



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – February 8, 2021

Elected Members Present: Christine Forbes, Patricia Davies, Pam Vogt, Kevin Green and Peter Adams,

Elected Members Absent: Deborah Harrison, Rosa Gonzalez and Ross Terranova

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

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Others Present: Liz Locatelli and Maxine Martin

The meeting began with prayer at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting of January 11 were accepted.

Reopening Committee Updates

- Deacon Michael and Maxine will be trained on how to set up the camera for live-streaming in the event no one else is available to do so. They will not, however, be put on the regular schedule. The instructions will be revised with helpful tips.
- Parish Council members who are also Mass volunteers reported that there were no hitches with one less volunteer scheduled at the Masses.
- Is there a way to ascertain how many people are watching Mass live-streamed to their homes? And if so, can we publish those numbers?
- The Saturday attendance numbers are creeping up. Should we be prepared to use the hall, and is the Saturday crew OK with playing it by ear? Volunteer No. 4 and/or the volunteer live-streaming into the hall would usher parishioners to the hall when the church is at capacity.
- We have enough volunteers for Ash Wednesday, and both Masses will be live-streamed.
- Reopening Committee members were excused at 7:02 p.m.

Administration & Stewardship

- The air purification system has been installed. In the winter, it utilizes the fan system without the air conditioner to automatically re-circulate the air two to three times per hour. In the summer, the air purifier will automatically run whenever the AC is on – as well as independent of the AC, if we choose.
- Kevin Green, the Social Activities liaison, which has been tabled by COVID-19, volunteered to assist Fr. Sean instead with Administration & Stewardship.

Education & Faith Formation

Nothing to report from either Religious Education or Adult Faith Formation.

Christian Services

- Terri and Ken Winterling will be trained in Food Bank ordering and pick up to help stock the Food Pantry. Because the freezer and refrigerator are not really being used, free items such as frozen meats, cheese, butter, eggs, etc. are being picked up from the Food Bank for distribution to those in need.
- The Prayer Blanket Ministry will replenish the depleted stock of blankets Friday evening. Blanket-making easily lends itself to social distancing.

Social Activities

Nothing to report.

Worship & Spiritual Life

The Youth Ministry continues to meet virtually on a regular basis. The kids, however, are anxious to bring their friends, and to be able connect socially and spiritually in person.

Other Business

February is collection envelope renewal month. Given that COVID-19 dictated that envelopes be mailed to parishioners at a cost in excess of \$1,000 for postage, inquiry was made into the direct-mail service offered by Our Sunday Visitor. Because most of the thousands of parishes it serves utilize this feature, its production line is optimized for direct mail, and it receives a non-profit postage rate.

Therefore, direct mail is even slightly LESS expensive than purchasing envelopes and distributing them through the church – especially if the bimonthly option is selected. An additional benefit is that the church would only pay for the envelopes that are actually mailed – and would no longer have to purchase extra boxes for possible distribution throughout the year. (Instead, starter packs for new parishioners are offered.)

Discussion ensued with a focus on how envelope users on the Parish Council

would feel about this change. While there is a certain familiarity with the “box,” no negative was perceived with receiving an envelope of envelopes every two months.

Of course, updated parishioner lists will be required, which the office does regularly anyway. And not having to ready boxes of envelopes for pickup during Advent saves hours and hours of labor.

It was agreed to proceed with having envelopes mailed, beginning for the calendar year 2022.

The meeting closed at 7:27 p.m. with prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, March 8, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti