

Parish Council Meeting Minutes- March 8, 2022

In attendance via Zoom: Geri Sicola, Denny McMullin, Rita McMullin, Graham Yearley, Jim Casey, Joan Fulton, Audrey Rogers, Ray Heil, John Moore, Colleen McCahill, Mark Palmer, Mary Bunting, Jeri DeLambo, Anne Freeburger, Peggy Shouse, Ned Banks, Fr. Ray Chase, Lindsay Dierkes, Al Reichelt

Amber was absent due to illness in her family. Geri Sicola presided and opened the meeting with prayer and the reading of the parish mission statement and the sacred purpose statement.

Committee and Other Updates

Many committees cancelled their monthly meeting in order to give adequate time and attention to the parish synodal process. Geri asked that only highlights or pressing matters be shared.

Education & Enrichment: John Moore gave credit to Liz Hasan for her work in organizing the spring retreat.

Social Action: Ray Heil represented this committee. Their meeting was cancelled, but Peggy Meyer sent a brief email update (appended to these minutes).

Facilities: Denny McMullin noted that the committee met in person for the first time in two years. All fire extinguishers on the parish campus have been updated, and repairs to the cracked beam in the attic were completed in late February. When additions were made to the rectory, the fire alarm system did not extend to the original building. Tony Lassiter, facilities superintendent, presented a possible solution to the lacking fire alarms, although the committee did not yet approve his plan. In the near future, the committee hopes to address the decaying louvres on the bell tower, possibly replacing them with aluminum, and removal of the organ from the balcony.

Liturgy: Al Reichelt wanted to share the theme for Lent, “God is here, and God is about to do something new.” He also encouraged everyone to attend the primer on the gospel of Luke scheduled for tomorrow (3/9/22) evening.

Synod: Audrey directed us to the update that she emailed prior to this evening’s meeting. At this point, Global Learning Partners is awaiting the work of our parish editorial group on the report.

The editorial group is refining the draft this week and will meet on Monday, 3/14/22, to discuss revisions. The report will be distributed to the parish on 3/18/22, with a town hall meeting to follow. The report should be submitted to the archdiocese on 3/25/22.

Geri Sicola asked if parish council has any defined role in this ongoing process. Lindsay noted that she, Amber, and Jim are serving in the editorial group.

Geri also inquired about what the regional synodal process would look like. Colleen reported that she, Fr. Ray, and Jim Casey will be attending a meeting next Tuesday, 3/15/22, with representatives from other parishes in our area (termed “Metro East”) and hopefully some questions will be answered there.

Geri shared that the parish is asking GLP to propose next steps in the process of envisioning our parish’s future and the changes necessary to make that vision a reality. This proposal will be shared at the April council meeting.

Planning for Parish Council Elections

- No progress has been made on writing a job description or forming a nomination committee. With this in mind, Geri asked for opinions on how to proceed with or modify this plan.
- Lindsay and Denny McMullin both agreed that a job description would be helpful, so that nominees have a realistic idea of the commitment. John Moore said to keep it brief.
- Lindsay will write a job description and include a short paragraph or summary which would be suitable to print in the weekly email.
- Jim brought up the previously unresolved issue of council representatives’ constituencies, given that at last year’s election we were only holding one weekend Mass. All agreed that there needs to be at least one representative who regularly attends Saturday evening Mass. Fr. Ray noted that the issue of constituencies may need to be addressed over the coming year in order to make sure that council represents the congregation.
- Geri asked if we hope for a minimum number of nominees so that parishioners have a choice. The consensus was that 8 nominees, for 4 empty seats, would be ideal. But, if we are to influence the number of nominees, then perhaps the nominating committee is necessary. John Moore suggested that “candidate recruitment committee” is perhaps more accurate. He was responding to Jeri DeLambo who shared that her recent experience of a nominating committee in a club to which she belongs. Their nominating committee chose all of the nominees and so members’ choice was curtailed.
- For clarification, at last month’s meeting, Peggy Shouse said she would be willing to stand for reelection, and Amber said that Craig had communicated to same to her. Given Craig’s continued health issues, we should check if he is still able.

Parishioner Feedback after Mass

- Peggy and Lindsay shared that they did not received feedback, aside from general encouragement. However, many agreed that continuing this practice so that parishioners know where to find their council representatives is important.
- Joan Fulton will be available after this upcoming Sunday Mass if any parishioners would like information about this meeting.
- Fr. Ray noted that it might be helpful to publicize the kind of feedback we seek.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Social Action Committee Notes from February 2022

Emailed by Peggy Meyer

We cancelled all of our committee meetings during the Synodal process so I have no committee reports. However, of note since February Council was the great work Bethany and the Green Team did to influence current legislation to impact global warming. Also Jack Schmidt has done excellent work and is currently sending out information asking you to support the legislation that aims at reducing systemic and structural racism. There will be information in the St. V newsletter and announcements at church. Please take the easy actions to make a difference.

The ministries of direct services continued last month, Food Pantry, Men's Clothing, The Resource Exchange, Breaking Bread With the Hungry, City Springs tutoring and Emergency Services.

Synod Team Report to the CCR and Parish Council

March 8, 2022

The St V Synod Team selected four additional persons, representative of community, to join them as the Synod Editorial Group: Lindsay Dierkes, Pat Ball, Mary Hennigan, and Ray Heil. This group has met twice to review all the data collected: 62 pages of survey responses; 82 pages of notes from 20 focus groups and 10 interviews; and as many pages of responses to the 14 biweekly prayer prompts. The group's task to this point has been to validate the themes that GLP has identified.

They also have affirmed the format for presenting the data proposed by the St V Synod Team:

The Call to Gospel-Inspired Inclusiveness

The Call to Servant Leadership

The Call to Authenticity and Humility, and

The Call to Be a Synodal Church.

In preparing the draft report, we expect all that we heard to be subsumed in these four categories. The GLP has pulled direct quotations from the collected data for use in the report; likewise, the Editorial Group is examining the Prayer Prompt submissions.

The St V Synod Team and GLP have re-negotiated the timeline:

- 3/8 The Editorial Group will submit quotations and these and the draft text is due to GLP who will work on the formatting.
- 3/11 GLP will submit the penultimate draft for review to the Editorial Group.
- 3/14 Editorial Meeting to Review and decide on edits, if needed.
- 3/18 Draft report with necessary edits/amendments distributed to parishioners
- 3/20 Town Meeting to receive our community's *sensus fidelium* followed by necessary edits/amendments
- 3/22 GLP produces final report
- 3/25 St V receives final report to submit to Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Respectfully submitted

Audrey