

Parish Council (PC) Minutes from 2/24/24

Approved: 6/22/24

In attendance: Georgeanne Hogan, Dino Pezzimenti, Joan Dobles, Jack Marsharell, Kathleen Raniewicz, Jeff Small, Marcia O'Brien, Eric Traugott, Fr. Eloo Nwosu

Meeting opened with prayer by Dino Pezzimenti.

Joan Dobles welcomed as the new FUNdraising representative.

Minutes from 12/9/23 with corrections unanimously approved. Motion from Kathleen and seconded by Eric.

Mission Statement draft reviewed and discussed. Editing corrections recommended.

Criteria for PC membership draft reviewed and discussed. Editing corrections recommended.

Discussed recommendations made by PC members for Pastoral appointees to PC with Fr. Eloo. He will consider recommendations and advise PC of his intended appointee(s). The Council would like to have representation from younger parishioners. The appointees' decision needs to be made by end of May so they can be ready to participate in the June meeting. ACTION FR. ELOO

Motion made by Marcia to recognize Lisa Guernsey for all the service she has provided to our Parish. Unanimously approved to have a card signed by PC and send flowers to her home. ACTION ERIC

Jeff Small will be the Vice-Chair of the PC Executive Committee. Motion made by Joan, seconded by Dino, unanimously approved.

As written in the Mission Statement of the PC, the primary role of the PC will be to make sure the recommendations made in our Parish Long-term plan are implemented. To that end, each month one of the committees will be asked to give an update to the PC about progress made and relay any needs, barriers, or changes to recommendations. At this meeting, Marcia gave an update for Spiritual Life Committee (SLC) including the input forwarded by Mary Kay Doyle in absentia.

Spiritual Life Committee report:

- Mary Kay's report in absentia: SLC continues to meet to develop the process to assess and implement opportunities for spiritual growth, cradle to grave, in collaboration & cooperation with parishioners, committees and staff in the parish. We are listening and connecting people who have expressed similar needs/interests in order to seed some grass roots activity (ie: young adults.) and to identify some natural leaders to participate in future planning discussions.
- Recommendations from the L/T plan
  1. Provide healing resources. SLC working on collecting these. Difficulty is finding the right source to house them.
  2. Create a "Roots of our Faith" program (like a deeper RCIA for adults who are Catholic but have forgotten some of the tenets of the Faith). SLC interested in starting a series based on books published by Scott Hahn, published by Ignatius Press.
  3. Deliver "Revive our Hearts" retreat. Advent Retreat organized in conjunction with Faith Formation. Based on favorable feedback, more retreats will be planned.

4. Deliver additional "Healing Testimonies". First set of testimonies favorably received. Additional opportunities tbd.
  5. Increase participation in Christ Life program. TBD
  6. Establish council of all spiritual life committees and groups. Thus far Mary Kay is invited to Liturgy Committee to share information. Establishing council TBD but SLC has identified the groups who lack spiritual formation programs/opportunities outside of Liturgy. (see "radar" comments from PC below).
  7. Consider a change in Mass logistics. Some changes in daily Mass times and days have occurred as well as establishing a monthly family mass and children's choir (thanks to Liturgy Committee for making that happen). Follow-up on other recommendations tbd.
  8. Encourage small groups tbd.
  9. Reach out to families tbd.
  10. Increase opportunities for Adoration. Thanks to Georgeanne Hogan that has started and attendance is increasing.
- Survey results from the October 2023 Ministry Fair indicate that people are interested in spiritual growth opportunities such as in order of interest: Adult Ed. Classes, Bible study, book club(s), quiet Holy hours, Scripture reflection and discussion, prayer group, group Rosary, guided Holy hours, prayer chain. Since then the SLC has:
    1. Organized an adult portion of the Parish Advent Retreat which included a guided meditation, healing hour, and time spent with the children during the Faith Formation portion of the Advent retreat.
    2. Originated a 2<sup>nd</sup> book club
    3. Marcia purchased a Leader's Guide to Adult Faith Formation from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. No action taken on this yet.
    4. Marcia reported that the committee is considering organizing a small discussion group based on a book, Beautiful Eucharist, a compilation of experiences people have by participating in Adoration. The book is being reviewed by SLC and Georgeanne.
  - The overarching tenet of the SLC is to listen to parishioners about how the Holy Spirit is speaking to them. Whenever there are several people who are being led in the same direction, provide organizational backing and support for that activity. SLC wants to fan the flame the Holy Spirit starts.

PC discussion of SLC report:

- See #6 recommendation. Liturgy has also identified the same groups of people who are currently not within current offerings "radar". It was expressed that the PC should take ownership of how the needs of these group(s) can best be met given our current resources and ensure that those needs are being met across all committees in a collaborative and holistic way.
- There was quite a bit of support for offering adult faith formation opportunities especially during times of retreat and when confirmation classes are being held.
- At future PC meetings, reports from other committees will follow the same format. FUNdraising will be asked to talk about progress at the next PC meeting.

Other business:

- Jack reported that the finance committee is developing a finance policy for St. Christopher. Future financial requests for money and advice should first be sent through the finance council.
- Jack also reported that a follow-up meeting will be scheduled based on the 2/14/24 meeting held with Diocesan representatives about financial processes. ACTION JACK
- A suggestion was made to have a “Parish Council Corner” type spot in Flocknotes. If approved by the Communications Committee, the first entry will be the Mission Statement and PC member names. ACTION ERIC
- PC should discuss how to collaborate with other parishes, perhaps socially at first.

Meeting adjourned after blessing by Fr. Eloo.

Next meeting Saturday June 22, 9:30 – 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marcia O'Brien*

Marcia O'Brien  
Recording Secretary