



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – September 13, 2021

Elected Members Present: Christine Forbes, Deborah Harrison, Patricia Davies, Peter Adams, Ross Terranova, Kevin Green, Rosa Gonzalez and Pam Vogt

Elected Members Absent: None

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

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: None

The meeting began with prayer at 6:47 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of July 12, 2021, were accepted.
(There was no formal Parish Council meeting in August.)

There were no Reopening Committee updates

Administration & Stewardship

- The outsides of two sets of doors to the church have been stripped and refinished. The lower bid – \$4,000 – was the one that was accepted; however, once work began, the recommendation was to not do the insides of the doors, which dropped the price to \$3,400, a savings of \$600.
- The entire church building has been deep cleaned. While there was a rather extensive punch list after Crystal Blue was here, their A Team was subsequently dispatched and all the issues were more-than-satisfactorily resolved. We made the right choice.

Education & Faith Formation

- Religious Education begins tonight, and in-person, socially-distanced classes will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Deacon Carl will be distributing Bibles this week. There are 130 children registered, about 20 less than last year, which includes 18 children in the First Eucharist class and 21 candidates for Confirmation.

- Children's Liturgy of the Word returns at 10 a.m. Sunday, September 19, and the Seeds program for potty-trained three-, four- and five-year-olds is back several Sundays a month as well.
- Several people have signed up to participate in JustFaith Ministries' program titled "Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege," which begins the evening (to accommodate those who work) of October 5. The eight sessions will be held every other week to allow time to digest the information. Five parishioners completed this course when it was offered during the day last year. The program is purchased by a group for an annual fee of \$225, which then allows access to JustFaith Ministries' website, its materials to print and support. The original participants were so touched by "Faith & Racial Equity" that they personally paid this year's fee.

Christian Services

- Julie Laurenzi presented an orientation for those interested in the new Consolation Ministry, which serves the recently bereaved, as well as the Helping Hearts Ministry, which reaches out by telephone to those who have been hospitalized or are infirmed or isolated. Names of parishioners who would like a call will be provided through the deacons, the prayer chain and the office.
- The Consolation Ministry is planning a Memorial Mass for Saturday, November 6. Those who have lost a loved one within the past year or so will be encouraged to attend.
- It's time to start thinking about this year's Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets; however, there probably won't be any logistical changes, and it is not anticipated that extra hands will be needed.

Social Activities

Plans for a picnic did not materialize. The next event would be the Senior Thanksgiving dinner, which is doubtful at this point

Discussion ensued about what can be done to start bringing people together again. Indoor activities might not yet be prudent, but there are ways to stay masked and active. Mount Carmel, for example, has had a fish fry wherein the boxed meals were distributed, so there was no cooking or serving.

It was decided to table this topic to the next meeting to allow time for creative thinking about alternatives; i.e., perhaps a night walk instead of a movie night.

Worship & Spiritual Life

The Youth Ministry is kicking of its high school group, which the coordinators say is garnering interest among parents and students alike. Because this is solely for older teens, one thought is the possibility of a nonjudgmental conversation, which incorporates

materials from the Archdiocese, about pornographic websites that are so easily accessible.

Art and Environment

Despite weeks of notices in the bulletin and on the website, there is still no one to head this ministry. A Flocknote will be sent out; however, if no one comes forward, it has been decided that holiday decorations will be minimal.

Chairperson's Report – Christine Forbes

- Two Parish Council seats definitely need to be filled beginning January 2022, and three members need to decide quickly if they want to run for a second three-year term. If not, possibly five seats could be vacant. The congregation also votes on these second terms – unless there aren't enough candidates.

Ross Terranova and Kevin Green agreed to each run for an additional three-year term.

Pam Vogt agreed to stay on for an additional year. Her decision could put elections back on track: Three, three-year term vacancies to be filled every year.

- Discussion ensued regarding the nomination process. Nomination forms will be printed and left in the church vestibules. Additionally, a link will be created so that the form can be completed online – and accessed directly on the home page of the website. The bulletin will keep parishioners apprised of the process and what is expected of a Parish Council member.
- Nominations will be due October 3.
- The number of confirmed nominees will determine whether a vote is needed. At that time, the election process will be finalized. Survey Monkey is a strong option. It's easy to use on a home computer. The one hiccup is that only one vote is allowed per computer.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Nothing further to report.

The meeting closed at 8:04 p.m. with prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, October 11, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti