



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – January 14, 2019

Elected Members Present: Deborah Harrison, Lourdes Eye, Kevin Green, Kevin Maher, Peter Adams, Pam Vogt, Ross Terranova, Christine Forbes

Elected Members Absent:

Ex-Officio Members Present: Deacon Carl Locatelli

Recording Secretary: 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 November 19, 2018, were accepted.

The following updates were given:

Ministry Reports:

Administration & Stewardship:

Housekeeping matters were addressed first:

- The first order of business in the new year was the selection of ministry liaisons. Because there is nothing in the bylaws that indicates liaisons have to change, because there are no new members and because none of the existing members requested a change, the Parish Council decided to move ahead with the liaisons as set.
- Discussion ensued about the new Youth Ministry and of which umbrella ministry it was a subset. Education and Faith Formation seemed to make the most sense. The liaisons, Lourdes Eyer and Ross Terranova, were comfortable with that addition. Lourdes will continue to focus on Adult Faith Formation and Ross on the Youth Ministry, with which he also volunteers. This is not burdensome as Religious Education, for which he's also responsible, rarely requires his attention.
- There were no objections to accepting the bylaws as is, which include the 2018 update on a quorum.
- Nominations and election of the chairperson and co-chair followed. Pam Vogt indicated she had no interest in being chair. The recording secretary then collected and read the nominations. Deborah Harrison was elected for her final term as chairperson; her Parish Council term expires at the end of 2019. Kevin Maher was

elected co-chair; his Parish Council tenure doesn't conclude until the end of 2020. With housekeeping concluded, Administration & Stewardship reported that Kathie Moran was the third \$500 winner in the fundraising raffle series.

Education & Faith Formation:

- Eight people signed up to participate in the winter book club, "Rejoice and Be Glad," led by Deacon Carl. There was one complaint about there not being an evening session; however, in the past, the evening turnout had been so poor that it was decided mornings-only made the most sense for now.
- The Adult Faith Formation Committee will be presenting the FORMED program "Presence – The Mystery of the Eucharist" from 3-4 p.m. during the four Saturdays of February.
- Religious Education had to cancel Church History this year because of a lack of volunteers.
- The Youth Ministry is planning its first event. There will be announcements in the bulletin for the Pizza & Game Night. It's exciting that we can provide young people with a positive place to go, and Fr. Sean's commitment was applauded - as evidenced by his hiring Chris Worthington.

Christian Services:

Nothing to report.

Social Activities:

Discussion ensued about the possibility of resuming the breakfasts. Because this was also discussed at a recent staff meeting, Jessica Carpino coincidentally was speaking with Rick Dzurilla about this very topic while the Parish Council meeting was taking place. When she came in to discuss another matter with the Parish Council, she reported that Rick will do a breakfast on Feb. 24. It was subsequently clarified that the breakfast will take place at 10 a.m. between the Sunday Masses to ensure the highest attendance. This is also the weekend that the prayer blankets will be blessed at Mass.

Worship & Spiritual Life:

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

Chairperson's Report (Deborah Harrison)

Nothing additional to report.

Other business

- The Parish Council was shown a coffee-table-type book that came through the office, "The Vatican Cookbook." It includes recipes, full-page Vatican-related photos, information about the Swiss Guard, etc. St. Paul's can purchase the book for \$20 and sell it for \$30. There is no risk as any books that do not sell can be returned for a full refund, including the shipping both ways. The publisher also donates 10 percent of the proceeds to "One Human Family, Food for All," the first ever global campaign to eradicate hunger. Deacon Carl will bless the books, which will be available in the

office and introduced one time in the bulletin before the Italian Dinner, where they will be available. All were in favor of giving this fundraiser a try.

- There were many surprises in the responses to the open-ended questions on the Parish Survey. Among them was the realization that so many are unaware of the activities and ministries at St. Paul's. Along with communicating through the bulletin, it was suggested that a trifold pamphlet detailing the various ministries that require the support of volunteers should be prepared and made available. Additionally, the calendar that Fr. Sean has been proposing for years should also be revisited. This would give a visual of upcoming events two to three months down the road and should work in sync with the liturgical year. Obviously, it will require more effort and the dedication of some volunteers.
- Separately, the survey revealed that some perceive a lack of welcoming and/or fellowship. Welcoming needs to be practiced and not left to the Greeters at Mass alone. A Ministry of Welcome was proposed – not a rehash of the hospitality committee – but a group of volunteers expected to reach out with a glad hand in a systematic manner. This dovetails with comments that while breakfasts were missed, so were more frequent and informal after-Mass coffee socials. Newcomers in particular would be greeted and introduced.
- It was noted that the 35- to 50-year-olds are precious to St. Paul's as there are two generations under one roof facing fierce time pressures in coordinating kids, careers and activities. Those families are integral to the budding Youth Ministry, and the Youth Ministry is critical to the future growth of the church. We have a monthly Senior Luncheon, a yearly Senior Thanksgiving Dinner. The time is now to put energy into our kids.
- The next step for the Parish Council is to closely review the step-by-step analysis of the Parish Survey and determine an action plan. It's also important to consider the responses from former parishioners as to why they left. Some concerns that need fixing are easily delegated to existing ministries. Others might require a new ministry, such as a Ministry of Welcome.
- Jessica Carpino, the Religious Education coordinator, reported that it no longer makes sense to have classes three nights during the week because of the decline in enrollment. (This is not a problem unique to St. Paul's; rather, even public schools are impacted.) Her plan is to go from Monday-Wednesday-Friday to two nights. Because many sports hold practice Monday-Wednesday-Friday, it might make sense to have Religious Education on Tuesday-Wednesday. However, she will use Survey Monkey to poll the parents. Also, re-registration takes place in March this year.
- Next month, the focus will be what needs fixing from the Parish Survey, as well as why some people left. There will be a Youth Ministry report regarding the kickoff event, as well as updates regarding the breakfast, who's handling the website and the template for ministries to be kept in a book in the office.

The meeting closed at 8:10 p.m. with prayer.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 11, 2019, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti