

THE PARISH OF ST. EUGENE PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – Sept 19th, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE: Fr. Pat Cahill; Deacon Mike Zboyovski; Deacon John Langlois; Rick Lober (Chair, 6/24); Buster Brown (Vice-Chair, 6/25); Shawna Hoffert (Sec, 6/25); Jesus Gamez (6/24); James Greene (6/24); Pat Irmen (6/24); Charles James (6/25); Abel Lomeli-Garcia (6/26); Michael MacCauley (6/26); Joe Stritch (6/26)

NOT PRESENT: Ed Korte (excused), Laura Morales (excused); Laurie Zone-Smith (excused)

GUESTS: none

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- Meeting in Rm 1 was called to order by chair at 7:32p and an opening prayer was said by Fr Pat.
 - Rick asked for prayers for Ed and Laurie.
 - August Minutes presented by Shawna were approved; first by Joe, seconded by Michael.
 - End of Year Finance Committee Presentation – Chris Amys
 - Fiscal year ended June 30, 2023
 - Came in at a slight deficit to what was budgeted, somewhat due to inflation, other factors including purchase of “pink house”
 - Statement of Financial Position is of Aug 31, 2023
 - All debt obligations can be met through June 2024
 - “The parish is fine financially; not as liquid as we want to be, and a little bit house-poor at the moment”
 - Net worth there, but not cash
 - \$28K monthly obligation in debt payments (\$9K is interest payment); \$17K would normally be for ACS subsidy (which is paying down the debt from the school-building project) but instead is currently going to Diocese for debt
 - School anticipates a surplus to apply to their debt at end of the year, school managing debt very well
 - Bernie Stanick took a “deep dive” into budget to see where we can show parishioners some tangible projects on the church building
 - Spring, launching debt-reduction campaign (timing mandated by Diocese due to a moratorium on formal fundraising campaigns from 2025-2030 so a new Charlotte Cathedral can have a campaign)
 - ACS team has committed to 300-400K lump sum payments for the next two years to knock down debt
 - Should be some cash in the next two years for capital expenditures
 - Messaging to Parish VERY IMPORTANT, so that by accelerating the debt payments/paying-down debt can be shown to get us closer to future projects OR some small amount of the raised money goes to other projects (phase I campus projects)
 - We have a tight window due to the moratorium, so we don’t have the luxury of a long-term campus plan
 - Meeting later this month with finance council and others, Jim Kelly from Diocese (expert fund-raiser)
 - Sanctuary changes update – Fr. Pat
 - Moving altar, ambo, presider chair to be more prominent and adding panels from Maine, pew refinishing; important to Fr Pat in this Year of Eucharist Revival and Renewal
 - Buster asked if there is some kind of Diocesan committee/artist to contemplate if some mural/painting, stained glass, etc., could be added
 - Rick motioned to start a new Sanctuary Renewal committee, moved by Pat, seconded by Charles; passed (Buster, Joe, Michael on committee; report in November)
 - Parish Eucharistic Renewal (Moving Forward) – Council Discussion
 - Update on Vatican II discussion group initial meeting – James Greene
 - 20+ members, lots of passion (closed group so that discussions can ensue)
 - Rick asked if there was a way to create more groups if needed; James said there are already three other groups: (Jean Cummings 10:15-11:15 first Sunday of month; James Greene 10:15-11:15 second and fourth Sundays; third group Wednesday morning after communion service; also a Friday book-club and adult education class on third Sunday w/Dcn John)
 - Ministry leaders’ dinner in Social Hall w/Mary Ellen Shepherd (Tuesday, October 10th 6pm – 8pm) – Rick
 - Asking for council members to attend

- Suggestion Box – Shawna (none in box, none in box for Adoration Chapel names)
 - Emailed in suggestions to Rick for Adoration Chapel names: “keep The Pink House – like it the way it is”; “Jesus House”; “Sacred Heart Chapel”; “keep it simple – Adoration Chapel”
 - Buster suggested placing box in the Adoration Chapel so people who go there can contribute to the naming
- New Business or Upcoming Events
 - Joe asked if the blood-species of the Eucharist will return soon?
 - Fr Pat stated that having both, esp at funerals/weddings, creates a huge backup
 - Joe suggested maybe re-introducing with the new flow planned in the Sanctuary updates
 - Tentative target date of Easter 2024, with a phase I Sanctuary project

 - Michael suggested at bi-lingual masses, switching which reading (1st or 2nd) is read in Spanish
 - Also suggested Fr Pat staying at the altar until most of the recessional song is finished so that parishioners stay until the end of Mass

 - Doughnuts; monthly arrangement is made to resume in Nov; waiting until the Eucharistic Miracle display is finished

 - Rick asked if any further consideration about moving masses around to give traffic flow more leeway, esp around CCD traffic; Fr Pat stated that it is generally traumatic to a parish to move mass times around
 - Discussed officer for traffic control on Merrimon
 - Shawna suggested maybe blocking some of the spots at ACS during CCD so more two-way traffic could get through on Culvern St

 - Update on UNCA Mass; had three students attend 6pm Highsmith Center in Lookout Mountain Rm
- Closing Prayer was said by Fr Pat and meeting was adjourned at 8:51p.
- Next meeting: Will be on Tuesday, Nov 21st, at 7:30p, location TBD.

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.*