

## **Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

### **October 8, 2024**

**Attendance:** Lindsay Dierkes, Graham Yearley, Rita McMillan, Kevin O'Reilly, Corinne Agren-Barnes, Jim Casey, Catherine Mundy, Jill Gontrum, Al Reichalt (subbing for Pat Ball), Ray Heil, John Gontrum, Mary Henningan, Leah Mank, Denny McMillan, Kate Volpe, Barbara Bowles

Absent: Colleen McCahill (vacation), Fr. Ray (ill), Mark Palmer, Pat Ball (pilgrimage)

Meeting began with prayer. September minutes were approved.

### **Election**

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Welcome to new members Dan McCarthy, Corinne Agren-Barnes, and Barbara Bowles!

Pastoral Team: Fr. Ray Chase, Colleen McCahill

Corporators: Anne Freeburger, Graham Yearley

Committee Representatives:

Ray Heil–Social Action

Pat Ball–Liturgy

Jim Casey–Church Reform

Rtia McMullin–Education

Denny McMullin–Facilities

Mark Palmer–Finance

Elected Representatives:

Barbara Bowles

Dan McCarthy

Corinne Agren-Barnes

Mary Hennigan

Catherine Mundy

Leah Mank

Kevin O'Reilly

John Gontrum

Lindsay Dierkes

Comments on the election: John G. suggested someone be in touch with the contested candidate and invite them to be an alternate or on our newly formed Task Force. Lindsay noted that online ballots should close early on Sunday evening. It was also mentioned that people should be able to meet the candidates, especially those not from their regular liturgy community.

### **Housekeeping**

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Update contact info of all reps, sign the mandatory forms, and remind about required Virtus training

## **Committee Updates**

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**Finance:** Mark Palmer and other informed parties were not present to discuss the rebate on the annual appeal. John G. suggested it requires additional thought, anyway. Ray H. also suggested we could share info about different options and how the money was used last year; he offered to get this info for the next meeting.

**Green Team:** The Creation Celebration is planned for next Sunday. Ray H. asked all to stay after Mass and to bring their pets for a blessing. Historic and ecological tours will be available after Mass, along with crafts, food, beekeeping presentation, etc. Corinne A-B asked for fliers to share in spades this week. Ray shared that they did reach out to the nearby community and other parishes, too. Jill H. posted a flier at her egg vendor and shared on Facebook. Al R. relayed that our flier had been shared with all parish pastors for them to post and invite. Ray would like this to be an annual event. Rita Mc. asked if they needed further contributions, but the committee said it was set. Corrine offered to inquire about additional face painters from her local school if they could receive volunteer hours.

Dan McCarthy spoke briefly about the upcoming Doors Open event. Colleen Mc. and Dan Mc. will be there to guide, along with Fr. Ray and Jim Casey. Mary H. will provide snacks.

**Interparish Committee:** How will they communicate with the Parish Council? Council members would like a regular report at each parish council if the committee is to meet biweekly. John G. added it will be shared with the church at large. Ray H. said the committee should allow for parishioner feedback as well; Mary agreed but said they aren't organized enough yet to know how to do that.

The steering committee will meet with October 16 facilitator (John Butler) to help get things in order for the opening track as more procedural details need to be constructed. They've met and gotten to know each other a bit; now, they need to address how we need to get to where we want to be. John G. shared that they each paired with an individual, and he had lunch with his pair. Mary H. shared how families with littles will be getting together this month for the regular picnic; other things remain open-ended. Rita Mc. and Colleen had the idea of getting with Roy (St. Leo event coordinator) to organize a purely social dinner for 8 (with four from each parish). Mary H. shared that, to her surprise, many St. Leo members are commuter congregants; she recommended looking at transit locations for the dinners (Rita concurred). John G. shared something Bishop Bruce made note of at their last meeting: St. Leo's in the wealthiest catchment area with the highest percentage of people who call themselves Catholic, but many people go to county churches, while St. Leo's brings people from there. Our different bases provide a unique challenge as we are in two financially diverse districts—how do we blend the rich and the poor?

**Task Force:** This group is currently comprised of Mary Hennigan (as bridge to council), Corinne Agren-Barnes, and Ted Miles. One more council member is needed. Chinasa O. was put forth as a non-council member on this committee.

Jim C. noted that there would be too many delays if the task force needs to check with council for approval before execution of any agenda item. Lindsay D. assured that the SOW clarifies they don't need to seek approval that frequently. The members will get together first to propose how it will work, then present a plan.

Kate V. and Kevin O'R. accepted nominations to be on this Task Force. Lindsay D. will ask Chinasa. By the next parish council meeting, the group is to have organized their thoughts and sketched a budget. They can begin delegation as necessary.

Council then bid goodbye and thank you to outgoing reps Kate V and Jill H. Remaining council members stayed to elect new officials.