



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – April 9, 2024

Elected Members Present: Gale Britto, Julie Laurenzi, Kate Gallaher-Carson, Beth Schick, Anne Savastano, Joan Miller, Marisa Block and Jim Lancellotti

Elected Members Absent: Hector Hernandez

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow, Deacon Carl Locatelli and Mark Carson

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: Emma Gonzalez Laders

The meeting began with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Presentation by architect Emma Gonzalez Laders

Not too long ago, as I was leaving Sunday Mass, I noticed someone with a disability, who couldn't find an accessible space, attempting to negotiate the front steps and the long distance to the car. I wondered if this was a common problem and if our church could do better to serve the needs of our aging parishioners beyond the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). I mentioned this to Deacon Carl, discussed it with Julie Laurenzi and then looked at our building footprint.

The number of required parking spaces is set by the Town of Crawford Zoning Code based on the building size and use; per my calculations, it comes to 149. The New York State Building Code requires five accessible spaces (one of which needs to accommodate a van) for parking lots with between 101 and 150 spaces.

We currently have six accessible spots and have met that requirement.

The ADA also requires vertical signs when more than four spaces are mandated, which would pose a challenge during snowplowing. Relocating those spaces to the parking spots along the edge of the woods would resolve the plowing concern, but would not satisfy ADA requirements in that accessible parking spots need to be located at the shortest distance to the building entrance.

The reason this has not come up during property maintenance and insurance inspections is likely because it comes low on the list of life and safety or insurance liability concerns. ADA tends to only become an issue if there is a complaint and then could be costly.

As an alternative to providing additional ADA parking spaces, other spaces near the entrance could be marked "RESERVED" and striped, and the congregation be encouraged to voluntarily leave them available for anyone with permanent or temporary mobility issues, similar to stores with spaces marked for pregnant women.

I am happy to answer any other questions you might have.

Discussion ensued. Input will be considered, and the pastor will make the decision.

The Minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2024, were approved and seconded.

Ministry Reports were given:

Administration and Stewardship

- Bill Pearson and Jim Lancellotti examined the gas line that feeds the stoves to ascertain if it could be moved so folks wouldn't have to get on the floor to open the valve. This would be a job for a licensed plumber because after bleeding the line, new piping would have to be installed. However, the pilot lights at the bottom of the stoves will still have to be lit. (The stoves are probably too old to retrofit with an electronic ignition.) A quote from Val Bruni Plumbing will be obtained.
- The repast crew has requested that a wireless speaker be installed in the kitchen so they can listen to the funeral Mass during prep time. Oftentimes the deceased is a parishioner with whom many were close, and they would have attended the Mass had they not been volunteering with this ministry. How this can be accomplished will be looked into.
- The doors are still a concern and will probably need to be replaced.

Education and Faith Formation

- Peg Hoblin, the new director of religious education, is reaching out to parents, catechists and our Youth Ministry for suggestions on how to build community within the Religious Education program. She is would also like to invite guests into the classrooms to explain to the students – before we lose them – why they do what they do for St. Paul's.
- Pat Davies' "Forgiveness" faith sharing group concluded last Saturday and is on hiatus until the fall, when the third of the six books in the series will be studied.

Following Christ began on Sunday.

- The Youth Ministry has planned:
 - April 26, spring basketball
 - May 5, meet the SPYM team after Mass
 - May 10, meet up in Pine Bush
 - June 1, highway cleanup followed by lunch
 - July 4, participation in the Circleville parade

- The Lenten Book Club went very well, but it, too, will be on hiatus until fall. The Men's Faith Sharing Group continues.

Christian Services

- Dolores Townley's funeral Mass and repast were well-attended.
- The Consolation Ministry continues to do outreach to support those who have had a loss. Members also had follow-up bereavement training with Archdiocese, which included a look at what other parishes do. Finally, our Bereavement Group is planning another reunion in June and will determine if there is need for a new Bereavement Group in the fall.

Social Activities

- Tickets go on sale this weekend for the French Toast breakfast on April 28.
- The Parish Picnic will take place on September 15 or the last Sunday of that month. The date will be confirmed.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Nothing to report.

Art and Environment

Enough help was recruited to decorate for Easter.

Chairperson's Report – Gale Britto

The Constitution has been updated with the approved revisions that clarify the ministries.

Other Business

- Joan Miller was intrigued by an article she read about a Denver-based program, called The Rosary Team. Two volunteers commit to visiting the same nursing home weekly to say the rosary with whomever is interested in saying the rosary, offering companionship and spiritual support in the process. Might this resonate with St. Paul's parishioners? Joan has received materials from Denver and will make contact with an assisted living community in which to start the program. Hopefully, this will lead to a few teams visiting several facilities. A blurb will appear in the next bulletin.
- Anne Savastano will be sending out an email to ministry heads to prepare them for the spring ministry fair, which she proposes for the 18th and 19th of May. She has some ideas, such as a children's choir and scavenger hunt, to help garner interest.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

It doesn't appear that Fr. Dennis is planning anything Synod-related at St. Joseph's in Middletown. Discussion then ensued regarding whether there would be any interest in holding the listening sessions as proposed by the Synod at St. Paul's. A small group, including Fr. Sean, will meet to design the sessions.

The meeting closed at 8:00 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti