

St. Matthias Parish Council meeting minutes for July 9, 2019

Present: Fr. McCullough, Fr. Lambert, Todd Juengling, Doug Keil, Lorenzo Todd, Bob Weigel

Absent: Sima Bayamna, Francis Blay-Mockey, Bill Brocker (illness), Hector Escalante, Kurt Juengling, Lan Vu, Karen Williams, Nancy Zoeller (illness), Fr. John Amankwah (out of country)

There were no minutes from the May 19 meeting.

Doug Keil is no longer on Parish Council, but was allowed to stay.

A new Parish Council president was not elected because of the lack of a quorum (a quorum being a majority plus one, thus 6 members are needed for it).

Pastor's comments: (1) Fr. McCullough brought up Nancy's (email) request about strollers blocking the aisle at Mass. A couple members familiar with the issue talked about it. Besides being a potential fire hazard, it hinders exiting/entering the rows at Communion, particularly for the elderly. Father will contact the Diocesan office for guidance on the best way to deal with the issue. (2) The Spanish language Mass at OLR appears to have about 100 regular attendees, mostly from Greenhills and Middletown. There is no overlap to speak of with the 9am Mass at St. Matthias.

Finance Committee: Todd Juengling made a presentation regarding the walk-in freezer in the shelter. There's a proposal to spend between \$4500 - \$7500 to repair it. There is a question of whether the freezer is actually broken, or if the repair is in anticipation of a future breakdown. In looking over the freezer's contents, Todd discovered that over half of it is chicken tenderloins being stored for Soul Ministries. He then discovered that they have their own freezer, so he's asking them if they can transfer the items from our freezer to theirs. The rest of the contents, which take up little room, are leftovers from Oktoberfest and Fish Fries. These can possibly be discarded or stored in one of the two regular fridge freezers. It costs between \$200 - \$400 per month to run the freezers. Todd's proposal is that we run the freezer only 3 months a year: 1 month for Oktoberfest and 2 months for Fish Fries, thus saving \$1800 - \$3600 a year. Others present said that before any decision be made, the issue should be discussed with parishioners more familiar with building and grounds, specifically Dick Neyer and Ralph Janzen. Again, without a quorum, it will need to be brought up again next month.

Fr. Lambert's comments: Fr. Lambert and all present discussed starting and/or expanding ministries specific to St. Matthias. Seven are being considered; four would be expansion of existing, three would be new to our parish. Existing are Mass ministries, Greeters, Liturgy Ministry, and upkeep of building and grounds. New would be Children's liturgy, Homebound Ministry and Bereavement Ministry. Fr. Lambert, Todd and Deacon Dominic will meet July 23 at 6:30 to define these ministries. During Oktoberfest, September 28, there will be sign up sheets for these ministries.

There was no Ghanaian Community update nor Spanish Speaking Community update.

New Business: As five of those present are on the Sustainability Committee, there was discussion of the financial situation of St. Matthias and the existing rumor that the parish will close. As of July 1, we are contributing 1/3 of WWPR's regional costs. It was made clear that these costs do not include any facility maintenance costs of either St. James or OLR. Fr. McCullough said that our parish's financial outlook is definitely improving, but he is hesitant to state that there's nothing but smooth sailing ahead. No decision of a specific way of quelling the rumor was made.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, August 13.

Submitted by Doug Keil