

St. Matthew Parish Council Minutes 7 January 2020

Present: Fr. Bob Kabat, Ann Weiss, Dave Dionne, Dick Peters, Clare Schumacher, Matthew Raymaker, Peter Weiss, Ted Phernetton and Dianna Langner
Guests: Ann Froelich, Anissa Lodzinski, and Mike Westenberg

1. The meeting opened with prayer at 6:30 p.m.
2. The Parish Council welcomed Margaret Franchino, the Brown County Community Garden Coordinator, for a presentation of her programs and an exploration of a possible community garden site at St. Matthew. Ms. Franchino spoke about the types of gardens that are possible (pantry gardens, rental gardens, therapy gardens, school gardens, etc.) and explained why such gardens are desirable and useful to the community. She also spoke about administrative oversight, liability, garden tools and supplies, timelines and soil testing. Fr. Bob said that the interest in a community garden at St. Matthew's arose from a social justice outreach perspective as well as for giving our school students another opportunity for growth. An extended discussion followed. Some of the topics covered included: land use agreements, commitment timelines, working on a philosophy statement as to how this endeavor could fit into the parish mission, and the feasibility of a workable garden space on our property. Father Bob will invite Margaret Franchino back to look over our proposed site and answer further questions that arose from our discussion of her presentation; he will then bring more information back to the next parish council meeting. If the council recommends moving further with planning, it is projected that a community garden at St. Matthew would be planned for 2021. More information will come from the next parish council meeting.
3. The minutes of the November 2019 meeting were approved and the discussion of chapters 47-48 of A Church on the Move and the next book we will begin was moved to the upcoming March meeting.
4. Updates: A. Snow pants and snow boots drive: A total of 104 snow pants, 87 pairs of boots and 9 coats were distributed to Head Start, Chappell, Fort Howard, Anne Sullivan, Tank and Baird. We thanked Matt Raymaker, Clare Schumacher and Fr. Bob for their leadership with this successful drive. Fr. Bob read a thank-you note from Baird School. There was some discussion of including hats and mittens in next year's drive and ways to fine tune an already well organized project. Our thanks to the leaders and to all who contributed to this effort. B. Peter Weiss updated the council on his "Open Wide Our Hearts" project. Over 50 people came to the 6:30 - 8:30 pm program at St. Matthew. A lively discussion took place that evening and the presentation was visited the following day by our third and fourth grade students. The program is coming back to our parish on Martin Luther King Day for students and others who wish to attend. The program will also travel to U.W.G.B., Resurrection, the Norbertine Center, and the Grace teacher inservice. This program has helped to renew our parish efforts to reach out in meaningful and respectful ways to minority people in our area. C. Father Bob has not received feedback on our noon prayer parish initiative; however, over 800 cards have been taken so far.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Our next council meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Peters Secretary
8 January