

St. Catherine of Alexandria
8661 North 76th Place, Milwaukee, WI 53223

St. Catherine of Alexandria, the church on the hill since 1855, joins together as a Catholic community to give praise and thanks to God by living and sharing our faith in Jesus Christ through our worship, formation and outreach.

With our cluster parishes, we strive to make Christ visible to our wider community.



Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2017

Attendees: Council members Sue Armacost, Ralph Boeckl, Marie Brushafer, Maureen Conaty, Rick Korpela (Trustee Treasurer), Lyn Keever, Pat Lehman (Trustee Secretary), Lynne LeMense, Jeanette MacMurdo, Sue Niemi, Les Paulson, and Debbie Hintz (Parish Director)

No other parishioners were present.

Before the formal beginning of the meeting, those present briefly toured the upper parking lot to better visualize its possible expansion.

Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. and Maureen Conaty led the opening devotion.

Approval of the February 28, 2017 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rick Korpela, seconded by Pat Lehman, and adopted.

Committee Reports (questions/clarifications)

- The Christian Formation, Prayer & Worship, and Stewardship committee liaisons reported no meetings in the past month; the School Advisory Committee, currently being restructured, also had no meeting.
- Maureen Conaty reported on a Tri-Parish Human Concerns Committee meeting at which the proposed *Take Back the Streets* ministry was reviewed and a Winter Market and Brunch, which St. Catherine will host next January, was discussed. She also reported on a Human Concerns Committee meeting at which the St. Vincent de Paul meal program was discussed, Lenten almsgiving was reviewed, and a "community conversation" held at the Muslim mosque with the Captain of the 4th District" was reported to be a success, with a few hundred in attendance.
- Ralph Boeckl reported that the Finance Council at its meeting heard of new lights for the main parking lot, discussed a new fire alarm system for the school building, heard Katy Young provide budget updates, and considered long-term capital improvement projects, including a new boiler for the school building. Debbie Hintz noted that the new lights are not yet installed but only ordered and that there are no immediate plans for a new boiler.

Parish Council Elections/Nomination & Selection Committee Updates

The committee (Marie Brushafer, Lyn Keever, and Jeanette MacMurdo) reported that there are two or three firm "maybes" for election to the Pastoral Council and that at least a couple of prospective candidates will attend the information meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5. Marie and Lyn (if she is able) will host and lead that meeting.

Expansion of Upper Parking Lot

When the upper lot is busy, there is double parking there; it is a much used space at times. People thinking that the lot is full might be deterred from coming to St. Catherine. It was suggested that designating more parking

spaces for the handicapped might be helpful, but caution was voiced that such signs, even though they stipulate that such spaces are reserved only during mass, might deter people from parking there at other times. It was recommended that maybe two or three additional handicapped spots could be designated for now. Sue Armacost wondered if lighting would be needed in a lot expansion; it will be considered. Different configurations for an expanded lot have been considered; at least two or three bids will be sought.

Parish Director's Report

Debbie reported that a prospective lessee for the school building, unable to arrange expansion in grade coverage in its program, has backed out. The property is proving attractive to prospective tenants, with the soccer field being a definite asset.

Debbie distributed flyers promoting the "State of the District" event on Wednesday, April 5, and encouraged Council members to attend.

A columbarium for the cemetery needs approval from the archdiocese, a process which is proving to be quite complex; for now our emphasis will be on marking out additional grave sites.

Cheryl Rebholz, Debbie noted, has presented a welcome card suggestion which will be considered by the Prayer & Worship Committee. Our pews would not so easily accommodate a welcome card at this time, but possibilities will be considered. The importance of taking steps to make people feel welcome was noted. Pat Lehman related that she had visited a California parish which was large and active and showed much creative activity, but she did not feel particularly welcome there.

Debbie urged Pastoral Council member participation in the special April 1 events at St. Bernadette and in the St. Catherine foot washing rite on Holy Thursday. She also noted that a sign-up sheet for liturgical ministers for Holy Week will be available at masses on April 1 and 2. (Sign ups have already been happening through email.)

What are you hearing?

Sue Armacost noted that the parish cookbook project will start on April 1 and 2 and continue to early June; recipe forms will be available in the bulletin and online. Each contributor will be limited to five recipes. Will the project succeed? There will be no lack of encouragement or effort; as Sue insisted, "We'll forge ahead."

Maureen Conaty commented on the attendance drop at the Saint Vincent de Paul meal program. She and Rick Korpela both noted that the reasons for the drop are being examined; the change to a different night might be especially significant, with different staffing and a different site also perhaps playing a part.

Closing Prayer

All present joined in the "Prayer of Thanksgiving for La Sagrada Familia." At about 7:45 p.m., the meeting was concluded.