



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – October 10, 2022

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

Elected Members Absent: Beth Schick

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: Rick Dzurilla

The meeting began with prayer at 6:44 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of September 12, 2022, were accepted.

Rick Dzurilla, coordinator of the Social Activities Ministry, addressed the Council:

- A Coffee Social is planned in conjunction with the Ministry Fair weekend. It was decided that the pastries will be placed on the tables highlighting the various ministries – and the chocolate items where the most volunteers are needed! The baked goods will be wrapped with plastic film on Saturday evening, and although Rick and Julie aren't available Saturday, Pam will help.
- There will be another Coffee Social the first weekend of November to coordinate with the elections and bake sale to benefit the Prayer Blanket Ministry. Only coffee is needed.
- To continue with a Coffee Social the first weekend of every month, as previously decided, that would mean the weekend of December 3-4 and December 31-January 1 - or January 7-8? It was agreed that Coffee Socials will be held December 3-4 and January 7-8.
- The Senior Thanksgiving Dinner will take place the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 19.
 - Because of the combination of Covid and flu, it was decided to limit the number in attendance so there is more space at each table and more space around the tables themselves. Calculations will be made and a maximum number of guests determined. Tickets will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Because of limited seating and rising costs, discussion ensued regarding whether the dinner should be limited to just parishioners. If guests are allowed, should that number be limited? And given that a full holiday meal is served – including hors d’oeuvres and wine – should guests be charged a nominal fee? It was decided that each parishioner is allowed one guest, and each guest will pay \$10.
- Rick estimates he’ll need about four turkeys and will seek some donations. Desserts are never a problem.
- So senior volunteers are not serving other seniors, help will be sought from the Confirmation candidates and/or the Youth Ministry.
- Along with the traditional 50/50 raffle, should there be a freewill offering basket?
- The dishwasher needs to be tested.
- The dinner will be announced in this weekend’s bulletin with ticket sales to begin the following weekend.

Ministry Reports were then provided:

Administration & Stewardship

A proposed letter from the Finance Council was discussed. The letter addressed the need for increased giving and offered incentives – funded by an anonymous donor – for those who increase giving through online donations (WeShare). While WeShare is credited with more consistent giving, and our WeShare use is higher than that of other parishes, the loyal envelope users shouldn’t be discounted. Some clarifications to the letter were suggested.

There will be a WeShare table at the Ministry Fair and then monthly assistance with signups.

Education and Faith Formation

- Religious Education will have a table at the Ministry Fair.
- The Children’s Mass was beautiful. The next one will take place December 11.
- A Family Movie Night is happening October 21. The Disney film “Coco” – and popcorn – will be featured.

Christian Services

- A lot of leg work has been done for the food drive planned for 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, October 22, to take place in St. Paul’s parking lot. Our Lady of the Assumption Church, RECAP and the Pine Bush Ecumenical Food Pantry will participate. Information has been passed along to Spectrum, the Pine Bush School District and the Town of Crawford, among other local venues, to advertise this event.
- All set for the Ministry Fair!

Social Activities

Covered by Rick Dzurilla at the beginning of the meeting.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Nothing to report.

Art and Environment

Volunteers will be sought at the Ministry Fair.

Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi

- Using the copious notes from the 2018 Ministry Fair, a subgroup met, discussed and ironed out all the details for this year's event. Ironically, a former parishioner was at Mass this weekend and commented on the Christian Services' presentation at the close of Mass. She described it as a breath of fresh air, now that she attends a large parish where everyone assumes everyone else does the work. She inquired about becoming a Eucharistic Minister in her new parish – and none of her three calls were ever returned. This underscores how important it is to reach out to *everyone* who signs up at the Ministry Fair – even if it was for a ministry that is not in need of extra help at this time.
- Five nominations to the Parish Council were received. One nominee declined. The names will be in the bulletin this weekend.
- There will be a Coffee Social after the Memorial Mass, which Peggy and Sal Lucido will handle. A Zoom meeting is scheduled tomorrow to discuss the readings, music, program and other details. The costs will be lower this year because rather than carnations brought to the altar when the names are called, votive lights purchased last year will be used instead.
- Discussion ensued, and it was agreed, that during the winter months, the Parish Council meetings will take place via Zoom beginning with the November meeting.

Other business

- It is a fire hazard, and therefore illegal, to lock the inside doors after Mass starts, and the archangels request that late entry be through the East Wing only. It was decided to wait until after the Ministry Fair to finalize this matter.
- There has been trouble with the livestream, traced to the Twitch phone app, and a problem with the audio was also reported, which could be the speakers. A laptop has been used in place of the phone, but a permanent solution needs to be found. Perhaps a system similar to what is used at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, including a dedicated, mounted camera?

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Fr. Sean was curious as to whether anyone been approached about returning to the

cup.

Deacon Carl responded that he was only aware of one person thus far who has made that request.

The meeting closed at 7:50 p.m. with prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, November 14, 2022, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti