



## **ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

### ***Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – January 9, 2024***

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

**Elected Members Absent:** None

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

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Deacon Michael McCabe

**Recording Secretary:** Deborah Botti

**Others Present:** Christine Forbes

**The meeting began with prayer at 7 p.m.**

**Approving the minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2023, was inadvertently skipped. The Parish Council will come back to them, along with the January minutes, at the February meeting.**

#### **Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi**

This is an abbreviated meeting tonight, but there is business to discuss. Christine Forbes will be joining us at 7:15 p.m. to assist with the Survey Monkey program if a vote is necessary. Although I have another year to serve on the Parish Council, I want to step down as chair.

But first, here are a few challenges that we're facing:

- We are in dire need of a coordinator for our Religious Education program. This is a huge concern. We understand there are a few proposals being informally discussed, but they have not bubbled up to Fr. Sean, who will ultimately make the decision.
- We might not be in compliance with state guidelines on handicapped parking. Although this is not up for discussion now, Emma Gonzalez Laders, who is an architect, is gathering information. The parking lot needs to be sealed and re-stripped, and hopefully this can be done after winter.

- On behalf of the Social Activities team, Rick Dzurilla has proposed an international dinner – Italian is the least expensive – on January 27<sup>th</sup>, a fish fry on the first Friday in Lent and then our traditional St. Patrick’s Day Dinner. Highlights of the discussion:
  - The international dinner and fish fry would be two weeks apart and difficult to pull off so close together. And it could also be too much financially for families. It was decided that there should not be a dinner in January.
  - The corned-beef-and-cabbage dinner for St. Patrick’s Day is a mainstay.
  - The international dinner could be held in April or May. (Confirmation is April 20; First Eucharist is May 11, the day before Mother’s Day.) A potluck was also proposed for that event.
  - Scheduling the Parish Picnic should be prioritized this year.
  - Rick will be sent a summary of all the comments.
- We need to elect a chair, vice chair and corresponding secretary – although a corresponding secretary is rarely used.
  - “Kate, are you prepared to continue in the role as corresponding secretary?”  
“Yes.”
  - We will only need to vote if more than one person is interested in either of the other two offices. Kate Gallaher-Carson nominated Gale Britto to assume the role of chairperson. There were no other nominees. Marisa Block agreed to assume the role of vice-chair. Congratulations, and support, were offered to Gale and Marissa.
  - Christine Forbes was thanked for her time, and she left the meeting at this point.
  - Mike McGovern, Tom Fobert and Rosa Gonzalez have rotated off the Council. Thank-you gifts will be delivered to them.
- The last part of January’s business is the liaison assignments. Each Parish Council member is assigned a ministry to touch base with monthly and report back to the Council as necessary.
  - Because of his financial background, Jim Lancellotti is a good fit to be the liaison with Administration & Stewardship, previously covered by Mike McGovern.
  - Beth Schick will continue as liaison for Worship and Spiritual Life, which includes the Youth Ministry. She noted that there is a speaker March 15 at Goodwill Church ([thestorytour.org](http://thestorytour.org)); Chris and Deb would like to get a SPYM group to attend.
  - Kate Gallaher Carson will continue as liaison to the Adult Faith Formation

Committee.

- Gale Britto will continue as liaison to the Religious Education program until there is a new director of religious education.
- Christian Services is a huge ministry, which right now is covered by Anne Savastano and Hector Hernandez. Hector noted that Sonia Del Pilar's repast was held last month, that a total of 150 holiday baskets were distributed and that while the refrigerator was recently replaced, the stoves and freezers are showing their ages as well. The stoves are particularly tricky in that someone has to get on the floor to open the gas line.
- Anne Savastano is at the helm of the Arts & Environment Ministry, which is responsible for decorating the church at Christmas and Easter. She will report as needed.

**The meeting closed at 7:39 p.m. with a prayer.**

**Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti**