



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – February 13, 2024

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

Elected Members Absent: Jim Lancellotti

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

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe and Peg Hoblin

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: None

The meeting began with prayer at 7:02 p.m.

Members were not prepared to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2023, which was inadvertently skipped. That has been tabled for the March meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of January 9, 2024, were approved and seconded, with the clarification that Kate Gallaher Carson is corresponding secretary.

Ministry Reports were given:

Administration and Stewardship

The furnace that heats (and air-conditions) the hall is shot and has to be replaced. The estimate is \$33,200, and that doesn't include the required electrical work.

The furnace that heats the church also required some repairs. A motor had to be replaced and an electrician was called in to replace the two related motor starters (\$2,480). We don't have the bill for the motor yet.

We do have some funds to cover these expenses, and a potential generous donor. We might need to consider fundraising or a second collection, but because of the Cardinal's Appeal, Fr. Sean is reluctant to do so. This should go on the agenda again for the next meeting.

Education and Faith Formation

- Pat Davies' faith sharing group has decided to continue for an additional six weeks

using the next book, “Forgiveness.”

- The next segment in the ChristLife series, Following Christ, begins April 7.
- Peg Hoblin will be the new director of religious education. Going forward, Joan Miller, because of her background in education, will be the liaison for our religious education program.

Christian Services

There is nothing new to report – other than the last few times that the Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound went to visit Deacon John at Campbell Hall Rehabilitation Center, he had not been alert.

Art and Environment

Easter is definitely easier; fewer moving parts! The Easter flowers have been ordered and will be delivered the Wednesday before Easter. A rock grotto is being considered, and although heavy, the rocks from the previous two years have been saved.

Worship and Spiritual Life

- There were six kids and five adults who gathered to fill about 100 bags for the homeless. They were delivered to the Warming Station, along with extra items collected, and received with much gratitude.
- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the speaker at Goodwill Church on March 15, who will discuss struggling with addiction and which our Youth Ministry had hoped to attend. It could be beneficial, especially to older high-school students and those college age, but is it appropriate for 10-, 11- and 12-year-olds? Because the speaker is not Catholic, nor is the host church a Catholic Church, there were concerns raised about the content of the program; extra caution has to be taken when moving into non-Catholic situations. Additionally, there is not enough information on the website to shed light on these concerns. It was agreed that our Youth Ministry should not participate.
- The Youth Ministry is looking to meet up after a Sunday Mass and to continue its online Scripture discussions.

General Discussion About Ministries

- Although there are many components to the Christian Service Ministry, much of what goes on is seasonal, such as the holiday baskets, or does not really require a liaison, such as the prayer chain. In the past, the liaisons have sometimes been tripping over one another trying to find an item that needs to be brought to the Council. So while it might seem to make sense to break out related Christian Services segments into a separate ministry, such as the Consolation Ministry and

Arimatheans, for example, there would be no benefit in doing so. Going forward, Hector Hernandez and Julie Laurenzi will be the Christian Services liaisons and divide responsibilities between them.

- Similarly, Worship and Spiritual Life could contain the Liturgy Committee, although it hasn't met in nine years. It is now listed separately in the Constitution as the Ministry of Liturgy.
- The Archangels should be within Administration and Stewardship. Its liaison will be Anne Savistano.
- Again, rather than another separate ministry, Art and Environment should be included in Worship and Spiritual Life. Anne Savistano will be its liaison.
- Marisa Block will be the liaison for Social Activities.
- Anne Savistano suggested a larger Ministry Fair in the spring, the logistics of which should be discussed soon.

Chairperson's Report – Gale Britto

- We want to ensure the Parish Picnic does not go by the wayside. The picnic has traditionally been held in either June or September. There tends to be a lot going on in June – graduation, Father's Day, weddings – while September feels more like a "return to." Right now, all the Sundays in September are available, which will be discussed with Rick.
- The Constitution will be amended to reflect what was discussed tonight.
- Speaking of the Constitution, it was pointed out that while Parish Council meetings are open to everyone, they are not publicized. That should be corrected.
- Should Emma Gonzalez come to the next meeting to discuss in greater detail the handicapped parking requirements? The parking lot will be sealed and re-stripped within the next couple of months. We want to be in compliance with the law and take into consideration our aging population.

The meeting closed at 8:03 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti