfully submitted, Mary Laukaitis