



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – March 12, 2024

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

Elected Members Absent: None

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: None

The meeting began with prayer at 7:01 p.m.

The Minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2023, which was inadvertently skipped in January, were approved and seconded.

The Minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2024, were approved and seconded.

Ministry Reports were given:

Administration and Stewardship

- There's good news in that following a year that ended in a financial deficit, we are in a break-even position because of collections being up and the outlay for salaries and benefits down, That, coupled with an unexpected \$26,000 recently received through the federal employee retention program during the Pandemic, puts us in a lot better shape than we thought we would be. This will help offset the new furnace, furnace repairs and parking lot resealing and re-striping. However, we are still not in a position to put any money into savings.
- The original parking lot cost \$80,000 to install. It will be significantly less this time because we are not starting from scratch. Emma Gonzalez will ensure we are compliant with handicapped parking requirements.

- Bill Pearson will be looking at the stoves to determine how to install an extension to open and close the propane valves so people don't have to crawl around to do so. The stoves are also in need of cleaning.
- The freezers in the shed are old, but working.

Education and Faith Formation

- There was nothing to report from Religious Education.
- Pat Davies' "Forgiveness" faith sharing group will conclude on April 6. Following Christ begins on April 7.
- Patty Brooks wanted to get out a reminder about Gail Van Tassel's scripture discussion group and Deacon Carl's book club.

Christian Services

Dolores Townley's funeral Mass is tomorrow, to be followed by a repast. Deacon John will be attending – and he was alert during his last visit with two of our Eucharistic Ministers.

Social Activities

- The St. Patrick's Day Dinner is March 16.
- A French toast breakfast will be served either April 21 or 28. The liaison will clarify whether this will conflict with Sunday's religious education classes.
- 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

Based on last year and a recent conversation with the grower, the Easter flowers have been ordered. Decorating the church will take place at 11 a.m. on Holy Saturday.

Chairperson's Report – Gale Britto

- The Pine Bush Community Band wants to confirm the dates for their 2024 concerts at St. Paul's: July 15 and November 25, the latter of which is the Monday before Advent. It was agreed to respond that the dates are fine.
- With regard to ministries and by-laws, the chair and former chair, Julie Laurenzi,

have worked on categorizing some of the ministries differently:

- The Archangels will fall under Administration and Stewardship.
- Along with sacrament preparation for our children and Adult Faith Formation, Religious Education will now also include the Youth Ministry.
- Rather than “Worship and Spiritual Life,” that ministry will now simply be “Worship” and include Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers.

Vicar’s Report – Fr. Sean

Synod Update: The Archdiocese just sent out information regarding the next meeting. It’s scheduled for March 23 at St. Joseph’s Seminary. The meeting is only two hours – English in the morning and Spanish in the afternoon – and will include a prayer service and review of the Synod. That doesn’t seem to allow much time for dialog.

Each Deanery is encouraged to host a meeting, which could have Fr. Dennis planning something at St. Joseph’s in Middletown. Discussion ensued about whether it would be worthwhile to have a meeting at St. Paul’s; would our parishioners be interested?

This topic will be addressed again next month.

The meeting closed at 8:48 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti