

Holy Spirit Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2020, via Zoom

Council Members Present: Fr. Steve Brice, Deacon Rick Letto, Paul Peterson, Vern Schroth, Ginny Williams, Eric Leary, Bob Ostrowski, Casey Davis, Susan Zach, John Eckendorf, Joanna Slattery, Bill Fehrenbach. Justine Brilowski may have been listening in.

Others Present: Joann Chase, Mary Piontkowski, Jessica Erstad, Jen Poggeman

I. Chair Paul Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:08. Fr. Steve led us in prayer.

II. The Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

III. Budget

Vern reports that we are “in the black” for the 2019-2020 budget.

Discussion of the 2020-2021 parish budget in light of our extraordinary circumstances followed. Vern: “There are a lot of unknowns in the budget.”

HSP received a PPP grant (Paycheck Protection Program, a federal subsidy). Pacelli Catholic reduced our subsidy requirement by half. We are approximately \$35,000 short in the Diocesan Annual Appeal. The parish would need to cover this cost. It is *not* a budgeted item. It looks like we are headed for a \$30,000 to \$40,000 shortfall in next year’s budget. Fr. Steve asks if we are OK with this shortfall and our ability to adjust later. Collections are a big unknown as we move forward.

Fr. Steve also announced that he did not renew Sr. Barb’s contract as Finance Coordinator. A search for a replacement, maybe someone with experience in marketing or on-line giving, will begin immediately. This may mean that the job description is redefined.

Council gives consensus to move forward with this budget.

IV. Church Reopening

We held a wide open discussion of when we might re-open, what will need to be done, how we might handle communion.

In the end, there is complete agreement on not opening any earlier than the end of June. Three primary reasons contribute to the decision:

1. Survey results indicate parishioners—both younger and older—feel we should wait.
2. Bishop Callahan’s requirements for re-opening are extensive and will need significant preparation to implement.
3. Phase 2 of the Building Project has begun. The church is without ventilation. We would want a fully functioning ventilation system to keep a fresh air flow when we re-open.

We are in agreement that we, both staff and councils, will re-assess our readiness in June for a possible July re-opening. In addition to the bishop's requirements regarding social distancing within the church, we are also in agreement that all people attending Mass will need to wear masks, as well.

V. Parish Council Elections

Again, many ideas about options for implementing a parish council election or not holding it were expressed. In the end, we would support any decision.

We will proceed with Parish Council elections by posting biographies of the candidates in the bulletin and allowing parishioners to vote through email, mail, calling, or whatever staff can manage.

VI. Next Meeting

Clearly we need to continue meeting through the summer. Next meeting is Thursday, June 18, 6:00 pm remotely via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by Bill Fehrenbach