

St Vincent De Paul Parish Council

February 13, 2018

President Michael Jacko opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:32 pm. Also in attendance were: Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor), Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Laureen Brunelli (Administrator, Director of Evangelization), Mary Kate Fries-Hershfeld (9:30 Rep), Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep), Denny McMullin (Chair, Facilities Committee), Rita McMullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee), Peggy Meyer (Chair, Social Action Committee), Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee), Audrey Rogers (Chair, Liturgy Committee), Dan Rolandelli (9:30 Rep), Graham Yearley (Corporator), Joe Yingling (9:30 Rep), Al Reichelt, Pat Ball, Anne Maura English, and Anne Freeburger (Corporator, Secretary).

Absent was: Eve Prietz

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Ray reported that we have just received a proposal for \$77,500 to repair the sanctuary ceiling from Wooster-Eisenbrandt. Laureen will check the proposal to see what is included and what the costs are. Depending on what she learns the cost could be higher. We will meet with the Archdiocese to review the proposal. We want to repair the damage, the water leaks, and the overall scope of the repairs.

The Park Donors group has made tremendous progress and hopes to implement their plans after Easter. Fr. Ray will give a fuller report at the March meeting.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Colleen reminded us that this year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Easter Flame sculpture. She has called the artist who produced the sculpture.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Denny said that there is nothing new to report because the Committee has not met since December.

EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE

Rita told us that the Committee met a week ago. They are planning a simple meal (bread and soup) followed by a presentation by Dr. Pat Fosarelli for three of the Wednesdays in Lent. There will be a half-day retreat on February 24 from 8 am until 12. The plans between the 1'2 day retreat and the Spring retreat are indefinite. The Parish Retreat will be 5/11-13. A retreat director and location have been decided.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Audrey said that the Committee has not met.

SOCIAL ACTION/PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEES

Peggy announced that the Social Action Convocation will be held from 8:30 am until 3:00 on Saturday, March 3. The Peace and Justice Committee and Jonestown Planning Council minutes are attached below. She will send the Social Action Committee minutes next month.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mark said that the Committee met in January. They discussed the ceiling repair and flexibility in the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike said that he thought the Town Hall meeting on Sunday, February 11, went well. The survey responses were read and tallied by a team of five: Fr. Ray, Graham Yearley, Denny McMullin, Patrick Fisher, and Colleen McCahill. At Council, Colleen reported on that group's findings. The survey responses were made available to the whole Council. After considerable discussion about our plans for Holy Week it was decided that:

- Tenebrae – would be held on Wednesday, March 28, in the Gathering Space.
- Seder – would be held on Thursday in the Undercroft with tables set up and catered food. There would be a quiet transition into the liturgy.
- Holy Thursday liturgy – would be held in the Undercroft following the Seder.
- Good Friday liturgy – would start at 8:00 pm in the Undercroft following Breaking Bread with the Hungry.
- Holy Saturday Vigil – would be a full Vigil Mass beginning at 8:00 pm in the Undercroft.
- The overnight portion of the Vigil would be held
  - a) either on Friday night into Saturday, or
  - b) Saturday night into Sunday morning.
  - The Council entrusted the final determination as to scheduling the event up to its planners.
- Easter Sunday morning – in past years there have been a large number of people (100+) who attended the 11:45 am liturgy on Easter. Denise will check with the 11:45 congregation about what time to schedule the Sunday liturgy(ies). There will be either:
  - One liturgy at 10:00 am with a modified breakfast in the Undercroft and the Easter Bunny activities in the Gathering Space, or
  - Two liturgies at 9:00 and 11:45 am with a modified breakfast in the Undercroft and Easter Bunny activities in the Rectory.
  - The Council will make this decision via email.

The Council adjourned at 9:24 pm by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

Anne Marie Freeburger

Secretary

Education and Enrichment – Minutes attached below

Facilities – Has not met since December

Finance – No report

Jonestown Planning Council – Minutes attached below

Liturgy – No report

Peace and Justice – Minutes attached below

Social Action – No report

## Education and Enrichment Committee Minutes

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Present: John Moore, Rosemary Bitzel, Lorna Patterson, Barbara Bowles, Carol Baish, Phil Arnoult, Denny McMullin, Fr. Ray Chase, Peggy Shouse, Anne Gibson, Rita McMullin, and Jules Banks

Jules Banks reminded us that the bulletin's Social Justice Corner has, in the past, introduced the parish to "Share the Journey", Pope Francis's campaign. We will again look at the toolkit which was compiled by a coalition of Catholic organizations. The bulletin has also given us 5 websites with information on how to start becoming involved with the immigration issue. Jules, who works at the Esperanza Center, part of Catholic Charities, located at 430 S. Broadway, also informed us of 2 activities: Quarterly movie nites (to be scheduled in March) and a community prayer service in May. (I will send these dates when I receive them along with the websites mentioned above when I hear back from Jules.) Jules will send me information on Volunteering at the E. Center and on receiving ESL training. It was brought up that we do have some recent immigrants who attend our parish. There may also be immigrants who may make use of our park. At the Social Ministry Convocation on 3/3, Immigration 101 will be given in the afternoon.

Anne Gibson gave her report: 4/29 will be First Communion for Hazel Hendricks, Charles Hass, Madison Brown & Simone Svikhart.

VBS will be using a program given by Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. There will be a training at St. V on 4/12 & 19, for 30 people from different parishes. The program includes materials needed (Theme: God's Water Heroes); and it includes a boat ride. VBS will be July 23-27. Anne needs teachers and Assistants!

Fr. Ray would like St. V to have 6 children's liturgies per year. Anne is working on this.

There will be a Senior Mass for Maya McKnight, Nick Hershfeld, and Matthew McMillan.

Anne reminded us that Nan Astone would like visitors. She lives in Mt. Rainier, MD and is very ill. Barbara is checking out a program called Sign Up Genius to organize this, as soon as she gets Nan's schedule from Anne G.

Peggy Shouse reminded us that it is time to schedule Cape May for the fall. We tentatively picked 9/14-16. She is to check with Anne Gibson before booking.

John said that 2 of the Krista Tippett podcasts were well attended (about 12 people attended each). Phil had suggested to him that we list some of the podcasts in the bulletin so that parishioners can listen at home. John will send to me his notice for the bulletin with about 5 podcasts listed. We may schedule future podcasts after Mass. No dates were chosen.

Rita reported that Jack is doing sign ups for the ½ day retreat today. The date has been changed to 2/24 from 8-12 at St. Anthony's Shrine.

Peggy S. gave us a report on our Lenten presentations by Dr. Pat Fosarelli on 2/28, 3/7, and 3/14. She will put an announcement in the bulletin. The talks will be held at 7:30 in the double classroom, with soup and bread to be served in the dining room at 6:30. The soups for the first week will be provided by Denny and Colleen and \_\_\_\_\_) The following weeks will be scheduled the week prior.

Rosemary spoke about the 5/11-13 Spring Retreat. There will be a book recommended prior to the retreat, but there will not be book discussions. Anne will check on Joanne and husband for child care. Leah Mank is

available; Rosie Graf is not. If Joanne is not available, Anne will check with Olivia & Nick Hershfeld and make sure all have STAND or Shield the Vulnerable training. All of those providing child care are paid \$200. We discussed the possible need for child care to include someone to work with the toddlers this year. Rosemary will make a special flyer for parents. She is also sending a letter to previous attendees with a heads up. Phil suggested we modernize sign up (online) and is to speak with Laureen and his assistant regarding our capability to do this. It was also decided that we will have a CD with pictures from a previous retreat running during coffee klatch and possibly before Mass begins in the near future. John volunteered to organize the CD photos; Rosemary will do the captions. Sign ups will begin on \_\_\_\_\_

Fr. Ray spoke about 2 books for a possible book discussion sometime after Easter or during the summer. Loyola Press will supply us with a copy of the books and they come with discussion questions and facilitator guides. The books are A Well Built Faith by Joe Patrocki and Positively Catholic by Michael Leach. No decisions were reached. Denny and Peggy volunteered to scan the books and give us their opinions.

We also spoke about the possibility of becoming more involved with Share the Journey, which Jules had referred to above. Again, we made no decision as we are going to see what activities the Esperanza Center has at this time and the dates and times. Rita is to get back to the committee with this information.

We will also set a meeting date at that time to discuss what, if any activities we will have after Easter (nothing on Sundays!) and after the retreat.

Respectfully submitted, Rita McMullin

# Jonestown Planning Council

*General Membership Meeting*

*Meeting Minutes*

February 6, 2018

In Attendance: Kelvin Barton, Mark Palmer, Lindsay Thompson, Nick Johansson, Dominic DiCocco, Mary Disharoom, Drusilla Scott, Ayana Bass, Carlton & Roxanne Epps, Rabbi Etan Mintz (Jonestown residents); Joe Cronyn, Jack Schmidt (St. V's); Amy Schmaljohn, Frances & Matt Micciche, Dwight Warren (McKim Center); Bernard Smith (Baltimore Rescue Mission); Jacqueline Bershad, Dave Ryer, Jenny Hamilton (National Aquarium); Marvin Pinkert (Jewish Museum); Sherman Ragland (Jonestown Mews); Malik Jordan (property owner); Bob Gehman (Helping Up Mission); Sara Paraniham, Marshella Wallace (Planning Dept.); Peggy Webster (HABC); Imani Haynes (Baltimore National Heritage Area); Charles Jackson (City Council President Office); Councilman Robert Stokes, Kathy Christian (City Council 12<sup>th</sup> District); Rachel Apostoles (Cross Street Partners); Tim Pula (Beatty Development); Dan Henson (Henson Development); Officer Bryant Austin (BPD); Sgt. Jo Anne Wallace, Det. Verlillian Githara (HOT/BPD)

Meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

**Councilman Stokes** Mr. Stokes reported on legislation he has introduced in City Council.

**Public Safety** Twenty-three Jonestown incidents (see attached listing) were reported to BPD over three months (Nov.-Jan.) including 7 car break-ins, 7 street robberies, 6 house break-ins. Officer Austin explained crime trends in Southeast, BPD strategies and provided a number of hand-outs. For members wishing to follow up on incidents, Major Clinedinst encourages emailing [sedtips@baltimorepolice.org](mailto:sedtips@baltimorepolice.org). That address is meant to improve customer service and is sent to a small group of command staff.

**HOT (Homeless Outreach Team)** Sgt. Wallace and Det. Githara of BPD reported on their efforts to build relationships with homeless persons, helping them to re-integrate into society. They spend a lot of time in Jonestown.

**Car Barn Development** Mr. Pula and Ms. Apostoles reported that planning was in very early stages for redevelopment of the Car Barn property. Users, design, financing, etc. are all to be determined. Members voiced need for high quality uses which will engage with the community; treatment centers etc. not desired.

**110 S. Central Development** Mr. Henson presented preliminary plans for development of a 46-unit, 4-story stick built apartment building to be partially funded with Low Page 2

Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). Preliminary plans call for 4 1BR, 20 2BR and 22 3BR units—with income targeting approximately of 1/3 30-50% AMI, 1/3 60% AMI and 1/3 market rate households. Design/management of possible park/playground was discussed. Site assemblage may not be complete. Application deadline for 9% LIHTC is anticipated for the end of March. Community feedback was solicited—with concern expressed regarding the number of affordable units and 3BR units. As plans develop, community will be consulted.

**National Aquarium** Ms. Bershad and Ms. Hamilton reported that occupancy is beginning in Spring. They displayed concepts for the mural for the building's Baltimore Street façade. City Springs students are anticipated to assist in painting of mural.

**"Magic of Jonestown" Festival** Mr. Pinkert announced that the Jonestown festival will be held on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> with walking tours, Houdini-style magic acts, jugglers, food and much more. Lloyd Street between Baltimore and Lombard will be blocked off.

**Helping Up Mission** Mr. Gehman reported on progress made in planning (2019 start) and fundraising (50% there) for HUM's new 78,000 sq.ft. building for up to 300 women and children at 1216 E. Baltimore Street, as well as long-range thoughts for the 6 N. Central Avenue buildings.

**Jonestown Vision Plan** Ms. Wallace and Ms. Paraniyam described the Planning Commission's process for acceptance of the Jonestown Vision Plan to provide official City guidance for development in the neighborhood. They were encouraged to

#### **Other Notices**

- Ronald McDonald House – Topping out celebration to be held on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am – 12:15 pm. Occupancy expected in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019.
- 924 E. Baltimore Street - Awning has been approved by CHAP—with installation planned in February.
- Hendler Creamery - Demolition of non-historic structures is beginning.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

#### **NEXT JPC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> AT 7:00 P.M.**

Any comments/questions on the JPC minutes:

Contact Joe Cronyn at (410) 299-5679 or [joecronyn@comcast.net](mailto:joecronyn@comcast.net)

### **St. Vincent de Paul Church**

#### **Peace and Justice Committee Meeting Minutes**

#### **January 23, 2018**

Meeting began at 7:05 pm. Peggy led us in a prayer for immigrants. Charlotte facilitated. **Present:** Father Ray Chase, Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Charlotte Grahe, Louise Gregg, Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore, Jack Schmidt and Jules Valencia-Banks.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 7:00 PM** Peggy will facilitate.

#### **DISCUSSION**

**Immigration and Sanctuary Issues:** These issues and sub-issues were many and varied and discussed at length during the meeting. However, they are too numerous to include in these minutes. The primary points include:

- Father Ray signed the sanctuary covenants from the Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland (as supporters) and Peggy will get Parish Council President Mike Jacko to sign ASAP. Louise will deliver the documents to the Coalition.
- **Jules strongly emphasized the need for direct pressure on all office holders (including Jeff Sessions) regarding immigration policy reform from local representatives to national figures to try to develop a reasonable, fair, equitable and non-costly immigration policy. She especially put this in the context of the IMMEDIATE need to support DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and to protest the rescinding of TPS (Temporary Protected Status) for individuals from Honduras, Haiti and El Salvador and other countries which would entail deporting hundreds of thousands of individuals back to dangerous and unsafe living conditions at a minimum. DACA and TPS affect well over 1 million individuals.**
- We have two wonderful immigration assets: Jules ([valencia.gc@gmail.com](mailto:valencia.gc@gmail.com)) and the ESPERANZA CENTER, 430 S. BROADWAY, Baltimore, MD 21231, 410-547-5490 They are available to answer all questions and make recommendations.
- We asked Jules to send facts about immigrants and what parishioners can do to help to Terri for the email tree and to the parish office for the website and Facebook. Especially since there is a training session this Saturday at Loyola for helping teach English as a second language. No other language is needed. **It is up to us to help disseminate it to others especially fellow parishioners.** We also asked her for information on where we can have the biggest impact, which legislators are on the fence.
- We asked Louise to write something for the Social Action corner.

**BRIDGE Maryland** – Father Ray will meet with BRIDGE co-chair, Rev. Bryan Murray, with whom he has a strong working relationship. We assume we will continue our membership in BRIDGE. We have included \$500 in the budget for membership. Maureen and Dennis will be liaisons to BRIDGE. Now awaiting further updates from Maureen.

**San Juan de Limay** – We are recommending that our donation be designated for one of the five projects mentioned by Maureen to address the ecological crisis. The sale of Nicaraguan crafts was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**South Africa Scholarship Fund** – We will continue our donation of \$1,500 per year and Peggy is waiting until February and will forward the request to Lauren.

**20/20 Roundtable/Initiative** – Peggy went to a City Council budget meeting to hear a discussion of funding mechanisms for this initiative, but it didn't happen.

#### **The Green Team**

- The next meeting is soon but the actual date has not been finalized.
- The parish did not get the \$75,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for remedial treatment of water runoff and other improvements for the park. Ray Heil is going to apply for a larger grant from Blue Water.

**Pax Christi** - Chuck provided the following:

- **On December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, an Advent Prayer Service was held at Mission Helpers in Towson. The guest speaker was Tiffany Nelms, Executive Director of Asylee Women Enterprises. Peggy provided the music and there were 15 attendees.
- **On November 14**, most of us participated in the Bishops' peace dinner here and found the table discussions helpful. We had 10 bishops and a Cardinal attend with about 100 participants. We gave feedback on the speakers.
- **Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017** – Senate Bill 200 and House Bill 669; the committee was asked to contact their senator and representative in support of these bills. These bills have not progressed out of committee and we will continue to monitor any actions.
- **On November 18**, we had a poorly attended Day of Reflection here with a fabulous speaker. Judy Coode spoke on non-violence and the international gathering she attended. The three of us on the committee who attended were so sorry others missed it.
- **On March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Judy Coode of Pax Christi International and Chuck are presenting a workshop at the Social Ministry Convocation. Jules is also presenting at the convocation.

#### **SAC notes and other items:**

**Jonestown Planning Council (JPC)** – The next JPC meeting is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup>. Minutes will be distributed when available. Father Ray reported that he had an excellent meeting with members of the SE Police District regarding park issues and also that city officials are interested in addressing the issue of public toilets by studying San Francisco's program.

**Sts. James and John School** – Peggy took the 164 gifts (mittens, scarves and gloves) from the mitten tree to the school.

**Rally for Paid Sick Leave** – Rally to override Governor's veto. Kathy Younkin and Peggy attended.

**Fight for \$15 Minimum Wage** – Rally for minimum wage of \$15 per hour for all workers. Mary, Peggy and Sue Woodman attended and met with numerous legislators to discuss the issue.

**Charles Borromeo Parish** – donated a huge amount of men's and women's underwear that was distributed at Friday's Breaking Bread with the Hungry and at the monthly men's clothing giveaway day. A big **"Thank you"** to Father Ray and his former parish.

**Women's March** - About 30 parishioners attended the rally and march on Saturday.

**Shoeboxes for Seafarers** – more than 75 shoeboxes containing toiletries and other incidentals for sailors were collected and distributed by Mary Catherine. Many donations came from St. V parishioners.

**Warriors of Healing** – a program sponsored by St. Ignatius at which the movie "I am not Your Negro" was shown and discussed. Mary Catherine and Louise attended.

**Plastic Ocean** – this film is being shown at Memorial Episcopal Church, 1407 Bolton Ave. at 5:00 pm on Sat. January 27<sup>th</sup>. It shows the tremendous harm that plastic substances of all types cause to fish and other sea life.

**Bishop Madden's Prayer Walk** – These prayer walks are usually held once a month and attract approximately 100 – 125 participants. St. V's is always represented with the number of participants varying by date and location. So far, the



following 11 have participated: Mary, Louise, Peggy, Patrick, Dennis, Jack, Joe and Peggy Cronyn, Rita and Denny McMullin and Marie Rippey. (See Reflections under new business.)

**Ecumenical Prayer Service for Peace in the Middle East** – These prayer services are held the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month throughout the year if there is a sponsoring church. A sponsoring church is responsible for the content of the prayer service and light refreshments. Recently, finding sponsoring churches has been difficult and attendance has been small. By contrast, the one held at St. V's attracted substantial participation. (See Reflections under new business.)

**Social Justice Corner** – Please send suggestions for social justice activities that might interest parishioners to Mary. **There is a very immediate need to highlight immigration issues with DACA and TPS nearing critical status.**

**Mental Health Revolving Door** – State legislator, Robin Lewis, is working on a bill (The Assisted Outpatient Treatment Services) that will require the State to pay for additional psychiatric outpatient treatment services. Dennis will investigate this further.

**Gay Conversion Therapy** – This is a treatment whereby minors who exhibit homosexual tendencies are coerced by psychologists or other health care professionals to resist homosexuality. The committee has been asked by WISE (Women Indivisible Strong and Effective) to join their coalition to support the banning of this therapy. WISE is working with the Human Rights Campaign, Free State Justice and other local organizations to propose a law banning the practice in the 2018 legislative session. So far, no law has been proposed. Our committee clearly supports banning such practices, however, it is not clear whether we need to join WISE to follow developments especially if there would be a request to provide funding support for their work. Jack will track this issue.

## **NW BUSINESS**

**Co-sponsor Film Series with St. Ignatius** – Father Ray received a call from Father Casciotti asking if St. V would be willing to co-sponsor a film series about Christian Arabs and Muslims with St. Ignatius. Preliminary thoughts include a Sunday afternoon showing, in either the spring or fall, having a prayer component and refreshments. The committee wholeheartedly agreed. Father Ray will respond to Father Casciotti. Courtney Peterson is the St. Ignatius contact person.

**Personal Reflections** – Father Ray asked that parishioners who participate in Bishop Madden's Prayer Walk, the Ecumenical Prayer Service for Peace in the Middle East, rallies or other similar types of events, write a personal reflection of how that event affected them. Reflections that are chosen would be placed in the bulletin, or the weekly newsletter or on the parish's Facebook page. Such reflections might lead other parishioners to participate and at least provide another glimpse of parish life.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Schmidt