

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

June 27, 2017

Attendees: Out-going Council members Maureen Conaty and Lynne LeMense, newly-elected Council members Barb Holt and Sue Wassenberg, re-elected Council member Sue Niemi, and Council members Sue Armacost, Ralph Boeckl, Marie Brushafer, Rick Korpela (Trustee Treasurer), Lyn Keever, Pat Lehman (Trustee Secretary), Jeanette MacMurdo, Les Paulson, and Debbie Hintz (Parish Director)
Also present was Dean Wassenberg, a parishioner and husband of Council member Sue Wassenberg.

Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.; Parish Director Debbie Hintz led the opening devotion.

Introduction of new council members

Barb Holt and Sue Wassenberg were introduced and welcomed to their council membership.

Acknowledgement of departing council members

Gratitude was expressed to Maureen Conaty and Lynne LeMense for their service on the Pastoral Council.

Comments from Parishioners who are present

Dean Wassenberg encouraged Council members to "enjoy your meeting."

Approval of the March 28, 2017 Minutes

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

Committee Reports (questions/clarifications)

- The Christian Formation Committee, reported Lynne LeMense, reviewed the number of students from our cluster parishes receiving first reconciliation and communion and confirmation this spring; registration for the 2017-2018 school year starts in June. Summertime and early fall activities for youth are being planned and the relationship of adult Christian Formation and youth programs is being examined.
- Rick Korpela presented a Finance Council report. The Council chose Pieper Power to install a fire alarm system in the school building. The Council also noted that contributions are running ahead of budget projections. The new budget is still a stripped-down budget but does include rental income now that the Carter Christian Group has agreed to an eleven month lease; Northwest Catholic is considering our school as its possible future home. A maintenance budget could include repair of stone, a repair of the wood fascia on the school building, a repair of the Granville Room ramp carpet, repair of stone tuck seal and upper wood eaves on the church, and an expansion of the upper parking lot. A thorough school clean-up will be done as part of a regular maintenance program. Barb Holt wondered if Faith in Our Future funds might be used for educational efforts; Jeanette suggested that a fire alarm system be considered for the upstairs church offices.
- Maureen Conaty reported that the Human Concerns Committee has been maintaining a focus on active participation in the community, including the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry, Clothing Closet, and Household Goods distribution, an Adopt a Block program, and participation in a District 4 Faith Based Group.

- Sue Armacost's report on the June 7, 2017, meeting of the Prayer & Worship Committee noted its focus on a Vision for Liturgy (ways to bolster a welcoming and spiritual atmosphere at our liturgies) and the development of the theme "Go Make a Difference," along with practical steps to implement the vision and the theme.
- The School Advisory Committee is currently under reconstruction.
- Marie Brushafer reported that the Stewardship Committee had reviewed the Volunteer Appreciation Event and agreed again to meet again to receive other materials and consider more initiatives on Monday, August 3, before Debbie's sabbatical begins.

Election of officers

Nominated by Les Paulson with a second by Marie Brushafer, Sue Niemi agreed to another term as president and was unanimously approved. Nominated by Sue Niemi, Sue Armacost agreed to another term as vice-president and was unanimously approved. Nominated by Jeanette McMurdo, Les Paulson agreed to another term as secretary and was unanimously approved.

Selection of Committee Liaisons

Members were asked to indicate their preference for the committees on which they wished to serve, with two members to be appointed to each committee (no School Advisory Committee at this time). Current members related something of the activities of each committee and the times and approximate frequency of meetings.

All Parish Meeting

Debbie Hintz noted that one all parish meeting is mandated each year; in 2016 it was held as the regular Pastoral Council meeting in September. With Debbie soon on her sabbatical, the next all parish meeting will not be held until after she returns, perhaps on a Sunday after mass and/or with a breakfast. The subject will be brought up again.

Calendar 2017/2018

The calendar will be updated with a Tri-Parish meeting to take place in January. Lynne LeMense suggested taking another look at the election (of new members) schedule.

Updates on school rental

The new school in our building will be sponsored by Carter Christian School and serves primarily Somali refugee families; it is still organizing but going ahead with educational efforts serving close to 150 students. The school is delighted with the soccer field.

Committee updates via the bulletin

Sue Armacost suggested explaining in the bulletin what committees do and how people can relate to that. Jeanette McMurdo urged pointing out areas where people can invest their talents and Maureen Conaty called for making specific connections to possible involvement. The consensus was that it is a good idea to put such information in the bulletin and on the phone app. But who would implement this project and who would choose the monthly emphasis? Lyn Keever is willing to help as much as possible. It was agreed to proceed after August when the committee assignments have been determined.

2017-2018 Parish Budget Report

Contributions are running ahead of expectations, which will be reported in the bulletin and online.

Parish Director's Report

Debbie Hintz mentioned that phone app use is growing; people are learning how to use it. Rick commented that plans have to be made for operating in Debbie's sabbatical absence. Debbie is working with staff on that.

What are you hearing?

Marie Brushafer urged telling people of *Holy Hill* activities. Jeanette agreed to take notes at the August Council meeting in Les' absence.

Closing Prayer

All present participated in the closing prayer; the meeting was adjourned about 8:30 p.m.