

Minutes of the Parish Council
of St. Vincent de Paul Church

March 16th, 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 7:38pm by Joe Yingling, the President of the Council. A prayer by Pope Francis was read. In attendance: Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Laureen Brunelli (Parish Administrator), Joe Yingling (Parish Council President), Mary Kate Fries (Parish Council Vice President), Graham Yearley (Parish Council Secretary and Co-Corporator), Anne Freeburger (Co-Corporator), Codie Perry (Jesuit Volunteer), Mark Palmer (Chair Finance Committee), Janice Bonner (Chair Liturgy Committee), Denny McMullin (Chair Facilities Committee), Rita McMullin (Chair Education Committee), Jack Schmidt (Finance Committee), Michael Jacko (9:30 Mass Rep.), Lee Krempel (9:30 Mass rep), Denise Hamilton (11:45 Mass Rep.), Eve Prietz (7:15 Mass Rep.), Barbara Bowles, Mary Lynn Myers, Bethany Gregg and Maureen Daly.

Pastoral Associate's Report

1. Short term news: The Lenten Prayer Services have been well attended, especially yesterday, a day after the snowstorm. Next Wednesday, March 22nd, Lee Krempel will be leading a Stations of the Cross service at 7:30 with bread and soup served before at 6:30pm. The March 29th service is led by Al Reichelt and includes a simple Lenten supper of soup and bread. The April 5th Reconciliation service, led by Anne Maura English, will be held at St. Ignatius. All of the Holy Week services will be celebrated as they were in the past few years. Fr. Hamm will be our celebrant on Good Friday.
2. Both short and long terms news: Fr. Ray Chase has been appointed as our new pastor. He will officially begin on April 1st. He had lunch with parish staff yesterday and he was given a brief tour of the church and rectory. He will attend the special Parish Council Meeting on March 28th. While his schedule will be adaptable, he has said tentatively that he will be at St. Vincent's on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. He will still be working at his two other jobs nineteen hours a week. He has said he will celebrate 51% of the weekend masses which will necessitate our continuing to hiring priests to fill in on weekends. Fr. Ray will do weddings and funerals for the parish.

Fr. Ray is 66 years old and was ordained a priest in 1978. Initially, he was a religious with the Trinitarians, before he became a diocesan priest. He has never served as a Pastor before, but he has been an assisting priest at St. Charles Borromeo for 25 years. While he will no longer be serving at St. Charles Borromeo, Fr. Ray will have a regular schedule of masses at St. Elizabeth's and his other job serving as chaplain at Catholic Charities.

The parish is excited about Fr. Ray's coming to St. Vincent's as is Fr. Ray about joining us.

Finance Committee Report

1. The Committee met last week. The 8-month financial statement (July 2016 through February 2017) is now available; it shows the offertory have remained flat but attendance is risen 3%, partially due to the large numbers at Fr. Lawrence's retirement service. Our holiday collection

taken in Christmas Day was less than last year's. Our major contribution of the year has come in.

2. A major issue that need addressing: compensation for Fr. Ray. At the last meeting it was decided to continue to pay Fr. Lawrence his salary through the end of the fiscal year. This means there will be extra expense paying two salaries through June 30th.
3. S.S. James and John School. They have already been sent about forty thousand from St. Vincent's share of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. There is eighty thousand designated for tuition assistance in our budget. The gift of the Archbishop's Appeal is not part of that eighty thousand. There is concern that the school has received over the budgeted amount for several years, the amounts ever climbing. Mark Palmer said it was "an unsustainable trend". Colleen commented that the school has taken steps to manage better their expenses. They have a strong Board of Trustees and have formed a finance committee.

Old Business

Denny McMullin brought up the issue of the church's roof. There will be an inspection of the church's roof in April. The church spent \$12,000 last year for roof repair. The hope is that the roof renovation will last ten years.

New Business

1. Joe Yingling announced there will be a special meeting of the Parish Council on March 28th for further consideration of transition issues. Before that meeting, Colleen and Mark Palmer will talk with the Archdiocese and Catholic Charities to see what compensation they are planning for Fr. Ray, so we can more accurately discuss compensation at the March 28th meeting.
2. Colleen offered some figures of compensation using a salary scale based on a priest's length of service in the Archdiocese. She based her figures on the amount of salary (based on the scale), half of the benefits, and car insurance. She offered figures for a priest serving 21 hours a week and 24 hours a week. Graham Yearley suggested that the totals be based on years of service and paying full benefits and car insurance as it is easier to cut back from the highest figures than plan on the basis that others will share the benefits expenses. He added that he was sad that Fr. Ray will not be doing all three of the weekend masses, even though he understands that Fr. Ray has other masses to celebrate on weekends and the demands of two other jobs. Colleen suggested there are benefits to having more than one priest on weekends in that it offered different perspectives. She added that the entire Archdiocese is facing the reality of new models of parish life.
3. Anne Freeburger asked that the date for the Parish Council meeting for April be moved away from the Tuesday of Holy Week. It was agreed to re-schedule it for Tuesday April 18th.
4. Bethany Gregg asked for the Council's approval that she and other parishioners continue to explore the issues of St. Vincent's becoming a sanctuary space for undocumented immigrants who were "victims of unjust laws". Rita McMullin said that sessions on this issue were being held at St. Matthew's. She also said that screening would have to be done to make sure we were

not giving sanctuary to those with criminal records. When Graham asked if those seeking sanctuary could only be taken into the church property or could they stay at parishioners' homes? Rita said they could stay in homes of people in the parish. Barbara Bowles and Maureen Daly are also involved in this issue. The Council gave its approval of Bethany's request.

5. Joe Yingling gave out a schedule for Parish Council elections starting with an announcement of them on April 16th, Easter Day. Colleen said the announcement would be in the bulletin and in other places, but that it was probably not an appropriate announcement to be given at mass on that day. Denise Hamilton has completed two terms and her position as 11:45 Representative is up for election. Mike Jacko and Lee Krempel have served the first two years of a possible four year term. They can choose whether to run again for their position as 9:30 Mass representatives.
6. Eve Prietz suggested that our park be named Lawrence Park to honor our just retired pastor. Colleen said that the park did have a name. Mike Jacko suggested that this issue be tabled for another meeting as the hour was late and the issue more complex than we could deal with at this moment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44pm with a reading of a prayer for undocumented immigrants and refugees.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Graham Yearley, Parish Council Secretary

Committee Reports

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2017

Present: Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Charlotte Grahe, Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore, Audrey Rogers and Jack Schmidt. Charlotte facilitated and Peggy opened the meeting with a prayer for world peace.

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm April 3, 2017. Dennis Moore will facilitate.

DISCUSSION

Social Ministry Convocation - The Convocation is scheduled for March 4, 2017 at Seton Keough High School. Audrey and Chuck provided details about the work group meetings with Candra Healy and the Justice and Peace Committee of St. Ignatius and our Committee to develop and co-sponsor a workshop entitled "Amplifying Our Voices: Legislative Advocacy." The workshop is intended to educate parishioners on how to go about speaking to elected officials. It will discuss ways that parishes have done this and will also look at ways to organize parishes for advocacy.

Habitat for Humanity – Kathy Ault has not received information on the next build project of the Christian Build churches.

BRIDGE Maryland – We have ceased to participate in BRIDGE, Maryland, 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 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 – it is important to note that progress on the following items has slowed significantly:

Inclusionary Housing Bill – Since the bill was not passed by the previous city council, work is being done to rewrite the bill. The new chair of the Housing and Urban Affairs Committee is John Bullock who is said to favor the bill and the Deputy is Bill Henry, who originally proposed the bill. Developers have previously suggested that there be a study to determine how other cities have successfully implemented such a law.

The County Home Act (Baltimore County) - will be voted on again in 2 years. Planning has begun for grassroots activities including in city parishes. While it is possible that legislation will be introduced at the state level, there is little hope that action will ever be taken.

Racial Justice Issues – The Committee discussed ways that we could serve the parish and the community on this issue. While the Committee has always been aware of and reactive to racial justice issues, the Freddie Gray incident and the recent election require more focus. Mary Catherine was instrumental in arranging for the parish viewing of "Cracking the Code" on February 15. This is a movie about race relations in Baltimore and the nation. The Committee intends to review and discuss the issues raised in the movie. Members suggested "Hidden Figures" and "I am not your Negro" as two current films that portray racial issues and that are informing current local and national opinion.

Interfaith Activities – There is nothing new to report.

Pax Christi Events – We expect to receive a comprehensive list of upcoming events from Chuck Michaels. Preliminarily, the Pax Christi Metro DC Baltimore Region’s annual spring conference “Walking into the Future with Jesus, Martin and Francis” will be held on April 1, 2017 at the Friends Meeting House in Dupont Circle in DC. The annual Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be held in downtown Baltimore on April 14. Regional Pax Christi needs a new board member. Anyone interested is asked to talk to Chuck.

Limay – The trip scheduled for January was cancelled. Mary Catherine is expecting a report from Barbara Larcom soon.

South Africa Higher Education Fund – Sylvia Eastman again thanked the Committee for providing scholarships to poor students in S. Africa.

SOCIAL ACTION

☐ **TRE** – There continue to be at least 2 moves a week. A furniture pick-up on February 12 at Charlestown Retirement Community provided numerous quality dressers, end tables, coffee tables, dining tables and chairs and lamps. The next furniture pick up at the Broadmead Retirement Community is scheduled for April 8. Lorna Patterson has become an excellent contact for available furniture at the Mercy Ridge complex. Audrey is now handling the TRE call-in phone service which uses Google Voice.

☐ **Jonestown Planning Council** – The next meeting will be on April 4. Highlights of the last meeting include: Ronald McDonald House will break ground on April 3; work has started on the Aquarium site, and City Springs Elementary School was found to be the poorest school in Baltimore in terms of family (student) income.

☐ **Emergency Services** – The Men’s Clothing Program provides clothing to about 60 men on the 2

nd Thursday of each month. After more than 30 years of service, Jane Seipp has retired from the Food Pantry Program and Hurlie Waldman has taken her place.

☐ **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.

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. Peggy, Marie Rippey, Jack and the four JVC volunteers joined a walk on February 14 at St. Edward’s parish. 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, establish a Land Bank to dispose of or reform vacant properties, employ those returning from detention or homelessness, strengthen Baltimore neighborhoods, and restore trust. They are seeking endorsements from individuals and organizations. Peggy checked with Colleen and the recommendation is that the Committee sign for the parish. Go to the following website for details: <http://www.publicjustice.org/news/press/1475>

NEW BUSINESS

Social Justice Corner in the Bulletin – Three weeks ago, the Committee started a Social Justice Corner in the Sunday bulletin. Its purpose is to raise social justice issues and actions on our initiative or at the suggestion of parishioners. It is important that the issues be updated and changed weekly to keep parishioners engaged. Mary has volunteered to be the coordinator/screener for this item.

Other Items – Barbara talked about a group called “**The Samaritan Women**” whose local chapter is based in Catonsville and that provides residential, direct intervention for women suffering from human trafficking. This provides more than advocacy by changing lives. The organization is always looking for volunteers.

Mary Catherine talked about a new environmental organization called **One Water Partnership** which St. Vincent’s may join. It involves 14 other religious communities in the Jones Falls Watershed. The Committee will continue to follow-up on developments since environmental issues have often been initiated by our Committee. A parishioner has asked the Committee to consider and possibly support a recently proposed **law dealing with mandatory outpatient treatment care for mental illness**. Dennis has volunteered to follow-up and will report back to the Committee.

Audrey expressed a concern that we work on too many items instead of selecting the vital few. This is always difficult since we are passionate about so many issues.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Schmidt

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Jonestown Planning Council

General Membership Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2017

In Attendance: Peggy Meyer, Joe Cronyn, Chuck Frascati, Jack Schmidt (St. V’s); Lindsay Thompson, Kelvin Barton, Ayana Bass, Carolyn Cromartie, Nick Johansson, Dominic DiCocco (Jonestown residents); Amy Schmaljohn, Eric Thompson, Mike Moraz, Dwight Warren (McKim Center); Bernard Smith (Baltimore Rescue Mission); Marvin Pinkert (Jewish Museum); Jeffery Kendrick (MCVET); Jenny Hamilton (National Aquarium); Sandy Pagnotti (Ronald McDonald House); Amy Collier (Catholic Charities); Anthony Jones (Health Care for the Homeless); Marshella Wallace (Planning Dept.); Robert Stokes (City Council 12th District); Charles Jackson (City Council President’s Office); Michelle Lee (State’s Attorney’s Office); Officer Bryant Austin

(Baltimore City Police Dept.); Dana Henson (Henson Development Company); Peggy Webster, Kevin Haberl (Baltimore Housing); Edwin Lin (CityLab). Meeting began shortly after 7:00 p.m.

Oldtown/Somerset Redevelopment

Dana Henson explained the development team's vision for the Oldtown/Somerset Redevelopment effort at the north end of the Central Avenue Corridor. Linking Oldtown to Hopkins Hospital (west-to-east) and to Harbor East (north-to-south) is critical. They are building a mixed use (including retail and office), mixed income (overall 60/40 mix of market/affordable housing) community. First two applications for Low Income Housing Tax Credit apartments (90 senior units, 104 family units) were made in Fall—with decision to be made by the State anticipated in March or so. Developer will update JPC on progress with this project so critical to the revitalization of the Central Avenue Corridor.

Public Safety

Officer Austin and Michelle Lee of the State's Attorney's Office spoke regarding crime trends and available programs/services. Businesses and residents interested in tying into the Police Department's CitiWatch video system can go to <https://citiwatch.baltimorecity.gov> to get more information regarding the program. Police crime reports for Jonestown incidents in December and January were distributed. (Copies can be obtained from Cronyn.) Most incidents were minor.

Ronald McDonald House

Sandy Pagnotti announced that fundraising for the \$30 million development is almost completed and official groundbreaking for Ronald McDonald House is scheduled for April 3rd!

National Aquarium

Jen Hamilton reported that Mayor Pugh attended the official groundbreaking for the National Aquarium's Animal Care and Rescue Center (ACRC) on February 2nd. Construction will continue for the next 12 months. The facility will be fully up and operating in approximately 18 months.

Planning Issues

Marshella Wallace was welcomed as our new District planner. She reported that the new TransForm Baltimore zoning code will be operative as of June 5th. Planning Department efforts in Jonestown in 2017 will be directed at adoption of our Vision Plan as the official master plan for the neighborhood by the City and consideration of what (if any) elements of the old Urban Renewal Plan might be worth retaining. In addition, the City continues to work on what is necessary to free up its vacant orphan lots in the neighborhood so they can be offered for development.

City Springs Elementary/Middle

Principal Richetta reported that, despite the fact that City Springs served a student population among the most disadvantaged in the City, student performance was improving. Students and faculty were recovering from the unfortunate incident reported in the media. As a volunteer in the school, Cronyn spoke to the very positive environment for the neighborhood's students.

City Lab Activities

Edwin Lin filled us in about CityLab's ideas for a Community Investment Fund to invest in neighborhood business development. CityLab students have also been working with Jonestown businesses to establish a Jonestown Business Association.

Councilman Robert Stokes

Councilman Stokes spoke about his efforts to turn the lights on at Oldtown Mall, promote homeownership, demand fiscal audits of City departments, promote vocational education, expedite payment to subcontractors on City jobs and other issues. He requested a meeting with the Jonestown Planning Council/Historic Jonestown board to nail down specific priorities for the coming year.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

NEXT JPC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH AT 7:00 P.M.

Any comments/questions on the JPC minutes:

Contact Joe Cronyn at (410) 299-5679 or

joecronyn@comcast.net

Education and Enrichment Committee

The Education and Enrichment Committee will not be meeting until 3/19 so we have nothing new to report.

Rita McMullin, Chair

Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee will not be meeting again until May. However, there are some projects going on this month. Kitchen floor to be stripped and waxed, the top section of the undercroft, in front of the coffee bar to be stripped and waxed, and the possible recarpting of the undercroft platform.

Respectfully submitted by Dennis McMullin

Facilities Committee Chairperson