

**THE PARISH OF ST. EUGENE PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES – [September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022]**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Fr. Pat Cahill; Deacon Mike Zboyovski; Deacon John Langlois; Rick Lober (Chair, 6/24); Ashley Torres (Vice-Chair, 6/23); Shawna Hoffert (Sec, 6/25); Mechelle Kobar (Parish Administrator); Buster Brown (6/25); Raul Cervantes (6/23), Jesus Gamez (6/24); James Greene (6/24); Pat Irmén (6/24); Charles James (6/25); Laura Morales (6/25)

**NOT PRESENT:** Ed Korte (6/24)

**GUESTS:** Allyson MacCauley (music director), Bill Maloney (Care of Creation and Racial Justice committees), Alan Wyatt (Safety & Security committee)

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- Meeting was called to order by R.Lober at 6:45p and an opening prayer was said by R.Lober.
- August Minutes were submitted by Deacon Mike and approved; moved by P.Irmén, seconded by B.Brown.
- Synod Team Final Report discussion and next steps (R.Lober):
  - I. How to move out to parish? We have a sense that parish council now has the lead on actionable items. RL proposes a parish-wide meeting, live-streamed, website link to get message out; let them know they have been heard, what we've identified as priorities, let them know actions that are being taken. B.Brown agreed we want to show transparency, that during masses we need to continue to let parish know our momentum, presence, actions.
  - II. Dcn Mike proposed using one of the TVs for a scrolling ppt in the gathering space that loops and tells maybe top 5 things that are happening. B.Maloney said this was done previously, but not maintained, so people ignored it eventually.
  - III. Dcn John would like us to narrow down the priorities from the Synod suggestions so that we can focus on and complete some of them.
  - IV. A.Torres and Mary Beale (Director of Advancement at Asheville Catholic School) are working together monthly to connect ACS and the parish more; Mary has spoken with M.Kobar also. Any need for partial budget to come from parish for Ms. Beale's salary/events?
  - V. Staff Meeting next month (Fr Pat, M.Kobar, A.MacCauley, Dcn J.Langlois, D.Debrovsky) is in charge of prioritizing the Synod list (not sure what their time-table is).
    - i. B.Brown/R.Lober asked if this monthly meeting will be enough to keep moving forward?
    - ii. J.Greene expressed concern that Staff Meeting may not be the place to decide priorities and that Parish council perhaps should decide the priorities with Fr Pat, too.
    - iii. A.Torres, B.Brown both interested in sub-committee to identify priorities from Synod suggestions. RL/AT motioned, seconded creation of sub-committee; passed. Dcn J.Langlois wants all parish council members to review list and make suggestions to council and Fr Pat.
- Staff meeting Fr Pat initiated campus minister hiring, budget available? M.Kobar is working on budget for this option.
- Music Ministry report from Allyson MacCauley (music director, St Eugene and music teacher, ACS.)
  - I. First choir rehearsal last Wednesday. Starting Children's Choir at end of month (1<sup>st</sup> practice Sept 27<sup>th</sup>). Choir members are going to go through Protecting God's Children. Instrumentalists are invited to share more often. Looking for more participation.
  - II. Personally, she is going through RCIA to become full member.
  - III. Has had some constructive criticism. Going through current music library (very small), budgetary constraints. She operates through the liturgy and spends time finding music from the liturgical index that fits the "theme". Tries to pick a variety of music.
    - i. J.Greene stated he could really feel a big change in energy and more people in the congregation singing from even a couple months ago. C.James likes a little pre-music to help them learn the song if it is new, R.Lober agreed.

- ii. A.Torres asked how Parish Council could help Music Ministry? A.MacCauley is going to mention/ask congregation to leave requested songs in the suggestion box. Bulletin mentioning ministry fair occurring again.
- IV. Bilingual music addition, working with Samuel (Spanish mass music ministry director); important to have entire community together, especially for the 11:30 mass.
- V. Parish Council able to talk to sound booth guys if something is not working well, because A.MacCauley can't leave up front. Talked to Frank about getting speakers to help choir hear each other.
  - I. B.Brown requested organ volume be lowered at end of mass, "can be deafening." A.MacCauley noted that Valerie, organist, thoughtfully prepares recessional music. The sanctuary is supposed to be quiet, prayerful after mass; louder play to discourage people from hanging out in the sanctuary and chatting. People have desire for socialization after church.
- Finance Report – Fr Pat; Asking someone to report to parish council from Finance Committee in Oct.
  - I. Culvern Street; opportunity to connect the church/school corridor by acquiring properties between
  - II. \$390/per parish family this year would cover the cost of the \$450,000 loan
  - III. Finance Council has had offers on the property across the street from this campus, still on Culvern – an asset we can sell; may also need it for a future rectory, or other office/building.
  - IV. Parish and School are both "very healthy" in their operating budgets
  - V. 14 new families just applied to become parishioners
  - VI. R.Lober has expressed that there are concerns among parishioners about how to pay for both; other parishes pay subsidies to ACS, but St Eugene pays more because we have more students and the facilities are St Eugene's assets.
  - VII. Capitol cost at ACS (facility fee; \$750) doubled for student-families this year in order to help support loan costs
  - VIII. Addressing the concern among parishioners that St Eugene is possibly being neglected by monies funneling towards ACS/campus loans
  - IX. Fr Pat mentioned that of the Diocesan budget designation is about 25% administrative, 25% school, 50% to the parish
- Assignments to Parish Commissions – A.Torres sending out assignments this weekend by email
- Care of Creation and Racial Justice Committee updates – Bill Maloney;
  - I. Human trafficking presentation – Sunday, Oct 23 at 2pm in Sanctuary w/Sr Angela Reed, Sister of Mercy
  - II. City Council proposed banning plastic grocery bags at City Council meeting Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>; being studied further; wants committee to join Mountain True and Sierra Club in presentations to City Council.
  - III. Maintenance mentioned in Synod report. Have replaced tile in ceiling where accessed steeple to stop bats from entering. Replaced 8 burned out lights in Sanctuary ceiling, illuminating lectern and other dark areas. Smoke alarm will be put back into ceiling and tile replaced there as well.
  - IV. Aug 19<sup>th</sup> saw Salvador at parish, presented pictures of areas that need addressing, concerns about safety for volunteers that were fixing ceiling and lights – requested professionals that were insured take care of these issues. M.Kobar has someone coming to fix the smoke alarm, and possibly they can fix the lights while they are here.
- Safety and Security committee report – R.Lober
  - I. Passed out a timeline of meetings and actions committee has completed.
  - II. Alan Wyatt presented on the lighting survey (safety), many areas to address (lights out, lights broken, insufficient or total lack of illumination, trees that are obscuring existing lighting). M.Kobar has consulted with a workman from Duke to replace all the LED street lights they own (backordered.) Committee is working on this.
- Suggestion Box – S.Hoffert
  - I. J.Greene brought these up from people who have spoken to him and his own thoughts:
    - i. Screens up front w/words of hymns, readings; A.MacCauley noted that this would cause our copyright expenses to increase by a third, concerned about crowding up front, blocking peoples' views, concerns about more "screens" in our live. She thinks it would be helpful in the overflow area out towards the social hall. C.James would like us to make sure books are available in all areas people are sitting.

- ii. Request for more adult religious education – bookclubs, bulletin “suggestion of the month”, guest speakers.
  - Dcn J.Langlois has contacted some people to speak already, and late Oct there will be another presentation/class by Dcn J.Langlois on Evolution and Genesis.
  - J.Greene made a motion to include a spiritual book in the bulletin, A.Torres seconded. Discussion brought up using Franciscan newsletter’s suggestion. J.Greene willing to be point person and bring to Fr Pat for approval, then have printed in bulletin.
- New Business
  - I. J.Greene noted that we may have issues with newly acquired property
  - II. Congestion between masses keeps people from participating in after-service events, faith formation traffic
- Closing Prayer was said by Fr Pat and meeting was adjourned at 8:36p.
- Next meeting: Will be on a parish-wide meeting in the sanctuary on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:00p.

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