



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – April 11, 2022

Elected Members Present: Julie Laurenzi, Christine Forbes, Beth Schick, Michael McGovern, Tom Fobert, Pam Vogt, Peter Adams and Hector Hernandez

Elected Members Absent: Rosa Gonzalez

Ex-officio Members Present: Deacon Carl Locatelli and Fr. Sean Harlow, O.Carm (who arrived late because of Reconciliation Monday)

Ex-officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe.

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: Rick Dzurilla

The meeting began with prayer at 6:46 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of March 14, 2022, were accepted.

Discussion regarding resumption of social activities

Rick and Julie Dzurilla, who coordinate all social activities involving food, were invited to the meeting by the chairperson. There is a desire among the parishioners to come together again as a community. Is it feasible at this time?

- Rick assures that he has enough volunteers.
- There are currently no restrictions on gathering.
- People did not hesitate to come into Deacon John Hall the last weekend in March to participate in the Bake Sale.

A Coffee Social was proposed, and agreed upon, for the weekend of April 30/May 1. It will be announced in the bulletin starting this weekend.

- In the past, wine and cheese was served Saturday evening. It was decided, however, that there would be coffee and baked goods after that Mass, too.
- The question was posed as to whether a social had to be held after *each* Mass as opposed to after just *one* Mass. As long as there are enough volunteers, it was decided that it would be best to continue the tradition of after all the Masses. Three volunteers would be sufficient, a number that Rick said is do-able.
- The Parish Council thought costs for the Coffee Social should be covered by the parish, which Fr. Sean will have to approve.
- Parish Council members should be present to introduce people and initiate conversation.

- Rick offered to do a Coffee Social monthly.
- Coffee Socials should be coordinated with Religious Education.

Discussion then segued to the return of a parish picnic. In the past, picnics have taken place in June and September. Too many families are away in the summer, and it's too hot anyway. A time will have to be decided upon soon, though, so the park can be reserved.

Administration & Stewardship

Nothing to report.

Education and Faith Formation

Nothing to report.

Christian Services

- The bake sale brought in about \$900 for the Prayer Blanket Ministry. Although that was a little lower than previous sales, Rebecca says that amount should adequately cover supplies.
- Another seed of “normalcy”: The knitting group will begin meeting again one Friday evening a month.

Social Activities

Nothing further to report.

Worship and Spiritual Life

- As soon as Christine said there were 11 volunteers for the foot-washing on Holy Thursday, Hector stepped up to become No. 12.
- The Youth-Ministry-hosted Prayer Service for Healing, Hope & Peace was very successful. The group wants to keep the momentum going and proposed doing something similar monthly. Because of the amount of work involved, quarterly was suggested being more feasible.
- The Youth Ministry would like to have some designated space in a classroom, not exclusive space but a place to gather periodically and one that the kids can personalize. The group is considering coming together in between Masses on Sunday, for example, and this could be where they meet for prayer and Scripture sharing. Or if inclement weather forces a Friday Night Live inside, there is the option to use “their space,” where they feel they belong. The actual location will have to be coordinated with Religious Education.
- The Pine Bush Community Band is hoping to perform on a Monday in August. The

Youth Ministry could assist at the concert and perhaps host light refreshments afterward.

Art and Environment

Nothing to report as there is no real committee. People want to help but not officially coordinate. This is important to note as we work toward a Ministry Fair.

Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi

- One of the points made in the Synod Summary was that the Parish Council should promote warmth and welcome. Something as simple as saying hello goes a long way. It was also noted that because we are a family at St. Paul's, perhaps programs that appeal to parents – maybe simultaneously while their children are in their Religious Education classes – could be offered. Although similar suggestions haven't drummed up much interest before, sometimes it takes time for ideas to percolate.
- Discussion ensued about how to best reach people. Fr. Sean handles the Facebook posts. Is this something that could be shared with a young adult? Flocknotes has been effective, but that is dependent on having correct and updated contact information. So how best to get the parish to update? An attempt was made three years ago, asking that the forms be filled out. Only a handful were received. Maybe contact information could be updated through the website as well.
- There is a written record of how to plan and execute a successful Ministry Fair. In the weeks leading up to the event, it was effective to have people speak briefly at Mass about their ministries, what participating has meant to them and the need for volunteers. This could be expanded to include weekly one-sentence reflections to appear in the bulletin about a ministry's personal impact.
 - Along with a table for each ministry and staff at each table, it was suggested by a new Council member that there be a table for the Parish Council that explains what it does. This might help garner more interest when election time rolls around again.
 - It was agreed that the aroma of coffee was helpful in attracting people into Deacon John Hall for the last Ministry Fair after Mass.
 - As it takes about three months to plan, volunteers will be sought at the next Parish Council meeting to serve on a Ministry Fair subcommittee.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Since the return to two Masses on Sunday, attendance is high enough at each Mass to make accommodating all those people at one Mass difficult. However, both Sunday Masses are far from full. Maybe over time the numbers will increase.

The meeting closed at 8:05 p.m. with prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, May 9, 2022, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti