

St. Christopher Parish Council
Minutes from June 22, 2024
Approved via email 6/29/24

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

Meeting opened with prayer by Jeff Small.

New member Maryalice Kaminski welcomed. Kathy Franca is also a new member. Both are representing young families.

Last meeting minutes approved: Motion by Jeff, 2nd by Dino. All approved.

Mission Statement approved with minor grammar corrections: Motion by Mary Kay, 2nd by Joan. All approved

Criteria for Membership approved: Motion by Jeff, 2nd by Jack. All approved.

Communications Pillar report

- Team members: Eric Traugott, Georgeanne Hogan, Mary Pryor, Bill Wolcott, Jamie LaVigueur
- Pillar goals from L/T Plan
 1. Ensure transparent and regular communication to parish of significant developments
 2. Provide two-way communication between leadership and parish
- What has been done:
 1. Redesigned website
 2. Survey tool complete
 3. More focused social media campaigns
 - Meta (FB)
 - Reach increase 227%
 - Content interactions increase 321%
 - Followers increase 128%
 - Experimented with paid ads
 4. Yearlong advertising in Westside News
 5. Flocknotes redesigned. Flocknotes is the most used type of media.
 6. Presented at masses on various topics
 7. Transparency on expenditures
- Future plans
 1. Incorporate portals within website
 2. Include page in website for Parish Council to be updated frequently
 - Diagram of who represents which Pillar/committee
 - Once a month blurb about ongoing activities and/or news items
 - Post meeting agenda
 3. Redesign website pages for weddings and funerals
 4. Evaluate need for additional survey
 5. Focus on increasing traffic on Instagram

6. Vary Meta posts to engage audiences
 7. Develop welcome flyer
 8. Advertise Speaksee
 9. Think about preparing for another Town Hall
 10. Eucharistic Congress updates
- Needs
 1. Better flow of communication between all groups about upcoming events and programs including contacting Mary in the office about plans
 - Communications pillar can help other groups get the word out about their activities
 - Each group cc parish council in on events
 - General Discussion
 1. Generally agreed we need to get the word out that we are “open”. How do we best do that?
 2. All parish council members with a Facebook or Instagram account should regularly seek out St. Christopher pages and comment, like or share. This increases visibility to others.
 3. Having Speaksee is a benefit for those hard of hearing and at least one parishioner has returned because of it.
 4. Need to communicate to the parish at large about outcome of meeting with Bishop Matano. Ideas:
 - Post pdf/PPT files on web site and make sure people know they are there
 - Publish Bishop’s comments in some format
 - Have a September Town Hall meeting beginning with what the parish council is doing and include Bishop’s meeting. Include financial update. Tentative date September 14/15. Need a person willing to plan this.
 5. Need to communicate to parish that is committed to our plan, be a thriving parish. It takes work, hard work, and we need to keep the energy and motivation up.

Needs of Other Pillars

Community Building

- Refocus on L/T plan recommendations and actions
- What is necessary to complete actions
- Should actions include collaboration with other parishes?
- Is this pillar a clearinghouse for activities being planned by other pillars/committees to avoid duplication and bolster participation?
- Would like to host another ministry fair. Tentative date September 28/29 - Kathleen.
- Community Building pillar has always struggled because it seems to be redundant to other pillars like FunDraising. Possible redefinition included separating the pillar’s efforts to address internal and external community building separately and possibly establishing clearer definitions between FUNdraising and Community Building activities.

- i) Internal ideas
 - (1) include Family Life (seems to be some interest in reviving this group)
 - (2) Update parish directory online
- ii) External ideas
 - (1) Get tables at community events like canal days and fairs
 - (2) Chili recreation Bingo night allows community groups to have tables. Kathleen will look into.
 - (3) Host an open house pancake breakfast
 - (4) Host a Journey to Bethlehem (living nativity)
 - (5) Offer free concert featuring Bodjiaks (and publicize their concerts elsewhere)
 - (6) Offer free choir concert and invite other parish choirs to perform
 - (7) Get history buffs to research original designer Wendell Castle.

Next parish council meeting will highlight Community Building Pillar to follow-up on these conversations.

Spiritual Life

- Would like to get feedback from young adults and young families on areas of interest to aid in planning events/activities that are wanted. The desire would be that the group can be self-leading (shared or rotational event leadership) and Spiritual Life would provide support.
 - Suggestion made to use social media and phone technology rather than try to set up a physical place and time for a focus group.

Finance

- Needs members
 - Suggestion made that people who may not be accountants can also be valuable participants on the committee.
- Accomplishments: now have a balanced budget and surplus funds in the bank

Executive Committee Top 3 areas parish council should prioritize

- 1) Membership
- 2) Spiritual growth of parish
- 3) Finances

Meeting adjourned with a closing blessing by Fr. Nwosu

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 6:30, Church hall

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia O'Brien

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Recording Secretary