



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – June 11, 2018

Elected Members Present: Peter Adams, Kevin Green, Kevin Maher, Lourdes Eyer and Christine Forbes

Elected Members Absent: Ross Terranova

Ex-Officio Members Present: Deacon Carl Locatelli and Deborah Botti

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Fr. Sean Harlow, O.Carm.

Parish Members Present:

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

Minutes of the Meeting of April 9, 2018 were accepted.

The following updates were given:

Ministry Reports:

Administration & Stewardship:

- Each Parish Council liaison will be talking with their respective ministry coordinators to enable the liaison to write a synopsis of the ministry's duties, due by Sept. 15. These highlights will be kept in a binder in the office so that if a key player is no longer available, there will be a reference point to help answer inevitable questions: i.e., what are the steps taken to ensure the church is decorated for Christmas or how does Christian Services bring the monthly Senior Luncheon to fruition?
- A rough estimate of \$17,000 was given for paving the empty lot so that a garden of some sort could be moved to a safer location on the property, if that's the ultimate decision. The least-expensive option would be to turn the existing lot into some type of garden that offers a buffer from the road. Colin Fischer would be interested in submitting a proposal. However, if a building is contemplated, estimates for modular structures should be obtained from Joe Herschel of Herschel Realty, and we'd need to ascertain whether the existing septic system could be used, as well as the cost of permits, utilities, plumbing, etc.

Education & Faith:

- The Social Ministry Forum took place the weekend of May 19-20 wherein representatives from Meals on Wheels, Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, Inc., Knights of Columbus, Middletown Warming Station, Eucharistic Ministers from Orange Regional Medical Center,

Wallkill East Rotary Club, Orange County Tax-Aide, HONOR and the Alzheimer's Association were on hand to give out information about their nonprofit organization - each of which had a parishioner who was involved. Catholic Charities had to cancel because the St. Paul's parishioner was unable to participate. Still, there was a lot of positive feedback and plenty of information was disbursed. Representatives also reported favorable volunteer signup.

- It was noted that the Social Ministry Forum illustrates that people want to get involved, but often don't know how. This led to a discussion about how to better promote the volunteer need in our St. Paul's community. And while the various ministries are listed on the website, perhaps something more visible - such as a dedicated bulletin board - would be more effective. It would have to be updated regularly to feature new photos, current events and arising needs. Deb Harrison and Pam Vogt will be exploring this.

Christian Services:

The May bake sale for the Prayer Blanket Ministry raised \$1,100. Not only does this multi-faceted ministry extend prayers and outreach to those undergoing challenging times, but it is able to involve younger people, too. Members will be meeting again within the next couple of weeks to make enough blankets to ensure a supply will be available until the Confirmation Class works on the next large batch in October.

Social Activities:

Do we want to have a Family Fun Day this year? Last year's was well-attended; the year before, no so much. The consensus was to move forward, and to have Rick Dzurilla find out from the Town of Crawford if Sept. 23, the preferred date, was available with Sept. 16 an alternate choice if the park is already booked. A rain date is not possible; however, the event has taken place in the past in the gazebo, albeit with decreased attendance. There was also discussion about the name - should it be billed as a Fall Festival instead to perhaps attract more parishioners? Should there be other events tied in, such as a yard sale or drawing of a raffle winner, if that is decided upon?

Vicar's Report (Fr. Sean Harlow, O.Carm.)

There was no vicar's report.

Chairperson's Report (Deborah Harrison)

Peter Adams, with Christine Forbes' assistance, is spearheading the parish survey effort. He plans to have a report for the Parish Council at the next meeting, as he has been meeting with his group, at which point he promises he will be asking for help as the group developing the survey does not have the horsepower to see it through.

Regardless, the next step, after the 50 or so questions are fine-tuned, is to figure out how to disseminate the survey. Social media? The bulletin? Through Religious Education? All of the above? Whatever vehicle, it should be done by mid- October and definitely before Thanksgiving

Other business

Fundraising was discussed:

- The Parish Council OK'd the parish secretary publishing a bulletin blurb to glean if there's any interest at all in a fundraising cookbook of parishioners' recipes. That will run through the summer months to gauge response.
- Raffle tickets were revisited: Raffle tickets would be sold for \$25 apiece. After 100 are sold, hold a drawing. The winning ticket gets \$500; the Church nets \$2,000 each time. It would have to be explained - perhaps from the pulpit and when appropriate in the bulletin - to parishioners that Father Sean was able to circumvent the Archdiocese's Renew & Rebuild campaign requiring St. Paul's to raise \$643,500 by promising to still pay the Archdiocese's 26% portion or \$167,310 over five years - \$33,462.00 per year. The fundraising is necessary to help defray this expense. To generate continued interest and excitement, drawings would need to take place at parish events, such as at a breakfast or festival.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to meet during the summer. Because the church office is closed Mondays, it was decided meetings will take place on Tuesdays (July 10 and Aug. 7)

The meeting closed at 8:00 p.m. with prayer.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti