

St. Joseph Pastoral Parish Council

Meeting Minutes, 17 July 2018

1. The meeting was called to order with prayer at 7:06 pm. Members present were Jeff Donahue, Kevin James, George Johnson, Julie Kuehler, Reino Mejia, Lynn Renna, David Wilkinson, Ben Williams, Parochial Vicar Fr. Tim Nadolski, and Pastor Fr. Paul Moreau.
2. Minutes from the May meeting were approved as read. New Parish Council members Dee Elliott and Jose Perlera were introduced (the other two incoming members had schedule conflicts).
3. Ex Officio Reports
 - a. Finance Committee: Tim Janke reported that the next meeting will be August 22nd after a summer break. The budget for next year has been completed; a report on the previous year is being worked on for distribution in September. The school will aim to get a report out at the same time; St. Joseph Charities may do so as well. Archbishop's Annual Appeal is going well, with 98% of target already collected. A total of approximately \$3,192,000 has been collected from the Capital Campaigns combined, with over \$500,000 coming in over the past fiscal year. Offertory is robust, and expenses remain below the amount budgeted.
 - b. Religious Education: Lynn Langston reported that classes are being transitioned to a new model, starting with the 1st graders this year, using ideas from EDGE and the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. (Fr. Paul mentioned that the pastor or his designate can be trained on the latter, Montessori-inspired program, and then train the rest of the staff.) The schedule is being reformatted to phase out 2nd Wave for kids who are not already in it. Discussion is continuing about First Communion Masses and how to best organize them. Efforts are being made to reduce the number of students in Basic Faith by getting more of them to go through the sacramental process at the usual time in the proper order. Children not showing up to RE between First Communion and Confirmation is still an issue, but getting a little better. A process is being put in place to prepare children with serious special needs for the Sacraments, following Archdiocesan protocol, every year or two. Office space has been rearranged; RE is now in Fr. Paul's old office. An issue was mentioned regarding an RCIA participant who was urged by ushers at the 8:15 Mass to receive Communion.

- c. St. Joseph School: Theresa Napoli reported that the school is at 151 students. The Archdiocese has refreshed goals for the school, including a new recruitment and retention initiative. There will be an internal accreditation visit in January/February. (District-wide external accreditation last year was passed with high marks.) An Annual Fund is to be reestablished in support of textbooks and instructional material. Fr. Paul noted that Fr. Tim is officially the chaplain of the school; morale has been greatly improved; we will continue to emphasize the main points of identity and mission.
- d. Liturgy Committee: Dave Wilkinson reported that there has been no meeting since the past Parish Council meeting. Dorota needs someone to take over the children's choirs. It is time to organize another Ministry Fair, focused on filling openings in essential liturgical ministries. Fr. Paul mentioned that identifying prospects and going after them individually is going to get better results. Fr. Tim recommended a parish survey. Fr. Paul added that the Hispanic culture of participation needs to be brought over to the Anglo community, including encouraging things like father/son altar-serving pairs.
- e. Public Relations Committee: Pete Konenkamp reported that parish communications are no longer going quiet over the summer. The parish is being kept open in general, with events such as the fireworks watching party on July 4th. The social media selfie challenge is really driving traffic. The Archdiocese requires two administrators for official media. Pete and Amanda Wilson have been serving in that capacity; Fr. Tim has been added. Editorial control needs to stay within the small administration group. Sharing information and publicity with the school is always a priority. Jane Sullivan is continuing to implement and harmonize branding.
- f. Building Committee: Plans for expansion of the rectory were on display. The total cost is expected to be around \$100,000 to \$120,000, with construction lasting four to five months; it will be funded from the improvement fund. This plan will be about one-third the cost, and much faster, than building a new structure on the lower 16 acres of the property. (Some facility could still be built in future on the footprint of the house that used to stand there.) Fr. Paul is to meet with representatives from Panera at the Prince Avenue property, towards a possible sale to close in August along the existing plan, which involved putting a restaurant into the original part of the church building. The status of decorative doors and the wooden ceiling have not been finalized; other things of value have been removed from the property.

4. Committee Reports

- a. Athens Catholic Radio: A meeting was held last Monday. The budget has been under discussion; expenses could be cut greatly if broadcast equipment could be moved out to parish property on Epps Bridge and a tower erected. (This would require a new engineering study for starters.)
- b. Stewardship: Fr. Tim has been working on getting an online giving system going (through OSV), to replace Paypal (which has been hardly used, and is an accounting nightmare on the parish's end). A launch is being planned which will include help for parishioners to get signed up on the spot.
- c. Buildings & Grounds: Cleanup around the stormwater pond went great; there were lots of people and it went quickly, and the county was happy at inspection. We will keep doing it periodically. The parish will contract with a grounds service every other week; other weeks we will have a steady volunteer group. The youth group will be recruited to wash and bleach the plastic tables and chairs throughout the building.

5. Hispanic Community: Community weddings will be promoted again for December.

6. Old Business

- a. Revised Bylaws: A final editing pass will be made, and the revised text then presented at a forthcoming meeting.

7. New Business

- a. Officers for 2018-2019: Officer elections will be held at the next meeting. Some new committee heads may also need to be chosen.
- b. Pastor's Notes: Fr. Paul wants to have a parish council where people press the pastor and speak up, not just acting as a rubber stamp. (Bylaws should thus not leave members open to being pushed out by the pastor.) At the same time, he would like to see efficient meetings. Visibility of parish council members was discussed; name tags will be made for new members. The parish will have an audit in coming weeks from the Archdiocese. The parish directory will be republished showing the current leadership structure, but also including a page acknowledging and thanking Fr. David.

8. Holding meetings on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 will be tried; it will be helpful to hold them earlier, and not on Fr. Tim's day off. That will put the next meeting on August 20th.

9. Closing prayer and adjournment was at 8:43 pm.