

**Church of St Patrick**  
**Parish Council**  
**Virtual Meeting May 14, 2020**  
**On-Site Meeting May 27, 2020**

Members present Virtual Meeting May 14, 2020: Father Kuss, Roseanne Strand, Liz Gerlach, Susan Connolly, Brian Brown, Tom Moses, Grace Hanson, Julie Schnell, Jim Swanke, Debbie Zeller, Representing the Youth Commission – Angella McGarvey and Kara Stechmann, Music & Liturgy Director - Tim Smith

Members present On-Site Building & Grounds Touring Meeting - May 27, 2020: Father Kuss, Roseanne Strand, Liz Gerlach, Susan Connolly, Brian Brown, Tom Moses, Grace Hanson, Julie Schnell, Jim Swanke, Debbie Zeller, Lisa Enriquez, Ed Connelly

**7:00 PM Call to order May 14, 2020** – Roseanne Strand, Chair

**Opening Prayer** – Father Kuss

**Chair's Opening Words:** Roseanne explained to the members the necessity to include Council members only at the Parish Council meetings at this time. Due to Covid-19, it will be necessary to keep the numbers small until we are cleared to open up and invite all members of the parish once again.

**Minutes from meeting March 12, 2020 and April 23, 2020** were reviewed and approved at the virtual meeting May 14, 2020.

- 1. Technology:** It was a hope the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting would be held on site to get an image of the vision for the future concerning technology. This was accomplished on May 27<sup>th</sup> when members of the Council met to tour the grounds as well as the Church itself. Due to Covid-19 and the uncertainty of its future, changes must be considered to insure the safety of the parishioners. Items discussed included:
  - Removing all printed materials.
  - Purchasing LED screens which have been outlined within the church to show position. The use of some sort of projection is and has been an ongoing discussion for many years. There is potential use for more than following the words of the hymns or parishioner responses. The ongoing discussions need to include the overall costs from (3) bids, installation issues and life of the equipment.
  - Installing internet into the Celtic Center to accomplish utilizing screens.
  - Recording the Masses and posting them on the web-site while the church doors needed to be closed has worked very well. A new camera has been purchased to be used for further recordings and will continue into the future recording the Saturday Mass when we can open the doors. This will always ensure a way for those who are homebound to worship safely and stay connected with the community.
  
- 2. Resuming Mass Services:** Provisions are made for Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> first mass at 8AM in the Mahon Center. An online video will be prepared for viewing changes and expectations regarding Mass. Necessary changes include:
  - a. Training of ushers:** seating parishioners; proper exiting, collection safety, being cordial to parishioners in this new mode of gathering. All must wear face masks. The only doors unlocked will be those entering the Celtic Center which will be propped open to limit surfaces touched.
    - 5/27/20 Update: All parishioners must wear masks; hand sanitizers will be available
  - b. Altar Servers:** there will be none.

- c. **Distribution of Holy Communion:** Distribution will be done after dismissal. Father may be the only Eucharist Minister, possibly with one Extraordinary Minister.
    - 5/27/20 Update: Distribution will be at the back of the church; no communion of the tongue.
  - d. **Sacristans:** Father will do sacristan work for the time being.
  - e. **Mass Times:** Additional Masses will be added (possibly during the week) if needed.
3. **New marquee on Valley View Road:** This is an item from the Capital Campaign list. This project will be delayed. Bids need to be seen.
4. **Signage for parking lot and building:** When Father Kuss arrived last June, he noticed the difficulty in locating Entrances, Exits, the Parish Office and the various halls. Additional signage is needed but this project will be delayed at the present time.
5. **Clearing the surrounding grounds:** At the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, Father expressed his wish to show the Council work that has been completed and additional clearing and cleanup that needs to be done. He wants members of the parish to see the church property to increase the appreciation of possibilities for future activities.
  - 5/27/20 Update: During the tour of the grounds, the Council was shown the areas cleared and areas which still required work. Several trees will need to be removed in the near future; it was suggested to treat the Ash trees to prevent emerald ash borer infestation. Father discussed a 3 -5 year plan to remove and replant trees as well as updating other areas of landscaping. The placement of the downspout between the Parish Office entrance and an exit way for ABC Express was brought to attention and the damage this arrangement has caused over the years. Seminarian, Jason Lee will be spending time at the rectory this summer and he has been hired to mow lawns around the grounds.
6. **Faith formation for the summer:** Due to Covid-19 all trips have been cancelled (Guatemala and High School Wyoming Trip) by The Youth Works National Organization. Jaclyn Parell and Jimmy Barnett are hoping to do something in the local community. Vacation Bible School is still a possibility for late summer. Youth are still gathering through Zoom meetings; gathering is still in the works.
  - 5/27/20 Update: Jimmy Barnett and Jaclyn Parell are meeting with other local directors of parishes to collect ideas for community service. Father Kuss has met with representatives from the Center for Evangelical Catholicism and would like to use their resources for Adult and Senior Faith Formation.
7. **Changes to office procedures due to virus:** The following changes have been made or will be implemented in the near future:
  - Plexiglas will be installed at reception desk.
  - Employees working full time: Maggie Roth is in the office updating back log of paperwork; Custodial working at cleaning; Tim Smith organizing Mass recordings and how this will come together when the doors can open; Mary Woida, interim Business Administrator has left due to health issues.
  - ABC preschool will plan to open June 1<sup>st</sup> at 47%. Guidelines allow for only 10 children per classroom. They will need the full staff to ensure sanitizing everything the children utilize.
  - Yoga classes will no longer be held on church grounds. It is presently and will continue online.
8. **Social Media:** Systems to contact parishioners will need to be a constant concern to ensure reaching all parishioners.
  - Bulletins are always available online at St Patrick's website ([www.stpatrick-edina.org](http://www.stpatrick-edina.org)) and while paper bulletins are mailed out to homebound individuals, it will be necessary to make inquiries to see if there are additional parishioners who are now homebound due to Covid-19.
  - Email blasts are sent out but some parishioners do not have computers.
  - A Parish App, in addition to the website and Facebook, could reach a lot of families. Julie Schnell has gathered research from four companies and picked a random parish for observation. "My Parish APP" has a

\$199 fee for setup and \$49.00 per month. A promotion would waive the setup fee and allow three months free of charge. This has been discussed previously in Parish Council meetings and it is time to move forward as it would be effective in allowing parishioners who rely on this type of technology to get the information they need at any given time.

9. **Pastoral Phone Outreach:** Tim Smith updated the council on the outreach to those who are homebound due to Covid-19. Presently there are four lists. There are a number of people who do want a call every week and some who do wish to speak with Father Kuss. Joe Witchger is to work on follow up calling procedure. Roseanne discussed her weekly messages to the Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers and the importance of keeping communication going in each of our groups and beyond.

Next Meeting: July 16, 2020, St. Catherine's Room

Respectfully submitted by Susan Connolly and Roseanne Strand