

THE PARISH OF ST. EUGENE PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – July 12, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE: Deacon Mike Zboyovski, Mechelle Kobar, Lynn Harvey Heth, Karen Bradley, Rick Lober, Vicki Ransom, James Greene, Ed Korte, Linda Robinson, Jesus Gamez, Ashley Torres, Raul Cervantes

NOT PRESENT: Fr Pat, Nancy Maldonado

GUESTS: Alan Wyatt

- Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm with an opening prayer by Lynn.
- May and June minutes were amended and approved.
- Orientation Information for new PC members: An email with several attachments of information to help orient new members and be a refresher to current member was sent out by Lynn last Fri. There was an opportunity for PC members to ask questions about their role and all the information regarding the SE Parish. Most importantly, Fr Pat wanted to convey the most vital guiding principle of our work, that we must come together with open hearts asking the Holy Spirit to guide us as we help our pastor, pastoral staff, and parish. We strive to develop a sense of community, work for growth/change, and plan/set goals for the future.
 - Discussion of 6 parish commissions, each of the parish ministries falls under one commission (Building & Facilities, Education & Formation, Evangelization & Communication, Liturgy & Worship, Outreach (Ecumenism), Parish Life. Lynn is working to revise and update our parish handbook.
- Strategic Planning for future short- & long-term goals: Pastoral staff is working on, developed with input from pastor, pastoral staff and PC members. Fr Pat suggested 2 PC members partner with each commission, learning about ministries of each, serving as an advocate for them, bringing their needs, plans and proposals to Council for discussion. This will facilitate communication among PC and ministries and will be a positive step in formulating a strategic parish plan. It is seen as a cooperative partnership. PC members should submit their top 3 preferred commission choices to Lynn by July 19th. Mechelle reminded the Council that finalizing a strategic plan is ongoing, comprehensive work that will take a year or more. However, the important part is that we start.
- Rick made a motion to amend the PC by-laws to require PC members to choose 2 commissions to assist during the fiscal year tenure. Ed seconded and it was unanimously carried out. Rick will work with Fr. Pat and create language for final approval by Fr. Pat. In addition, Lynn requested that all PC members be Virtus certified—which include a background check and initial training plus active monthly training. Mechelle reminded the Council that Virtus certification is required by all who volunteer with the church and school; so that requirement for PC members is already in place not through by-laws but by the Diocese of Charlotte. Mechelle will provide a list to Lynn of all Council members who have not yet completed full certification so Lynn can follow-up with them.
- Construction Update at ACS: inspections and final work continues in hopes of completion by start of School on August 23. Solar panels are being installed, cost is \$175,000K a \$75K rebate. Funds for rest to be solicited. People that donate towards the solar project will be given a 26% Federal tax credit for their donation.
- The house at 40 Culvern next to the school has been purchased by the church for \$625K. Fr Pat to meet with owners of house closest to church to investigate future purchase.
- Mechelle reported that the FY closed 6/30 with a surplus of \$25,000 and debts still in place.
- Fundraising for columbarium pushed back due to other debts.
- Welcome Back Initiative: Alan Wyatt reported survey results showing that most people plan to return to church within a month; people missed the Mass and socializing afterward; people want to keep the livestream. Unfortunately, response was only 3.5% of the 1300 letters that went out encouraging parishioners to take the survey, so results can be gleaned as negligible. Karen suggested emailing a link to the survey, as opposed to the hard copy letter to get better response in the future.
- Safety/Security Ministry: put on hold during the pandemic. Chair Alan Wyatt will begin work on this in the future.
- Rick reported that mass attendance is down somewhat from Pentecost, 600-700 per weekend, and this can be attributed to summer breaks and vacations. He does anticipate the numbers to rise in the Fall as more people are vaccinated and become more comfortable with gatherings again and as kids return to school and family life returns to its normal schedule.

- Tithing: put on hold due to lower giving during the pandemic and the size of the school loan. St Vincent de Paul and crisis assistance agencies receive parish funds, but Fr Pat is sending donations on a case-by-case basis in an effort to reduce our debt more quickly. Fr Pat will give a more in-depth information as the fiscal year ends and he returns for the Aug. meeting.
- Deacon Mike reported that parking lot communion has stopped and visits to nursing homes, hospitals have resumed.
- Care of Creation: new informative recycling center to be built by Gary McPeck. Committee encourages parish to reduce amount of trash at upcoming picnic as much as possible.
- Suggestion Box: to be returned to the gathering space soon. Mechelle to put in bulletin that suggestions can be emailed to parish as well.
- Parish Picnic- August 29th - Camp Rockmont 1-5 pm. Jesus, Ashley, Rick and Lynn to form planning committee.
- Rotation among PC members of opening prayer starting in August.
- Other Ideas discussed among the 2021-2022 PC Council members really drove home this Council's desire and goal to re-infuse our parish, our community, and our faith with the excitement and love of being Catholic and spreading God's love and presence. Ideas included the following:
 - Re-engaging the vibrancy of our pre-Covid parish;
 - Encouraging a return to Mass and parish life
 - Welcoming new faces
 - Revamping hospitality ministry
 - Being a visible PC member at masses (name tag being provided by Mechelle)
 - Partnering/socializing with new parishioners
 - Formation of small faith groups such as Cenacle, FOCUS program for college students, emphasis on Divine Mercy, engaging parishioners in Pro-Life Sidewalk Counseling training.
 - Knights of Columbus are here to help parish as needed. More discussion to come.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm
- Next meeting: Monday, August 9 at 6:30 pm in the parish conference room.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Karen Bradley. *If you have any questions or need additional information about anything in the minutes, please reach out to a Parish Council member. All Parish Council members' information is posted on the wall in the Fellowship Hall.*