

Parish Council Meeting Minutes *May 10, 2022*

In attendance via Zoom: Graham Yearley, Anne Freeburger, Joan Fulton, Lindsay Dierkes, Amber Hendricks, Ray Heil, Fr. Ray Chase, Mark Palmer, Jim Casey, John Moore, Gerry Fialkowski, Craig Thornton, Peggy Shouse, Geri Sicola, Colleen McCahill

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

Committee and Other Updates

Pastor & Pastoral Associate: Fr. Ray notified the council that letters will be sent shortly to the archdiocese asking for permission to begin the renovations necessary for the lighting project and repairs to the louvres on the bell tower. He expects permission to be granted, and those projects will be underway soon. Fr. Ray also noted that the roof continues to leak despite recent patches. He and the rest of parish staff are in the early stages of investigating roof replacement. Colleen added that there are a few final repairs necessary to complete the work on the beam in the attic. Regarding the search for a new cantor, we have someone who can commit through the summer.

Two guests in the park overdosed, presumably on fentanyl, earlier this week. Fortunately, an ambulance was called quickly, and they received treatment. Another individual who has sought services at the parish for several months was banned from the property this week, due to escalating aggression. All parish staff and those involved in the service ministries have been told that this man is not to be anywhere on the property. If he returns, the police will be called, and he will be presented with a letter informing him of the ban and the parish's intent to pursue a peace order.

Education & Enrichment: John Moore represented the committee and had no news to report aside from the upcoming retreat.

Facilities: No representative was present.

Social Action: Ray Heil represented the committee.

Liturgy: Gerry Fialkowski represented the committee, stepping in for Pat Ball.

Church Reform: Jim Casey represented the committee.

Finance: Mark Palmer represented the committee, he presented the 3rd quarter financial report (see discussion below) and noted that they have begun work on the budget for FY 2023.

Global Learning Partners: Written feedback has been exchanged with Jeannette and Sylvia from GLP. The working group is in the process of scheduling a conversation to review that feedback. We await an invoice from GLP, hopefully it will arrive before the close of FY 2022.

I have a dream anti-racism group: Fr. Ray noted that Peggy Meyer and Skipp Sanders met with Bishop Lewandowski. Bishop Lewandowski would like to attend our parish town hall meeting, and so the meeting was rescheduled from a Sunday after Mass to the evening of Monday, June 27 due to the Bishop's availability. Several people inquired if the meeting would be virtual, in-person, or hybrid, but no one present knew the answer to that question.

New Business

I. Third Quarter Financial Report

- Mark Palmer noted that the parish's overall financial position continues to be strong, with roughly \$750,000 in funds readily accessible. The offertory is below historic levels, but has exceeded this year's budget expectation. The FY will end with the appearance of underspending because of projects (e.g. lighting) that are yet to begin. Money from the archdiocesan appeal has been received and will be donated to Mother Mary Lange and City Springs Schools by the end of June. The total donation was \$38,863 and is labeled "tuition expense" in the report.
- Looking ahead to the budget for FY 2023, several council members inquired about the costs and timeline for roof repair. Fr. Ray answered that, if the roof does in fact need to be replaced, it would more likely happen in FY 2024. Colleen added that a complete replacement would cost a great deal, likely hundreds of thousands of dollars. Funds from the historic trust, grants, drawing down the interparish loan fund, or a capital campaign could all be ways to pay the expense. John Moore and Jim Casey asked about recent repairs to the roof. Colleen answered that the roof was patched and coated about 6 years ago, but even with these repairs, regularly maintenance is required two or more times per year. Two different roofers have suggested that the seams in the roof have started to pull apart and when they observe this, it usually means replacement is necessary.

II. Plans for Parish Council Elections and Orientation of New Council

- When creating the ballots, we neglected the fact that Peggy Shouse and Craig Thornton are standing for re-election, and therefore should have been included. Amber suggested that Peggy and Craig remain on council, in addition to four new members who will be elected, expanding the council to 10 members for the next year.
- Amber noted that under this plan, Peggy and Craig would both be serving out their fourth year, which is a typical length of service.
- Jim Casey and Colleen noted that there is precedent for extending a council member's tenure when special circumstances require it.
- Peggy Shouse shared her feelings that an increase in the size of council is appropriate to the amount of work in the next year.
- Ray Heil asked how and when the council had arrived at its current membership of eight. Amber explained that this number was chosen mid-pandemic because the constitution determines representatives based on Mass attendance. Uncertainty about Mass attendance led council to pick a number of members that was functional for meetings and discussion.
- Consensus was reached around the plan to expand council. Amber will share this plan at the Saturday evening Mass, Geri Sicola will speak at the Sunday morning Mass.
- Discussion turned to the process of orienting new members. New members will be asked to read the parish constitution as usual. New council members will also be given the Scope of Work from GLP, the synodal report, and *Finding Our Why*.
- When new members have been selected, an orientation will be scheduled, prior to the June council meeting. Amber, Geri Sicola, and Lindsay, as officers of the current council, will lead this orientation. Hopefully, all voting members of the council can be present. Topics to be covered include: purpose and activities of the committees, proceedings of a typical council meeting, officer job description, and introduction to major ongoing projects (including facilities and synod/strategic planning).
- The June meeting will proceed as it has in the past, with the new council remaining at the end of the meeting, after old council members and others depart, to vote on new officers.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Liturgy Committee Report to Parish Council – May 2022

The liturgy committee has not met since the last PC meeting. We are scheduled to meet next on May 25th at which time we will evaluate our Holy Week liturgies. We have gotten very positive feedback from parishioners to date, but would welcome additional feedback before our meeting.

As most of you know, Al Reichelt is taking a leave from committee work in order to become fully healthy. As co-chair I have assumed his duties for now, but cannot attend tonight's meeting. Gerry Fialkowski has graciously agreed to represent the liturgy committee at tonight's meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Ball