

Parish Council Meeting Minutes 8/10/2021

In attendance via Zoom: Fr. Ray Chase, Amber Hendricks, Geri Sicola, Joan Fulton, Lindsay Dierkes, Graham Yearley, Peggy Shouse, Peggy Meyer, Mark Palmer, Gerry Fialkowski, Denny McMullin, Rita McMullin

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

Committee and Other Updates

Pastor: The archdiocese approved the installation of the railings which will be needed for the lighting project, although the project will not begin until the weather cools. The new Jesuit volunteer, Aubrey, will start on Monday. The new superintendent, Tony, starts next Tuesday. In accordance with city policy, we will return to wearing masks at in-person liturgies. The archbishop has asked that parishes review their pre-marriage program. Fr. Ray has materials with which he is comfortable working, but he would like input, either written or conversations with engaged couples, from married couples on the best and the most challenging parts of marriage. Gerry Fialkowski wondered if this issue falls under the purview of the education committee

Pastoral Associate: Colleen is on vacation.

Education & Enrichment: No representative was present, and this committee has not met in the past month.

Facilities: Denny McMullin reported that neither he nor Colleen have heard back from Isaac Mullins about his availability to repair the soft spots in the church floor. We would like Mr. Mullins to do the work because he did well repairing the sacristy floor. However, if he cannot find time in the near future, Denny and Charlie will look into other contractors. Peggy Meyer reported an issue with the deadbolt on the door to the men's ministry area in the undercroft; this issue will be on the to-do list for Tony when he begins the superintendent job.

Social Action: Peggy Meyer announced the rally on Wednesday, 8/11 at 10:00 a.m. at city hall regarding evictions. "We have a dream" will meet next Wednesday, 8/18. Peggy and Maureen Daly will be attending a luncheon as guests of BRIDGE, to acknowledge receipt of funding from the campaign for human development.

Liturgy: Gerry Fialkowski noted that the kick-off for the second half of the year of the Eucharist will be on 9/19. There will be a meeting Wednesday 8/11 inviting parishioners to share what the Eucharist means to them.

Church Reform: Jim Casey represented this committee, but they have not met in the last month.

Finance: Mark Palmer reported no news.

New Business

Discussion of hiring a consultant

- Amber filled in the group on conversations she, Geri Sicola, and Fr. Ray have had regarding the desired outcomes of hiring a consultant. The hope is that a consultant will facilitate outreach of the council to the parish, produce a document clarifying our identity and purpose as a parish, and inform future changes to our self-governance. It may be best to narrow our focus to consultants who can facilitate the process of outreach, rather than training the council to facilitate, because then council members can participate as members of the parish. Ultimately, in clarifying our identity and purpose, this process might help us to find “Who is out there looking for us?”
- Fr. Ray wondered if there were budgetary constraints. Mark Palmer noted the money in the budget identified as “strategic reserve” which might be put towards hiring a consultant.
- Fr. Ray added that he believes that the next step might be to prioritize among the desired outcomes.
- Amber noted that in order to move forward, formation of a committee or a sub-committee will be necessary. There seemed to be hesitancy on the part of the group to commit to the work.
- Lindsay Dierkes asked if we have an idea of the time frame for this project, because we are in the midst of hiring a music director, and she, as well as others who might work on the hiring of a consultant are committed to that.
- Amber does not expect this process to be completed before 2022, but, given that the process is likely to change as we refine our thoughts, getting underway soon would be helpful.
- Peggy Meyer noted that this process may meet with pushback, due to unresolved outcomes of the strategic plan created several years ago.
- In response to Peggy’s comment, Amber noted that regular self-reflection is probably healthy for a parish and that the emphasis on looking inward might differentiate this process from the strategic plan. Fr. Ray noted that failure to implement past suggestions might help us to narrow our focus to what we can achieve as a smaller parish. Mark Palmer noted how much the world has changed in the last 2 years, which in his mind justifies some reflection.
- Rita McMullin added that she has seen many new faces at mass recently.
- Looking forward, Amber will email a list of possible consultants to Lindsay, Graham, and Geri Sicola, so that they can begin background research.

Open call for broader parish involvement in the year of the Eucharist

- Fr. Ray commented that we have discussed many wonderful aspects of the Eucharist but we have spent little or no time on what is difficult about the Eucharist.
- Amber added how the absence of Eucharist during the pandemic has caused her and likely others to have a new relationship with the sacrament.
- Mark commented that Eucharist and reconciliation go together in his mind.

- Jim expects the synodal process to address what it means to be a Eucharistic people, but does not know exactly how that will happen.
- Graham recalls a teaching mass from many years ago, in which many of the parts of the liturgy of the Eucharist were explicitly explained.
- Peggy Meyer thought of Ed Stoops and the reflections he writes about Friday night dinners, noting that, to her, Ed exemplifies what it means to see others with the eyes of Christ.
- Denny shared how the facilities house the body of Christ in the people of our parish as well as the Eucharist in the tabernacle.
- Geri Sicola noted that many people contribute to social justice without considering themselves Eucharistic. If we consider ourselves a Eucharistic people, how does that inform our work?
- Peggy Shouse suggested a call for responses, perhaps through the bulletin, asking parishioners “How are we Eucharist to others?”
- Jim added that we rarely discuss the parish’s role in weddings and funerals, but those liturgies are a big part of how we are Eucharist to others.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

St. Vincent's Green Team Meeting
ZOOM Meeting
July 14, 2021

Attendees: Mary Catherine Bunting, Bethany Gregg, Brigid Casson, Rita McMullin, Jill Huppert, Kathy Younkin

OLD BUSINESS

Green Team eNews.

Past Schedule:

June 13 Rita --The general dangers of plastic

June 20 Chandra -- The chemistry of plastic and how it is detrimental to the environment and humans.

June 27 Peggy -- A list of daily practices to limit the use of single-use plastic

July 4 —break—

July 11 Brigid -- NPR interview with Judith Enck of Beyond Plastic

Schedule going forward: we will finish July with topics on plastic.

July 18 Brigid -- Motivational quote.

July 25 Bethany will present on the impact of plastic legislation.

August – Take a break and resume Enews in September.

New subject for September: Jill Huppert suggested tying our September eNews topics to the 2021 Season of Creation. Include reference to the Laudato Si encyclical. Jill suggested looking for resources online.

September 5 - Mary Catherine

September 12 - Jill

September 19

September 26

October 3

Reminder: The eNews content should be sent to Kathy by Thursday; Kathy will forward to Colleen and to the team members by Thursday night.

St V's Water Retention System.

Last month we learned that the 3 walkways over the tanks in the water retention system are sinking. St V's has attempted to contact the firms/ engineers involved but have not received a response. We suggested that St V seek out Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake for their help. Should we involve the Baltimore City Inspector? Brigid will make a timeline of the timeline of the retention system project up to present.

NEW BUSINESS

National Aquarium. It appears that they are starting up their neighborhood events in the Jonestown community. Kathy will contact their Conservation Community Coordinator, Amber Doherty, to see if they have a schedule of events, and also if she would like to meet with us in September about their activities going forward.

Good News. Brigid.

It was advertised that Barbie dolls will now be made from recycled plastic.

NPR reported that during the drought Nevada passed a law against watering certain grass. “Specifically, Assembly Bill 356 will prohibit Colorado River water distributed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority from being used to irrigate “nonfunctional turf” starting Jan. 1, 2027. The water authority has said that this will include the grass between roads and sidewalks, in medians and traffic circles and decorative grass outside businesses, housing developments and similar areas. Single-family homes, golf courses and parks are excluded from the ban.”

Solar Panels.

Jill reported that Interfaith Power & Light is starting a program to promote the newest version of solar panels in parishes. We need to learn a little more about this. Several years ago Peggy Meyer led an effort to sign up parishioners to tap into Community Solar for their home electricity. About 40 households signed up.

Meeting In-Person

We discussed whether it’s time for us to get back together. There are pros and cons to both meeting in person, and in meeting via ZOOM. We decided to alternate meeting types. In September we’ll meet in St V’s Classroom off the parking lot, and the following meeting will be held via ZOOM.

Next Green Team Meeting -- TBD. Next meeting will be held in September. Kathy will send an email to the committee with suggested dates.

Green Team Goals:

Goal I (Participation in Legislative Sessions to protect the environment)

Goal II (Provide an annual opportunity for parishioners to participate in a direct environmental action.)

Goal III: Educate the parish on threats to our environment and what they can do to help.

Goal IV: Participate in Interfaith Power & Light’s “Climate in the Pulpit”

Goal V: Promote and participate in other faith-based organizations’ environmental activities.

Further updates from liturgy committee

Received via email from Audrey Rogers, August 9, 2021

The Liturgy Committee has not met since the last report; our next meeting is September 18. However, our two current working groups on the Year of the Eucharist have met multiple times.

1. The Summer Group on *Eucharist as the Sacrament* has produced a Zoom presentation on John's gospel, reflections at Mass for the three Sundays in which Chapter 6 of John's gospel is read, and will conduct a community discussion on Wednesday, 8/11.
2. Likewise, the Fall Group on *Eucharist as the Community* has produced a theme statement, an adapted Call to Worship, and community-based petitions to be sent to planners. The planned opening liturgy has been moved to September 19, rather than St. Vincent Feast Day as planned due to a scheduling conflict, but the closing liturgy remains on the Day of the Dead.
3. Reminders for liturgy planning and lector rituals are being prepared as many formerly participating in these ministries are returning.
4. Music ministries are administratively under this committee, but we defer to staff to update Council on developments.

Social Action Committee Minutes for July 20, 2021

A video meeting using Zoom began at 10:00 AM. Attending: Peggy Cronyn, Pat and Chuck Frascati, Peggy Meyer, Jack Schmidt, and Kathy Younkin. Peggy M. facilitated and opened with a prayer.

Next meeting: September 14, 10:00 AM on Zoom.

- Peggy M. mentioned that if we become aware of any young parishioners who work but who might be interested in attending our meetings, we could consider meeting in the evening.
- She also asked if the committee would like to start meeting in person or continue using Zoom. The committee decided to keep meeting via Zoom for now.

St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day:

- Peggy M. told us that we will not do the liturgy for the feast day mass this year. The date on which that liturgy would be scheduled is Joe Organ's last day of service and we will celebrate his retirement and his many years of service. We might consider doing a liturgy at another time that would emphasize our service ministries and maybe consider a service ministry fair in the undercroft.
- Both Peggy's mentioned that the leaflets for TRE and the Social Action Committee are out of date and need to be updated as does the committee's page on the church's website.

Breaking Bread with the Hungry:

- Jack said that the picnics in the park which began on July 2 are going well. The picnics include hotdogs, hamburgers or chicken cooked on a grill along with side dishes. Our guests seem to enjoy eating in the park and the number of guests has been increasing little by little from 50 to 60. The plan is to continue the picnics throughout the summer and then to move to the undercroft after the fall. The move to the undercroft may be impacted by the fact that many of our guests have not yet been vaccinated.
- Peggy M. noted that Ellen Draper's brother-in-law passed away last week and that is why she was not present at last Friday's picnic and will not be at this Friday's meal. Last Friday, Peggy M. and Jody met Ellen earlier in the day to get the supplies she was bringing.
- Peggy M. is going to send out a new schedule for the volunteers to let them know about helping at the picnics.

City Springs: Peggy C. mentioned that Joe (who was now picking up furniture) was busy working with City Springs and others involving fingerprinting and background checks for St. Vincent's volunteers. He was hopeful of finding shortcuts to get the tutors approved. Joe is waiting for principal Dr. Rhonda Richetta to give him a date when the tutors can meet with her and the other teachers.

Monday Food Program: Peggy M. said that Hurlle Waldman distributed the food bags since Nathan was away for a couple of days. She also mentioned that the donors for Breaking Bread with the Hungry also provide meals for the homeless that do not need to be cooked or refrigerated.

Green Team:

- Kathy said that the team met last Wednesday (July 14) but will not meet in August. Therefore, the next meeting will be in September. Future plans call for meeting in person every other month and on Zoom in the intervening months.
- Kathy said that they will continue to supply the Green Team's input to the weekly enewsletter.
- Kathy also said that the team now has 2 new members: Pam Sanders and Jill Huppert. • Jill suggested that the team emphasize in September the theme of care for our creation and tie it into Laudato Si.
- Kathy mentioned that Brigid Casson told her that the water filtration system in the church parking lot was sinking. At this point, the next steps are still being evaluated.
- Kathy stated that she has not followed up yet on the magnets that will contain information about St. Vincent's masses and other programs.

Men's Program: Jack said that the program continues to supply clothing on the second and fourth Tuesdays in the month to 10 to 15 men. The program supplies new jeans, tee shirts, underwear, and socks as well as sport/dress shirts. A friend of a parishioner donated approximately 90 shirts. Marcia has been very busy buying clothing for the program.

Peace and Justice:

- Chuck reported that Mary Bradford is leaving Beyond the Boundaries (BtB). He said that members of BtB were going to discuss her absence at a meeting scheduled for later today. He asked if the committee could recommend anybody for the part-time managing director position.
- Peggy M. said that Giuliana Valencia-Banks has been doing an excellent job keeping the Peace and Justice Committee up to date on all immigration issues and that Maureen works closely with BridgeMD and was photographed working with BridgeMD protesting an issue in Washington.

Ss. James and John School:

- Peggy M. stated that she was trying to get the painting of the dark-skinned Holy Family that was donated to the school by Mary Catherine Bunting. However, the painting had already been given to Mother Mary Lange School.
- Afterward, two parishioners bought a new painting for our parish. Its future location is still being discussed.

The Resource Exchange (TRE):

- Peggy C. noted that we are in the unusual position of having too much furniture and Joe and his crew are picking up more today in Harford County, Park Heights and Pikesville. She said that TRE is renting another unit (#1163) for \$220 per month. It will be an “overflow” unit meaning that the other 3 current units will continue to be the source of furniture for moves and the new unit will be used for excess furniture.
- Peggy C. also said that TRE had not been receiving the names of many referrals lately. The case managers at Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) think that the list is so long that they do not want to burden HCH’s finances except for small items. Peggy C. continues to work with HCH to change that impression and expand the list of referrals. She is hopeful that the next expected email will contain referrals for August.
- One referral (Teresa) has been scheduled 3 separate times, but the building management will not allow the move because there is only one working elevator.
- Both Peggy’s discussed the issue of declining to pick up furniture that is not useable for moves and that should be taken to the landfill. The problems are that the landfills will not allow access to box trucks, so Joe needs to use a pickup truck; plus, Joe has only limited access to available help. Helping Up Mission can provide workers but only on a Saturday.
- Peggy C. raised the issue of a lack of volunteers on move days especially the lack of male handymen. While the women workers are very capable, she hopes TRE can interest other men to participate in the moves. Some of the move teams go out with only 2 workers and more would be better. Recruiting is a one-on-one type of contacting others so we should be on the lookout for volunteers.
- In addition to the work of the east-side and northern crew, Peggy C. thanked the west-side crew (Bob Ball, Bob Betta and Tom Zerhusen) for their hard work.
- Peggy C. reminded everyone about the party for Nathan on July 29. She is almost finished with the photo collage and noted that it is too late for additional pictures.

Peggy’s and Skipp’s “We Have a Dream” Initiative: Peggy and Skipp took a break from the monthly meetings in July with the next meeting scheduled for August 18. They are meeting tonight to discuss upcoming meetings and Skipp has a book for Peggy about white privilege.

Immigration: Jack mentioned that a federal judge in Texas on July 13 ordered the U.S. government to close the DACA program to new applicants saying the Obama administration did not have the legal authority to grant deportation relief and work permits to undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children. President Biden vowed that the Department of Justice would appeal the ruling.

SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice): Much of the recent SURJ activity has been on a national level.

Miscellaneous:

- Peggy M. asked anyone who had artifacts that portrayed ethnicities other than white to donate them to the church to provide a diverse perspective to the church surroundings.
- Peggy C. mentioned that Diaedra's estate had donated several African American artifacts to TRE that could be used by the church.
- Pat said that Bob Ball and Bob Betta picked up dozens of boxes of books from Diaedra's estate and brought them to St. Vincent's library. Thanks to Bob and Bob!
- Kathy and Pat mentioned that Al Reichelt donated an electric wheelchair and an electric bed to the church from his father-in-law for use by anyone who needs them.
- Peggy M. said that we have given out walkers to guests at Breaking Bread with the Hungry.

We closed the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Schmidt