

St. Rita Parish Pastoral Council
Tuesday, July 11, 2023
Church Narthex

Members in attendance: Fr. Michael, Dave Eberle, Bill Greinke, Ellie Hammond, Bob Mitchell, Pat Rossman, Mark Schmitz, Anna Marie Smetana and Jean Weaver. Dennis Collins, Trustee was also in attendance.

Excused: Sharon Gierahn, Trustee

The opening prayer was led by Father Michael at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dave Eberle to accept the June 13, 2023 minutes as read and it was seconded by Ellie Hammond.

Pastor's Report: Father reported that we're moving well along with the festival, CHIC and our SR finances. Father has not heard back from the Dioceses regarding our proxy. Also, Father received a letter today from Suzanne Kroes today announcing that she will be retiring from SR on September 19, 2023. A brief discussion followed regarding forming a search committee. Fr. was asked to have Suzanne review and update her job description as is currently on file regarding the position of Parish Business Manager. Much comment was made as to how Suzanne's years of dedication and professional work has benefited the parish through many challenges and how she will definitely be missed.

Year-End Financial Statement: Dennis Collins went over the 2023 Annual Financial Report to Parishioners statement dated June 30, 2023. He predicted his remarks by stating that if we have any specific questions to please contact Suzanne at the church office. Dennis went through the statement by line item; explaining last year's actuals, this year's actuals and what is budgeted for the upcoming year. We had a lengthy discussion regarding this statement which the Council **acknowledged receiving and having reviewed**. During this discussion the Siena School system was discussed and Bill suggested that before Suzanne leaves that we would appreciate her obtaining copies of all pertinent documents regarding the forming and functioning of the Siena School System and especially in relations to St. Rita Parish. Fr. will ask her.

CHISC Report: Myra met with her subcommittees before the holiday. They compose 3 work groups: to sell, to tear down the building, or to remodel it for parish or other usage. It was reiterated that the overriding consideration in each of these scenarios is "at what ultimate cost to the Parish. All the work groups are moving forward with the intended issues. The remodel work group has been working through several opportunities presented to them from organizations looking for a retreat center, retirement home use, or pregnant single women shelter. The Subcommittee looking into the elements of razing the building have reached out to a salvage company for a quote from them for the salvage value to us of any valuable items & materials they could get out of the building. They indicated an interest even if we remodel the building. The sale Subcommittee has found out there will be numerous civic administration issues tied to the sale of any portion or all of the property; such as zoning, State of Wisconsin issues, traffic patterns and so on. Also, contact

has been made with a destruction company to obtain a quote for an estimate on removing any hazardous material from the property. During discussions after a brief review of the building situation, the company suggested a minimal, working cost of \$10k for the removal of any hazardous material. They are well aware that this project is in the very early stages so it will be a number of months until they hear back from us. Hopefully by January there will be a guideline.

Annual Calendar: The Calendar for FY23-24 was discussed. It was tabled to address how the change of the festival date in 2024 to June will impact our calendar; specifically, what the impacts will be with our moving our PPC “skip” month to June. All to be discussed & determined at our September meeting.

Planning Special Committee (PSC):

- Bill sent us 2 tomes to review prior to the meeting. He pointed out that the PSC is at point where, having lost 3 members to other tasks & retirement, that an opportunity exists for the addition of new member perspectives to broaden our input horizons. The remaining members are Father, Bill, Jean and Ellie. Jean expounded on this as to getting a younger parish member involved and perhaps also one of the parish members who were earlier nominated to the PPC but didn’t make the cut, who really showed interest in the parish and its well-being. Bill has also been in contact with Michelle Remfry to possibly have a PFC member participate on the committee. After some discussion it was decided that the committee should pursue this expansion effort and report back on progress at the Sept. PPC meeting.
- Bill then presented a draft Charter for the PSC and proposed changing its status from Special Committee to the PPC to becoming a “Standing Committee”. It was explained that this proposal id prompted by the need for a full-time commitment to planning by the PPC as is stated in its charter from the Archdiocese. The subject of its efforts requires continual action, evaluation and reassessment toward setting goals and managing tasks to assess progress. With continued direct report to the PPC, this new status would put the PSC on par with the 4 PPC Commissions. Discussion followed and the Charter was accepted as written and the change to a Standing Committee were both unanimously approved.

Formation of Parish Safety & Security Committee (PSSC):

- Bill has discussed with Dan Schrank about the PPC handling this project moving forward. Dan Schrank has been doing a great job but he has so much on his plate that Bill thought this necessary in order to give this critical subject full and direct action, while relieving Dan of this additional burden. Bill proposed the creation of a PSSC under the direction of someone outside of the PPC with the background and ability to lead this project. One that has the expertise in communication with the various local safety departments such as the police and fire departments, knowing their procedures to integrate them into our planning, and does this level of planning & execution on a regular basis. Bill has had some discussion with a few people and David Smetana’s name came up Dave is a long-time parishioner, has been mentoring Dan in his efforts to date, and is the current Sheriff of Pleasant Prairie; having worked through the ranks of the Racine PD previously. Bill has contacted Dave to assess his interest and reported that Dave would be honored to take on the responsibilities.

- Bill then presented a draft Charter for this new committee; detailing its structure, mission, procedural actions and responsibilities with direct report to the PPC.
- Additionally, Bill also proposed “Standing Committee” status for the PSSC due to its critical purposes and need for quick response to its proposals. As with the PSC discussed above, this new committee needs to be a separate entity with direct report to the PPC. Neither committee has a fit under any of the four commissions and doing so would bury its efforts in further administration. So, forming these two stand committees is both practical and wise.
- The Arch Diocese’s direction to the PPC allows us to put together special and standing committees and by the same directive gives us the ability to bring in people outside the membership of the Parish Council.
- By unanimous agreement, the proposals for the formation of the a PSSC under the proposed Charter, as a Standing Committee was fully accepted as proposed. Dave Eberle made the acceptance motion and Mark Schmitz seconded it. The motion carried. Pat will update the organizational chart and distribute.

Liaison Reports: No reports/updates were given.

Election of Officers: The annual election of officers was conducted.

Nominations:

- Pat Rossman nominated Bill Greinke for Chairman and both Mark Schmitz and Jean Weaver 2nd the motion, Father asked Bill if he is willing to accept this position and Bill accepted. Motion carried.
- Myra Fox nominated Jean Weaver for Vice Chairman and Dave Eberle 2nd the motion. Father asked Jean if she is willing to accept this position and she accepted. Motion carried.
- Anna Marie Smetana nominated Pat Rossman for Secretary and Mark Schmitz 2nd the motion. Father asked Pat if she is willing to continue in this position and she accepted. Motion carried.

Old/New Business:

- Pat discussed the upcoming the 2023 Parish Councils Orientation dates at various churches in the Racine and surrounding areas. The information sheet was distributed.
- We needed to select a weekend where the new PPC membership could be introduced at all masses and get a blessing from Fr. Michael. The date that works best for the majority of us is September 9 & 10. This will be done towards the end of all masses.

- We also discussed that the meaning of membership with the RIC (Racine Interfaith Coalition) is more than writing a check. We will be requesting from RIC regular bulletin announcements sharing their activities with us but also having a 2-minute presentation when we have a 2nd collection for their behalf. This is done on an annual basis. Bil & Deacon Greg have this coordination in hand.
- Bill mentioned that there will be a “Scavenger Hunt” at this year’s festival regarding the history and facts of St. Rita parish. Its purpose is to generate discussion about the parish and to give opportunity for evangelization with the greater community attending the festival. Bill & Deacon Greg will be manning a Parish Information booth on the grounds as focal point for this effort. It will run Saturday and Sunday from noon until 4:00pm. PPC members are encouraged to stop by and add to the conversation. Please join the fun if you can.

Upcoming PPC Dates:

Tuesday, September 12, 2023
 Tuesday, October 10, 2023
 Tuesday, November 14, 2023

The closing prayer was led by Father Michael at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Rossman
 Secretary
 St. Rita Parish - Parish Pastoral Council