

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes- July 13, 2021

**In attendance via Zoom:** Amber Hendricks, Craig Horton, Joan Fulton, Ray Heil, Peggy Shouse, Colleen McCahill, Geri Sicola, Jim Casey, Mark Palmer, Denny & Rita McMullin, Pat Ball, Ned Banks, Lindsay Dierkes

Amber opened the meeting with prayer and the reading of the parish mission statement and the purpose statement.

### Committee and Other Updates

**Pastor:** Fr. Ray Chase was not feeling well and had to leave.

**Pastoral Associate:** Colleen reported that a new grounds superintendent was nearly hired, but the candidate unfortunately accepted another job offer. So, the process of filling this position begins again. The hiring of a new music director is also in the early stages; a job description has been written. The staff has been opening the park during the day for the past two weeks. Two structural engineers have assessed the cracked beam in the attic; both reporting that it does not pose an immediate danger. Repair of the beam will likely occur in the fall. The air-conditioning is functioning, but in need of repair. Hopefully the AC will remain functional until the arrival of a new coil.

**Education & Enrichment:** No representative was present, and this committee has not met since the last parish council meeting.

**Facilities:** Denny McMullin contacted a contractor, Isaiah Mullins, and gave him Colleen's contact information in order to address the soft spots where the flooring has worn thin. This contact was made approximately 10 days ago, but no one has heard back. Denny will try again if no response is received in the next few weeks.

**Social Action:** Ray Heil reported that the moving assistance and men's clothing distribution ministries have resumed. TRE is picking up furniture and helping with move-ins twice per week.

Ray also noted that he expects to discuss the distribution of the SS. James and John School endowment at future council meetings. He would have brought more information to this meeting,

but the contact person at the Catholic Community Fund was on vacation. The Community Fund currently administers the endowment and, following the closing of the school, will be responsible for giving the money (which exceeds \$6 million) to whichever schools the SS. James and John students attend next. Colleen noted that monitoring this disbursement is not necessarily a task for our parish, but Ray would advocate for some kind of report, in order to know that the intent of the original agreement with the Community Fund is being honored.

**Liturgy:** No report. This committee has not met since the last parish council meeting.

**Church Reform:** Jim Casey reported that the Archdiocese is planning a meeting of the Council of Lay People, at which our parish letter will be presented.

**Finance:** See discussion and approval of budget for FY2022 below. Note that the budget pertains to the year that began 7/1/21.

### **New Business**

**Discussion of the budget:** As a group, we reviewed the spreadsheet, while Mark Palmer pointed out areas that differed from past years or were likely to cause confusion.

**Regarding revenues:** Mark shared that the budget assumes that the offertory returns to the levels of FY2020. The offertory was lower in FY2021. He also noted that the FY2021 donations included a large bequest, which is why the donations revenue exceeded \$500,000 in that year. Geri Sicola asked when we will discuss the sustainability of one parishioner's large annual donations.

**Regarding expenditures:** Mark noted the breakdown of facilities, maintenance, and ground projects, especially the large projects planned for this year, such as the installation of new lighting and new live-streaming equipment. Many of these projects will be partially funded by restricted gifts made in past years. For simplicity's sake, those restricted gifts are not shown as revenue in this year's budget (they were revenue, but not revenue in *this* year). The annual donation to SS. James and John School remains in the budget, even though the school is closed. This donation has been a combination of the rebate from the Archbishop's annual appeal and matching funds from the parish. One suggestion from the finance committee was to reduce the amount of the donation, given that the benefactor of that donation is yet to be determined and the budget shows a deficit.

Geri Sicola asked from where the funds to cover the deficit will come. Mark answered by first reminding us that the deficit appears to be large than it actually is, due to the restricted gifts that offset the costs of several projects. The budget shows a deficit of \$87,169. Once the gifts are accounted for, that deficit is closer to \$25,000. Secondly, surpluses from past years were given to the interparish loan fund, and we can draw on that fund now.

**Charitable donations:** Money donated with the intent of charity (e.g. poor box, emergency services) is accounted for independently. The charitable donations budget had a deficit last year, but that deficit was covered by surplus from previous years.

**Further budget discussion:** Ray Heil expressed concern that if the donation to SS. James and John is removed or reduced from the budget, that money might be spent on something that is not approved by the parish council. Geri Sicola questioned the retention of the SS. James and John donation in the budget if the money might not actually be spent in FY 2022.

Amber and Ned Banks suggested that our prolonged discussion of the matter, suggests the value of hiring a consultant to work with council on discerning our mission and listening to parishioners in that process of discernment. Jim Casey and Colleen, while not being opposed the hiring of such a consultant, suggested that the matter remain independent of present budget discussion.

Colleen suggested that the \$80,000 donation to SS. James and John be reduced to \$55,000. By making this change, the budget will show a deficit that is roughly equal to the restricted gifts from past years, thus balancing the budget overall.

With Colleen's revision, the budget was unanimously approved by council.

**Hiring of a consultant to work with council on mission discernment:** Amber asked if anyone was opposed to continuing to investigate the hiring of a consultant. No one was opposed. Colleen shared that Fr. Ray expressed to her that this process would require more discussion.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.