



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – May 9, 2022

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

Elected Members Absent: Hector Hernandez

Ex-officio Members Present: Deacon Carl Locatelli and Fr. Sean Harlow, O.Carm

Ex-officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: None

The meeting began with prayer at 6:49 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of April 11, 2022, were accepted.

Ministry Reports were provided:

Administration & Stewardship

Nothing to report.

Education and Faith Formation

- Although two children were missing because of COVID-19, First Holy Communion was beautiful.
- For the adults, the Book Club (spearheaded by Deacon Carl), Sunday Scripture Study and discussion of the Gospel of Luke have continued via Zoom. There was a Zoom password hiccup this month, which has been corrected. Only Sunday Scripture Study will continue through the summer.

Christian Services

- The food pantry continues to grow.
- The Consolation Ministry was present for the family of Michael Mont, who was buried from St. Paul's on April 2.

- Informally, Christian Services is doing what it can in terms of outreach. For example, members have prepared and dropped off food when needed, after a funeral, for example. There are volunteers available to bring food from the pantry to parishioners in need who can't get to church. And others continue to make phone calls to their St. Paul's friends whom they haven't seen.

Social Activities

- There is no definitive date yet for the picnic; however, it will be in September. Members agreed that Rick should pick the date that best works for him and advise.
- Rick has also said he is willing and able to do regular Coffee Socials after Mass. It was agreed that to maximize attendance, they should follow a consistent schedule - such as the first or second weekend of the month - and that a Flocknote be sent out beforehand extending the invitation. It was also suggested by a teen to a Parish Council member that everyone wear name tags at socials.

Worship and Spiritual Life

- The Youth Ministry is in the early stages of exploring how it might broach the topic of social media, not in the political realm but from a safety standpoint. A starting point will be a meeting with parents, who might welcome some guidance given the potential long-term consequences of not posting prudently. There are Catholic websites that could provide useful information as well as our own Officer Kevin.
- It was noted that there are some weak links with greeters. Some are spot-on; others don't show up or come late. Many came aboard as COVID-19 was navigated, and the roles have changed since then. Today, the greeters are the welcoming faces of the parish – and not as essential after Mass begins. And should the five Archangels be combined in this group? Maybe it's time for a re-branding, complete with an updated list of expectations and perhaps a refresher meeting.
- Discussion then segued into how to identify an “official” person at Mass. Lanyard? Nametag? A certain color shirt or jacket?

Art and Environment

The Easter decorations were beautiful.

Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi

There is a great deal of anticipatory preparation necessary for a Ministry Fair.

- The date of the Parish Council elections should first be determined and then work backward from there to set a date.
- In the weeks leading up to it, it would be good to schedule members to talk at each Mass about what their particular ministry involves and what it means to the person speaking.

- One or two inspirational sentences from different volunteers could also be printed in the bulletin.
- There should definitely be coffee and doughnuts available that day.
- A subcommittee needs to be formed now, beginning with the chairperson and parish secretary, to begin planning.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Attendance continues to be lackluster, 65-70 maximum at each Mass. This isn't unique to us; the same is true of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Our Lady of the Assumption. Numbers were decent during Lent but have declined since Easter - and numbers traditionally drop in the summer. We could easily combine the two Sunday Masses again and have a better liturgical experience, and I want to put this on the table for further discussion.

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

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, June 13, 2022, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti