

St. Vincent de Paul Parish Council

February 11, 2020

Minutes

1) Attendance

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

2) Pastor's Report

- a) The annual appeal for ministry is coming up soon. Fr. Ray attended a 2-hour presentation at the Catholic Center. This presentation made it clear that November's Grand Jury report has had an impact on giving. The Archbishop said to be angry with him and angry at the church but don't take your anger out on the people whom the appeal money goes to help. Colleen and Fr. Ray want to try and address some of these issues and will sit down to talk and strategize about how to prepare the community for this year's appeal.
- b) Lent is coming soon. At the beginning and throughout, Fr. Ray wants to focus on the idea of reform. We have been committed to this idea as a parish community, but lent really provides us with an opportunity to reflect on how reform is something that applies to each one of us. The lived reality of reform within oneself gives us a greater perspective on reform within the church.

3) Pastoral Associate's Report

- a) Colleen received an email from the Jesuit Volunteer Corp. A new JV has accepted the position at St. V's for next year. His name is Nathan and his year starts in the middle of August.
- b) In February the parish sent its annual gift to the South Africa Higher Education Fund. This year we sent \$23,000 to this program.
- c) There are termites in the stage in the undercroft. The parish has a termite bond, a kind of insurance, to help cover the cost. The property will be treated and we will have to tear out a big section of the stage. The termite guy will come look at the rectory as well. So far he has looked at the outside and inside of the church.
- d) There are several other maintenance issues that the parish will have to address: the hot water heater in rectory is not working, there are some plumbing issues, and the lights on the stage in the undercroft need a new circuit.

4) Committee Reports

a) Education & Enrichment Committee

- i) *The Subcommittee on Racial Justice is doing a great job coming up with speakers and events that will take us now through May. The conversation with Ralph Moore went really well. The parlor was filled to capacity. Barbara, Liz, Jack, and Rita are doing this work.*

b) Facilities Committee

- i) *The inspection report program is still a work in progress. The committee is still determining how to divide the inspections. There will be X inspections every month, every 3 months, 6 months, annually, etc. The committee tried this once before and it didn't work (lack of follow-through on part of some members), so this time they are trying to get it right.*
- ii) *There are several issues that the committee is currently addressing:*
 - (1) *Termites in the stage.*
 - (2) *The fire extinguishers are out of date—need a company to come in to bring them up to date.*
 - (3) *Emergency exit lights – can't find batteries on some of them.*
- iii) *The committee has discussed having a budget of its own for smaller items that need immediate action.*
- iv) *Additionally, the ceiling in the sacristy needs to be addressed. It's not lead or asbestos. Will be up to Parish Council to decide when the parish can spend that money to fix it.*

c) Finance Committee

- i) *The committee spent a good amount of time talking about the offertory and attendance report. Average attendance is dropping more than we have seen in the last year or two. In the second quarter it was down 10%. Additionally, in the second quarter per person giving was down 8%. This is the first time the committee has seen this.*
- ii) *At the next meeting the committee will discuss what information to communicate and how to communicate this information so that the parish can be aware of these trends.*
- iii) *For the first half of the fiscal year the parish is ahead by about \$6000.*
- iv) *Financially the parish is in relatively good shape.*
- v) *Questions:*
 - (1) *Regarding the funds we have been giving to Sts. James and John School, will those funds roll into the parish income or will they go some place else?*
 - (a) *We will have to make decisions about what to do with the money that comes back to the parish from the annual appeal—normally this money is given to the school.*
 - (b) *We will have to make a budgeting decision about what to do with money that previously went to Sts. James and John School.*

d) *Liturgy Committee*

- i) *Mary Rose is working on a manual. It will be sent to the committee. The committee will discuss pros and cons and how to make it better.*
- ii) *The committee has the results from last year's Holy Week survey.*
- iii) *The committee decided to move back upstairs for Holy Thursday liturgy.*
- iv) *Reflection for Liturgical Ministers – sent out email inviting different ministries of St. V's. Email to AI "yes" or "no." Fees covered by parish.*

e) *Social Action Committee*

- i) *Tons of things in minutes.*
- ii) *Saturday, February 15 from 12-3p the United Workers Affair for Zero Waste will be at the UMD school of Social Work*
- iii) *Sometimes when we do moves we don't have pieces that will fit in the space. This was the case a month ago. I told the client that as soon as we got a futon, I would try and get it to her. Then one morning last week, I (Peggy M.) walked out my door and there was a futon.*
- iv) *We are collecting donations for Deacon Ed's 85th birthday. So far we have collected over \$2000. We will possibly replace tables in undercroft with the money we collect.*

f) *ALIVE*

- i) *Elizabeth Abrams joined group. (Yay!) Nice to have younger people.*

g) *Ad Hoc Committee on Church Reform*

- i) *Everything is in minutes.*

5) Old Business

a) Discussion of Town Meeting

- i) *Ad Hoc Committee on the Park will have the majority of the discussion.*
- ii) *Did anyone hear anything during the town hall meeting that stuck out/surprised you/you want to make sure Fr. Ray and Colleen take back to the smaller group?*
 - (1) *Community member talking about including the Jonestown community in decisions regarding park.*
 - (2) *The idea to light the Homeless Jesus statue in evening when park is closed.*
 - (a) *Already done.*
- iii) *The committee met yesterday for at least 2 hours to begin the process of figuring out what we need to do to get the park ready to open. A good portion of the conversation was spent discussing who will care for, who will close and who will open the park. We have a number of proposals out there at this point in terms of looking for staff/volunteers. This includes the possibility of Helping Up Mission taking on the park as opportunity for those in its program. We are moving ahead as fast as we can. We will be getting the park physically ready and putting the structures in place for the park to function as best as it can when we open. The committee tried to identify a list of things that would have*

to happen in order to open the gates. There is no projected timeframe yet. Spring is the goal.

b) Discussion of Constitution

- i) Regarding parish council representatives, Amber has been trying to determine what the role of a parish council rep. is and whether there is some way to reframe the role of the elected parish council reps to have clearer guidelines for what people are doing in this role. The other masses are smaller and only one rep. If they don't attend the meeting, they are not represented. What are we potentially losing by not having people here from those constituencies?
 - (1) Find a way to make it more amenable to 7:15p & 11:45a parishioners.
 - (2) Different model for these masses?
 - (a) Potential Idea: Not having elected representatives for these masses. See who is willing to come for the current month, so that there is always a representative.
 - (3) Ask at 7:15p & 11:45a masses what model they would like for parish council representation.
- ii) Idea for Parish Council Meetings: Every six months have a meeting/discussion that is scripture focused and share what it is that we see in our lives that we want to see reflected in the parish; use these meetings to create goals/assignments for things to happen in the parish.