

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

**St. George Catholic Church**

Members of the Parish Council met at 6:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor St. Francis of Assisi room, Scanlan Center, St. George, UT as well as via Skype due to the isolation guidelines re the Coronavirus pandemic.

Present in the room: Father Dave Bittmenn, Fr. Kelechi Alozie, Tim Kockler, Angie Gomez, Carole Drake, Don Drake, Mariana Lawrentz, Ricardo Martinez, Rita Cohen, and Sheila Redman.

Present via Skype: Jane Mruzek; Juan Carbajal connected to Skype just as the meeting was ending (he had been held up at work).

Absent: Deacon Rigoberto Aguirre, Deacon Rogaciano Tellez, and Helen Salvatore.

Father Dave opened the meeting with a prayer. Tim called for approval of the August minutes. Sheila Redman made the motion to approve the minutes; Carole Drake seconded the motion.

Rita Cohen presented an update re Cinco. Rita mentioned some of the problems that have been encountered including replenishing the propane fuel tanks needed for the cooking and the lack of volunteers, many of whom had failed to show up and relieve her. She was on site all day. We either need more volunteers or need to find out why volunteers hadn't shown up. Tim asked if the propane fuel tank could be stored on the grounds overnight. Don suggested other possibilities need to be checked out. He said he would check with Jackie, the Thrift Store Manager, to see if one of the store's truck drivers could get the tanks filled this week using one of the store's trucks. The first weekend, \$3196.95 was raised. The second weekend, the total raised was \$2161.05. Total: \$5258.00.

Father Dave said that he spoke with Helen Salvatore who said that she wasn't ready to come back to the council meetings. Two options are available: 1> she could be excused because of mitigating circumstances or 2> she could be released from the council. Don mentioned that, since Helen does work at the Thrift Store during the week, she really couldn't be just "excused".

The Constitution states: "In the absence of mitigating circumstances, as determined by the council, a member with three (3) absences in a calendar year shall be released from the Council" (Article III, B. 6). It continues that the vacancy "shall be filled by selecting the nominee who had had the fifth highest number of votes in the last Council election to serve out the term of the vacated position" (III, C. 1a).

Father Dave will check to see who the next highest elected nominee was.

Father Dave then introduced the next topic: **The Now & Beyond Committee**. He described it as a "successor committee" – one that would oversee the building of a church in Washington, UT. It would be responsible for raising the money needed, be the official liaison with the diocese, and be in charge of getting the architect and general contractor. The parish members on the committee would meet weekly with the architect and the general contractor. They would work with fund-raising for both the Washington church and for current parish needs. That committee would make decisions re fund-raising groups and construction groups. At the beginning, the committee's main function would be fund-raising, e.g. small dinners with those who have more money to donate; then, other fund-raising

activities, e.g. gatherings of small groups and 2<sup>nd</sup> collections. The committee would also explore other ideas to raise money.

Father announced that a particular Donor has paid off the remaining debt on Kuzy Hall, an amount that was over \$300,000; that donation has also allowed about \$50,000 to start a fund for the Washington project.

Father also spoke with the Catholic Foundation (who handles requests and endowments) about investing that money so that it can grow. They have a good reputation for growing funds whereas a savings account produces small interest.

Our debt to the diocese has been paid off.

The committee will need a ballpark figure to start; we could opt for a mission-style building, a style that says "church" without going spastic, a building about 20,000 – 21,000 sq. ft. The time element goal: 5-6 years (to start moving). A few years ago, such a structure would have cost about \$4 million. Presently, we have to raise 60% of the cost; the diocese will give us the other 40%.

We need to get people excited. We need input from our parishioners and from donors. We can't just throw it out for a vote. We need to present ideas; then, hopefully, people will come up with other ideas; we need a process for suggestions.

The Now & Beyond Committee will work with our Parish Council. Several names for committee members have been raised. We will need names of architects, builders, and money raisers.

There are official documents that regulate: baptismal font, tabernacle, confessionals, altar, sanctuary, and choir. When we have a PLAN and the MONEY, we will make a presentation to the diocesan board who, then, will make its suggestions.

Process: put together a program; narrow options; fund-raising; contractor.

Sheila suggested publishing a list of the parishioners who will be part of that parish; hopefully, that will enhance interest.

Father said that it would be its own parish; we are the founding parish. The order of construction could be: first, the church; then, an office and classroom building; other buildings to follow, as needed.

Sheila Redman brought up and read an invitation to take part in the National Day of Prayer & Repentance, scheduled for Sept. 27 in Washington, D.C. Tim reminded us that to take part is not a Council decision. Sheila said she would email Jane the info.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2020, 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane H. Mruczek