

ST. RAPHAEL PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 20, 2019

Members Present: Fr. Michael Salah; Fr. Dan Gallagher; Karen Sachs, chair; Jim Damron, vice-chair; Craig Correa; Jane Coburn; Silvia Abularach; Larry Boesch; Duina Reyes; David DeSalle; Michelle Aldridge; Jim O'Donnell; Joe Feyder. Ex-officio: Terry Dwyer, principal, St. Raphael's School.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Fr. Michael Salah

Scripture Reflection: John 14:23-29

Old Business:

March 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Approved without changes.

New Council Members: We welcome four new members to the Pastoral Council beginning with the September 2019 meeting: Brian Dekowzan; Debbie Hynes; and Sally McLean.

Pastoral Council Officers: Karen Sachs has resigned from the Parish Council and her role as chair due to a conflict of interest with her new full-time position at Archdiocese of Washington offices. Vice-chair Jim Damron will assume Karen's role as Chair.

Campus Security: Working with an ad hoc committee, we are considering improvements to our campus security systems and procedures including: the location of the AED defibrillator; security cameras; and having a traffic director for the Easter Masses next year to address the congestion that occurred this year on Sunday morning.

"Engaging the Mission" follow up: Fr. Salah, Fr. Gallagher, and several Parish leaders attended a diocesan day-long conference in March about strategies for engaging all members of the parish in its mission priorities. The focus for the present time will be on making the parish a more welcoming place for visitors. There was discussion about reviving the Ministry Fair and seeking additional volunteers to staff the Donut Sunday events on more than a once-a-month basis. Several initiatives are underway and the Council will revisit the matter again in the fall.

New Business:

Conservation and Recycling: A parishioner suggested that we pursue an alternative to the single-use plastic utensils that are currently being used. It was decided to explore the cost of switching to biodegradable utensils.

Adoration Chapel: In response to some parishioners' interest in a separate space for adoration, we will explore options with an ad hoc committee including the possible future conversion of the current baptismal chapel into such a space.

Facilities: Now that the lighting has been upgraded, Fr. Salah reported that the parish is also pursuing projects including: replacement of the broken HVAC for the Trumpet Room (to be installed soon); remediation of areas of the parking lots that tend to accumulate ice during the winter, and eventual re-striping of the parking areas; computers for the campus; drainage issues around the Rectory and parish offices; replacement of missing insulation on the church A/C pipes; repainting of the church interior; and re-caulking of the leaking stained glass windows.

Mission Trips: In response to a parishioner's interest in the church organizing ministry trips abroad, the Council discussed the pros and cons and expressed concern about the liability that the parish may incur by sponsoring mission trips to less-developed countries. The consensus was to direct interested parishioners to established programs that other organizations offer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.