

Parish Council Meeting  
February 11, 2020

Present: Jill Ullmer, Amy Linsmeyer, Jennie Huettl, Dcn. Rich Matuszak,  
Rev. Sengole Dass

Anna Schadrie, Mary Ann Jenquin, Helen Wachtendonk, Rosie Wurl,  
Mary Kemp, Lee Rynish, Joe Bluma, Dave Steffens, Andy Patz, Paula  
Van Dyn Hoven, Mike Blohm, Andy Huettl

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1. Opening Prayer: Fr. Sengole Dass
2. Approval/modification of agenda
3. Acknowledgment of previous minutes: Motion to approve minutes - Anna Schadrie approved, Dave Steffens seconded.
4. Opening comments by Fr. Sengole Dass and Dcn. Rich. Any suggestions for tonight's meeting, please let us know.
5. Committee Reports
  - A. Finance** (Anna Schradie):
    1. Fiscal Year End Report (July 2019-December 31, 2019) - This finance report is available to everyone.
    2. Bishop's Appeal Assessment for 2020 – We have covered more of our Bishop's Appeal than last year. Finance meets four times a year. April 21 is our next meeting.
    3. Any other business – Statue: We need a pedestal for the St. John the Baptist statue; redecorating the library; approved to go ahead and repair the organ; heating at the school; gathering area at the church; wall needing repair; renewed a CD; and changing over accounting software.
  - B. Religious Education** (handout) everyone has a copy available.
    1. Update on RE classes so far this year - Great to see so many young people taking part in our weekend masses! John Steltz is doing a good job getting things done.
    2. Report on past faith-building activities (Lee Rynish) - Alpha and Genius to Jesus. There were ten people in the fall and nine people in the spring. This has been providing great benefits; it energizes you to get involved. Genius to Jesus working well after masses, 25 people staying after mass. On Thursday nights 6-9 people showing up consistently.

3. Report on future planned activities – Possible retreats for adults/couples/women/men.
4. Discussion on organizing a Youth Ministry Group – Youth Ministry Group and faith formation group: each one will have a leader and report to John Stelz. Should they be on staff? Yes, should be part of parish staff, but not a paid position. A volunteer position would be great.
5. Discussion on organizing an Adult Faith Formation Group - Adult Faith Formation - - who heads that up? So the waters are muddy, Lee working “on staff” and leading non-paid positions/group. Communication is key. A number of parishioners are interested in participating. Should be leaders now formed from the Alpha group. Dora Bluma taking over leadership and organization of the Alpha program.

**C. Cemetery** (Lee Rynish)

1. Update on plans for 2020 - Looking for a new committee member.  
April 15-May 1 – clean up (Christmas stuff)  
Looking at promoting columbarium for ashes, standalone unit, (above ground spot incased in granite) They are expensive. They usually are pre-sold “units”. Future looks like 75% of burials will be cremation. It will preserve land and use less space. A single structure with landscape around, landscape area with benches, wall in the church-niches (Phase III). Location at either the church or the cemetery. One section of the cemetery is currently plotted off 4’x6’ plot, 2 niches into the headstone. The cost is a little bit more than a traditional burial/headstone. We would like to improve the landscaping out there. There is enough room for 150+ years.
2. No more business

**D. Building and Grounds** (Andy Patz)

1. Update on plans to remodel and redecorate the school library – The library could use a makeover. Room layout the same (classroom/meeting, etc.). Andy reached out to Sally Letter – design, paint, curtains, bookcase, more electrical outlets (\$500-\$700 for electrician to come in), and different overhead lighting. Most improvements would be covered through donations right now. We will be moving ahead very soon. When putting information in the bulletin for help, need to be specific. No current timeline.
2. Update on status of parish heating and cooling systems - In 2013, new boilers were put in, the parts replaced under warranty. Internal parts may need attention down the road.

Other updates: Replacing florescent lights with LED lights - 90% of the lights have been replaced. Parking lot light- last winter Skinkis snow removal backed into the pole and knocked it over. The light was replaced for the

safety aspect (less than \$1,700) 12 hours a day/10 cents. The wall in the school, far corner of the gym has issues with the foundation. It's not going to fall over tomorrow, but next year or two we are going to spend some money to firm up that area. The upper lot air conditioning fence - will be working on that this spring. Playground - have a little over \$4000 in funds and more committed. This spring will be replacing wood chips and one of the older equipment pieces will be removed. Any ideas for the playground please let us know.

#### **E. Christian Women**

1. Update on any plans for 2020 (Polka Mass and luncheon?)  
Vicariate meeting: Fr. celebrating mass, the Christian Women will be serving lunch. A potluck with auction – money goes to St. Vincent DePaul. Cathy Rydzewski usually contacts them, but this year has not. Amy to check with Cathy to contact them. Who should be the contact person? Christian Women? Subcommittee of Christian Women?
2. Any other business the council needs to know about – The prayer chain - - did it fall by the way? Mary Kemp and Paula to work together. Contact persons for the prayer chain is Paula and Mary. It needs to be put it in the bulletin.

There are concerns about using the equipment in the kitchen at school. Lee has a form for people to complete that are using the equipment. No one has permission to use the dishwasher. Could we put a lock on the dishwasher (switch)?

May Crowning - - who is responsible for it? John in religious education.

#### **F. Worship/Liturgy/Church Environment**

1. Discussion on the need to bring this committee back - Someone approached Dcn. Rich why we don't have a Worship committee – tabled till next meeting. Ask around if anyone is interested. The group deals with worship space in the church, decorating, special seasons (Lent, Christmas, etc.) Ministers of the Eucharist: A calendar for people to use? Listing the dates when John, etc. would be doing special masses.

#### **G. Christian Services** (Andy Huettl)

1. Update on plans for 2020 - Groups discussing who needs help (St. Vincent DePaul), Jerry and Peg Saindon-counseling men; Lisa Leisgang – homeless meals: host a meal every month, third Thursday of every month, serve 80-120 people each month. We work with Pat from Isaar Inn; she does the cooking. Serving/cleaning till 7:45 pm at night. Jim and Rosie Wurl and two other workers. The Monday morning men's group helps with monetary donations. They also can sit down with the guests. Families could sign up and help serve (Age limit – 13 for hot food serving).

2. Any other business the council needs to know about - Adult mental health training is in February. Promoting health issues assistance by putting flyers in the bulletins. Would like to do talks in church about families doing a service at their convenience (Andy could bring ideas to our next meeting.)

6. New Business:

- Presentation on the need for a Security Team for weekend masses (Dave Steffens)
  - Security team – do we need one?
  - Funerals here worried about gang ties, volatile
  - Father, Deacon in front
  - Areas of focus: Do we have a security plan in church? Emergency evacuation plans? Not a matter of having armed people in church. People coming in at odd times during mass. How can we eliminate risk, liability, etc.?
  - A team of cross-sectional people, to secure
  - Cameras are the #1 deterrent – covers us in more ways
  - Signs on the grounds regarding no firearms on premises (in the church already)
  - Anyone that could assist in a mass casualty situation?
  - No one has asked for a squad car to make a couple pass-bys during mass times
  - Welcomes any feedback, take a look at the handout
  - Want to be prepared if anything happens
  - Suggestion from Dave: Willing to Chair or help committee. Have multiple presentations after mass - - to protect the integrity of the church, here is our plan of action moving forward in lieu of 2020 (weather, etc.) Would rather have people on a security team, back of church, two in the back row.
  - Timeframe: not yet, but would like to have something implemented before summer.
  - Cameras - - cost? CSQ Company in Green Bay, something saved on video for seven days would be fine for us and we could video over it. Approximately \$2,500 with door security
  - Five individuals for a committee: Dcn. Rich, Jill, Andy Patz, and ?
  - Get a couple different bids from individuals (put name out there and get a discount)
  - Silent alarm? Connected with dispatch system-Seymour Police
  - Best meeting time for Dave: can adjust schedule to meet.
  
- Dedication of the outdoor St. John the Baptist statue (possible date of 4/26/20): Need someone to build a pedestal: Jill will talk to her husband, Phil. Possibly a parish gathering or last day of CCD.

- Report on needed church organ repairs: \$9150 repairs needed for years. An estate that just came through that will cover the cost. Repair people came today to pick up pipes, but we can still play the organ. Thanks to the family.
- Discussion on the need to have a parish “go to” person for Facebook entries. A high school person would work well. This is a good way to get the information out to the young people. John Stelz to possibly reach out to a High School student. Start small, one post a day or three times a week. Come back to the next meeting with people that may be good for it.
- Spring Election/Selection process – tabling it for now.
- Reminder of our parish’s commitment to Good Shepherd Nursing Home. Nursing Home meetings: They have two representatives from the parishes attending meetings. This is an opportunity to re-establish the connection with the nursing home (nine parishes are part of it). We need to find two reps: Andy Huettl will be one of the representatives from St. John’s.
- Parish Mission Planning: need several volunteers to study the parish, what we want to have. Need at least four. There is a workshop in March that will need to have names submitted soon.
- Council input on our parish moving ahead with Phase III: In the 90’s I-replace roof and interior lighting in church; II-remodel worship space; III-gathering space
- Rectory is getting worse, a problem now with the chimney. Time to start looking at replacing the rectory, a possible apartment for the pastor in the new gathering space. Some money is set aside for Phase III, but not enough. Need to make the decision and put the plan in place. The parish needs to be behind this. The parish needs to see what it will look like. Will revisit in May.

7. Old Business

8. Items for Next Agenda - Eighty percent (80%) of our time should be about the future. Please keep this in mind when you bring your information into the agenda.

9. Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Look for what you did now and what you plan on doing for the next three months. Dcn. Rich has a format for each quarter. If you would like to discuss something specific, please let the chairperson know for the agenda.

10. Closing prayer: Fr. Sengole