



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – September 11, 2023

Elected Members Present: Julie Laurenzi, Gale Britto, Beth Schick, Tom Fobert, Michael McGovern, Kate Gallaher-Carson and Rosa Gonzalez

Elected Members Absent: Anne Savastano and Hector Hernandez

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow, Deacon Carl Locatelli, Mark Carson and Peg Hoblin

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: Rick Dzurilla via telephone

The meeting began with prayer at 6:45 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of August 14, 2023, were approved and seconded.

Ministry Reports were provided:

Administration & Stewardship

Income in August was down slightly from June and July.

Education and Faith Formation

- Although four individuals will assist the acting coordinator, Jessica Carpino, with the basics, our religious education program is still in need of a leader. If need be, Jessica will do her utmost to organize the volunteers through the end of this school year.
- The first Discovering Christ event last night was deemed a success. More than 50 people attended, the presentations were good and there was enthusiastic participation.

Christian Services

Nothing to report.

Social Activities

It was at this point that Rick Dzurilla joined the meeting via speaker phone.

The parish picnic is normally held on a Sunday. However, this year, Discovering Christ takes place on Sunday evenings, and it would be impossible to do both on the same day. Rick said he was in the kitchen yesterday (Sunday) from 12:30 to 6 p.m. preparing the meal for Discovering Christ – and that didn't include the shopping during the week and the prep the day before (Saturday). He also has a full-time job – and has just learned next week's numbers might increase by 15 or 20.

As far as the picnic is concerned, he reminded the Council that, again, it's not just about showing up. There's also a lot of shopping and prep work as well. Plus, tickets have to be sold after the Masses a few weeks beforehand. If someone else wants to step up, that's fine, but at this late date and the effort that Discovering Christ requires, he can't do the picnic.

However, he is planning the Senior Thanksgiving Dinner on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, as well as an International Dinner sometime in the winter and the traditional St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

As a result of the conversation with Rick:

- It was agreed that there will be no picnic this year.
- Rick needs a co-chair – or a committee established by the Parish Council to help break down responsibilities. One person cannot be relied on to do everything.
- It is key to start earlier and establish dates in advance so that events don't fall through the cracks.

Worship and Spiritual Life

The Youth Ministry is planning:

- A basketball night in the parking lot in September.
- A Harvest Festival in October.
- To prepare bags for the homeless in November.
- To assist with the Senior Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Christmas Caroling in December
- And to intermingle highway cleanup, a fishing derby and a bowling night.

Art and Environment

Nothing to report.

Archangels

Nothing to report.

Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi

- Anne Savastano will spearhead the Ministry Fair. She was unable to attend this evening's meeting because of her father-in-law's death. However, she will be given a packet of detailed information, including a schedule, to assist with planning. It

isn't practical for each ministry to have its own flyer, so the existing pamphlet will be updated. The fair will also coincide with the Parish Council elections.

- Parish Council nominations are due Monday, October 2. Council members are encouraged to approach a parishioner, explain what the Council does and stress it's not overly burdensome. It is an advisory group, and it's important that Fr. Sean gets feedback from parishioners.
- Parish Council elections have been held the first weekend of November; however, Saturday, November 4, is the Memorial Mass, which is followed by a time of fellowship in the hall. The conflict is that the hall will already be set up for the Ministry Fair. Therefore, the fair and elections will be moved to the preceding weekend, October 28-29.
- Discussion segued into how to get people back into church. Isn't that the whole intent of the ChristLife series to energize faith across the generations? On the other hand, as in the community at large, there is division among parishioners. People have left the church because their beliefs and experiences conflict with its teachings. Still, we need new blood; how do we draw it?
- It was shared that some complaints had been received about the collection announcement at the beginning of the 10 o'clock Mass on Sundays, which had been approved by the Parish Council. It was agreed that these announcements cease.
- Parish Council meetings will return to Zoom for the winter. The October meeting will be in person.

Vicar's Report

Clergy are also frustrated that things don't change. There is division on a lot of topics. That's the price we pay for being a universal church.

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

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti