

Parish Council Meeting 7/25/23

In Attendance: Trisha Waterman, Chris Ryan, Doug Slobodnik, Samantha Moeller, Ryan Harvey, Maria Mallado, Father Paul, Dr. Kent Metcalf, Bob Donnolly, Dr. Bitrus Gwamna, Mary Panther, Maureen Walsh, Barb Brown

Opening Prayer: Dr. Metcalf

Welcome and Blessing for new Parish Council Members by Fr. Paul

Election of Officers: President- Slobodnik was nominated and approved by unanimous vote.

Vice President- Harvey and Metcalf both nominated, vote was in favor of Metcalf.

Recorder: Waterman was nominated and approved by unanimous vote.

Minutes of June meeting Read by Slobodnik, motion to approve made by Moeller, second by Donnolly, approved.

Pastoral comments: Fr. Paul welcomed the new members of the Parish Council. He is also looking into new books to pass out to parishioners as well as new content on Formed.

Committee Reports:

Social Action- Harvey reported this committee did not meet.

Liturgy- Fr. Paul noted the 9am Mass seems fuller and there seems to be more singing, Several Council members agreed that both the change to one Mass on Sundays has been positive and also noted the positive effect of the music lately.

Family Life Picnic- Slobodnik reported picnic is scheduled for August 12, after Saturday Mass. Menu is still tentative and will be ironed out this week. There will be a sign-up in the gathering space for those wishing to attend in order to get an estimate on how much food will be needed.

Church Life- no report, per Dr. Gwamna.

Finance- Fr. Paul reported they are working diligently to keep expenses managed responsibly.

Faith Formation- Report provided in advance by Kelley Tansey highlighting the need for volunteers to assist in their many upcoming events, particularly Marriage Prep weekend (August 5th), the annual Deanery event Sparking the Spirit (Oct. 18), as well as CLOW, Adult Faith Formation, Faith Formation, and Youth Ministry.

Welcoming- Report given by Brown, highlighting the cookies and donuts being served after Mass to encourage fellowship. The committee is also looking into putting a short survey to the parish to get input on ways to make our church more welcoming.

Old Business:

Building and Grounds Report- Fr. Paul reported that the 17 furnaces in the building are all at least 25 years old and need replacing. Three bids were received with Jason Smith being the most cost-effective bid at \$140,114.00.

Finance committee approved of the expense, and the Building and Grounds committee approved the bid. Motion to replace the furnaces made by Moeller, second by Gwamna, passed by unanimous vote.

Motion to accept Jason Smith's bid made by Waterman, second by Donnolly, passed by unanimous vote.

Old Threshers- Still low on volunteer numbers. Shirts have been ordered.

Autumn Festival- There will be an envelope stuffing party on Wednesday (7/26/23)

Mission Statement- Motion to update our parish mission statement made by Moeller, second by Walsh, approved by unanimous vote. The updated statement reads: "We, the family of St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish strive to live out Jesus Christ's call to discipleship by praying, serving, and growing spiritually."

New Business:

Bulletin- Slobodnik recommended minutes of the Parish Council meeting be submitted to the church office no later than Friday at 10am the week of the meeting, in order for the minutes to be put in the bulletin at the earliest possible time in order to be open and transparent with the congregation. Parishioners can also call the church office to have their email address added to the church email list to stay up-to-date on Parish happenings.

Motion made by Moeller, second by Waterman to have a suggestion box in the two main entryways for parishioners to leave suggestions or comments for Parish Council. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence- Walsh presented a thank you letter to the parish from the Arthritis Foundation of Iowa thanking our parish for hosting the Fun Run/Walk benefiting their foundation. St. Alphonsus successfully raised \$4,678.77 for their foundation.

Committees- New members elected which committee they will serve on.

Slobodnik brought up the idea to have twice annual St Alphonsus Work Day, a day for parishioners to come together and help with the upkeep of the grounds and encourage fellowship. His idea was tabled for the next meeting.

At the next meeting, the opening prayer will be led by Dr. Gwamna, Closing by Walsh.

Closing prayer was read by Slobodnik.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm

The **next meeting will be August 22, 2023** at 6pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend these meetings, however only Parish Council members are able to vote.

Respectfully submitted by Trisha Waterman