

**Church of St. Paul – Comfrey
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. – Church Basement**

Members present: Fr. Mark Steffl, Fr. Sam Perez, Fr. Tanner Thooft, Jim Rathman, Matt Eischen, Dale McMullen, Darrell Platz, Marianne Schotzko, Denice Evers, Judy Augustin, Matt Grausam, Samuel Rosemeier, Nellie Richter – Secretary

Members absent: Connie Kelly

Fr. Steffl led the group in prayer. Rathman called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

No Cemetery Report.

Agenda addition by Schotzko: Old Business – Meals served at June Fundraiser. M/S/C Schotzko, Evers to approve agenda with addition.

Minutes from June 8, 2023: Schotzko would like the wording changed to state she wanted the temperature in church to be set higher when church is not being used. M/S/C Evers, McMullen to approve the amended first sentence to read: Schotzko mentioned that the air conditioning temperature in church should be set higher when there are no activities planned in church.

Financials for May and June, 2023: Grausam noted that our Sunday Offerings were down almost \$15,000 compared to the budget for the fiscal year. It was down \$5,436 compared to last fiscal year-end totals. Increased fundraising and donations helped increase income for the fiscal year. The consolidated budget (Church and Rel Ed) had a net loss of \$7,863 for the fiscal year end, so money from the investments had to be transferred to cover operations cash flow. Interest paid during the year, even with withdrawals from the investment account, kept the balance fairly steady. Bill from Barke Lift & Level has not been received yet (work was done early July). No July Financials presented for this meeting. M/S/C McMullen, Schotzko to approve Financials.

Old Business:

Richter called Jon Vogel and left message on discoloration/staining in the NW entrance and also that the painting of the church interior was on hold for now. No reply was received.

Barke Lift & Level came early July and filled the void under the cement on North side of church. Haven't received much rain after this was done to know if this was the solution.

Fr. Steffl will donate a Wi-Fi extender so that the church can get Wi-Fi from the Parish Office and then Wi-Fi-enabled freeze alarms can be installed (Catholic Mutual requires these to be put in both church and parish office). Catholic Mutual also suggested having a back-up sump pump for church - Eischen said that although we have a back-up unit, it is not a battery back-up, so could have water issues if there is power failure during a rain event. Eischen will look into this more.

Leah Eischen advertised our Church Dinner in the Comfrey Parade in July.

Schotzko thanked everyone who helped with the June 11 Sandwich Fundraiser – by donating BBQ, chicken, cash donations, bringing a pan of bars and working.

Evers mentioned a Pizza Ranch pizza fundraiser she heard about, but not sure on cost per pizza or what we would receive per pizza. Decided that she should look into this more.

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Fr. Steffl asked if there was any mention on the letter that was sent out in June along with contribution statements? One suggestion was to possibly send them out earlier.

New Business:

Religious Education by Rosemeier: Parent Orientation was after Mass on August 27th and first class will be September 6th. Just going with grades 1-8 program this year, so may be down a few students as may lose younger family members with an older sibling.

Liturgy Report by Augustin: Choir is always looking for new choir members and they will be starting Advent and Christmas music soon.

CCW Report by Schotzko: Attended the National CCW Convention in August and received so much good information that she is planning to make an insert for the bulletin.

Liturgical Environment Report by Schotzko: Need new members to join.

Women's restroom in basement: McMullen said that toilet was not replaced when remodeled some years ago since that was the newest toilet at that time. He checked on the functioning of it and he felt there were no issues with it.

Parish Office signs – Rathman and Fr. Tanner will plan to get these hung up soon.

Church Dinner – Committee talked about possibly having General Raffle tickets be \$2.00 each and then each parishioner would receive less tickets and have tickets printed on copy weight paper and not cardstock – should save on cost of tickets and also when having to mail out the packets. Schotzko would like to start Country Store again. Evers suggested possibly the north park shelter as that is the direction most people head after getting their dinner meals. South Park was also mentioned, but since that is on the Drive-Thru route, that could be a hold up. Can put a notice in the bulletin on where to drop off items. Eischen said there are complaints on people waiting in line for Drive-Thru and he would like to have the walk-up window opened up again this year. Not sure where people would park if picking up meals at the walk-up window and this would strain the basement workers to get enough meals served up for the Drive-Thru line. More discussion continued. McMullen suggested letting the Dinner committee decide on how things will go.

Had a nice turnout for the August Adoration and the Eucharistic Revival presentation following. Evers asked Fr. Steffl if our Adoration in October could be switched to October 29th, since 22nd is our Dinner and basement will still be in disarray that evening. Fr. okayed this change.

Augustin said that Lori Schumann has been seeing bats in church – none in church proper – but in the basement.

Next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Fr. Steffl led the group in closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Sincerely submitted,
Nellie Richter - Secretary