

**Blessed Trinity Parish  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
August 24, 2023 6:30 PM Catholic Life Center-Parish Meeting Room**

**Present:** Deb Hasler, Kelly Jens, Sarah Schueffner, Jim Klich, Sandy Jordan, Chris Audino, Scott Birenbaum, Mary Jo Schultz, Sam Steckbauer, Terry Rotter and Fr. Jonathon Schmeckel

**Excused Absence:** Liz Holtz, Tim Woodworth and Mason Klahn

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Schmeckel

**Introduction and Welcome of new Pastoral Council Members – Deb Hasler for Tim Woodworth**

Adult: Scott Birenbaum, Mary Jo Schultz, Sam Steckbauer

**Approval of Agenda:**

Chris Audino moved to approve the agenda. Fr. Schmeckel seconded it. Agenda approved with the additions of Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes and Withdrawal of Current Pastoral Council Member & Life Fair request under New Business.

**Approval of Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – May 25, 2023**

Chris Audino moved to approve the minutes. Kelly Jens seconded it. Minutes approved as written.

**Approval of Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – June 28, 2023**

Fr. Schmeckel moved to approve the minutes. Chris Audino seconded it. Minutes approved as written.

**Committee Reports**

Committee reports were emailed to the Council members before the meeting. Council members had an opportunity to ask questions to the liaisons at the meeting.

**Old Business:**

- Pastoral Council Retreat/Called and Gifted Workshop– Fr. Schmeckel  
Sarah Schueffner will generate a list of Friday evening dates in October and November that may work to have a retreat. The initial thought is to have the retreat from 5:00/5:30 – 8:30PM. After the date is chosen, a location and other details will be decided.
- Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 20 – update – Kelly Jens  
Overall, it was a good event. The attendance was down which was possibly due to the warm weather that day. Positive comments were shared about the music and the other activities that were offered. As preliminary numbers were figured, the event was profitable even though the purpose of the event is fellowship.
- Mass Schedule Change – Feedback – Fr. Schmeckel  
No comments have been heard about the Mass schedule change. It was felt that the letter written by Fr. Schmeckel explaining the reasons behind the change was helpful to parishioners.
- Continue Committee Presentations during PC meetings? – Deb Hasler  
The Council felt that they would like to continue having committee presentations. A time allotment for the presentation will be suggested to keep the presentation only to necessary information as well as to keep the Council meeting moving. A schedule will be made for the presentations.

- Social Saturdays/Sundays on hold...write-ups in the bulletin/pre-Mass slides? – Deb Hasler  
The Council felt that pre-Mass slides would be informative to parishioners as well as possibly draw interest for new members to the committees. A schedule will be made stating each committee and what dates they should have slides prepared. The liaisons will help the committees to make sure they stay on schedule.

**New Business:**

- Pastoral Council Officer Discernment – Deb Hasler  
Chairperson - TBD  
Vice-Chairperson - TBD  
Secretary – Sarah Schueffner
- Pastoral Council Commission/Committee Liaison Discernment – Deb Hasler  
Evangelization & Formation:  
Evangelization – Sarah Schueffner  
Religious Education/Youth & Young Adult Ministry – Sam Steckbauer  
Catholic Life Center – Jim Klich  
Human Concerns – Mary Jo Schultz  
Liturgy – Scott Birenbaum  
Stewardship/Community Building – Kelly Jens  
Building Committee – Tim Woodworth  
Finance Council – Tim Woodworth  
Archdiocese Planning/Deanery – Chairperson
- 2023-24 Schedule for Opening Prayers – Deb Hasler  
Deb Hasler will make a schedule stating which Pastoral Council Member will share an opening prayer at each Pastoral Council meeting.
- Withdrawal of current Pastoral Council Member – Deb Hasler  
Liz Holtz is withdrawing from the Council. A few contacts will be made to try to find a replacement for the remaining year of her term.
- Life Fair request – Deb Hasler  
Mary Jo Widder asked the Council to consider granting approval for hosting a Life Fair. A group would come with information, games and activities that focus on celebrating life. Deb will send Council members information that she received from Mary Jo Widder. The Council is asked to review the materials and be prepared to share their thoughts at the September meeting.
- New Chairperson for the Mainstreet Days Parade needed – Deb Hasler  
The parade will be held on Saturday, December 2 at 4:30PM. A chairperson is needed for the parade committee. Deb Hasler will reach out to a few people to see if they are interested in leading this group.
- Jerry Ziegler Lifetime Achievement Award – Deb Hasler/Sandy Jordan  
The Jerry Ziegler Award will be presented at Autumn Fest. Sarah Schueffner and Chris Audino will submit a list of names of parishioners deserving of this award to Fr. Schmeckel for consideration.
- Thoughts from Parishioners – Chairperson  
Nothing at this time

**Administrator's Report – Fr. Schmeckel**

- Fr. Schmeckel shared that he sent a letter to the Archbishop asking to be named Pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish and St. John Evangelist Parish. He is waiting to be notified of this request.
- Our parishes have been designated as 'teaching parishes' for a Seminarian from Saint Francis de Sales Seminary. His name is Jacob Bruns and he will be with us on weekends and at other times for the next four years. He will serve in different roles as he continues his formation and preparation for the priesthood.
- A parishioner is currently going through the diaconate training.
- The parish has received approval to add a handicap bathroom in the CLC. This is something we have been needing and are excited to be able to provide. Autumn Fest and Take & Bake Casseroles will be dedicating their proceeds to this project.

**Prayer Intentions and Closing Prayer – Fr. Schmeckel**

**Adjournment: 8:10PM**

- Important Dates:
  - Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Wed., September 27, 2023 Joint Meeting with SJE, 6:30PM
  - Autumn Fest – November 11, 2023
  - Meet & Greet Schedule: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094DA4A72BA3F94-meet>