

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2023
7:00 pm

Attending:

Fr. Ernest, Katie Johnson, Tim Malone, Alex Clark, Chris Colohan, Erin Drumm, Beverly Freed, Lois Ann Guschke, Cathy Jones, Angel Martinez, Arlene Masters, George Minson, Joyce Navary, Chit Peters, Melisa Phillingane

Absent:

Melissa Pakurar, Tom Bahr, Meera Del Favero, Carl Grunow, Mally Mason, John Thompson, Rachel Watson (requested to be removed, illness)

Tim Malone opened the meeting by leading the group in the Pastoral Council prayer.

After review, George Minson made a motion and Joyce Navary seconded that the November 19, 2022, minutes be accepted.

Pastoral Council Meeting Communication

At the end of the November meeting Katie Johnson asked members to think about how Parish Council can communicate with parishioners. Tonight she led the group discussion, recognizing that a way to communicate in both directions needs to be set up. The goal is to be available to parish members, to invite and encourage suggestions, and to be transparent about what is happening. Beverly Freed agreed that it is important to be transparent. She asked about the status of having council member pictures in the commons, which had been mentioned in the fall. She reiterated the importance of wearing our Parish Council badges to Mass. Beverly also asked about the Suggestion Box. Angel Martinez said that he has it. This was originally Arlene's idea, and she will follow up. Katie added that the Suggestion Box should have instructions and follow-through for addressing issues presented. Other suggestions included sharing meeting minutes in the parish email and listing upcoming meetings in the bulletin, inviting interested parishioners to attend. Joyce Navary stated that the parish should know the Council's agenda, along with meeting date and time, and that Tim should be contacted if a parishioner has additional agenda items. Participation should be encouraged. Erin Drumm agreed and said she had been a parish member a long time and was never aware of what was going on at Parish Council. Tim said the agenda has not been published in advance as it is usually finalized so near the meeting date that there would not be time to meet the deadlines. Katie suggested it might be worded something like "topics to be included, agenda not finalized" and included in the email rather than the bulletin as the deadline for emails is not as tight as for bulletin announcements. Katie said that communication is done in four ways—bulletin, email, announcement at Mass, and the Facebook page/website. Beverly proposed creating a liaison between the committees/ministries and the Parish Council with a specific council member connected to each committee/ministry—to be an ear and voice for reporting issues and concerns, not necessarily to give answers. Katie agreed that committee liaison would be good, but she also felt we need a way for the general parishioner to feel connected. She suggested the possibility of a Parish Council email account. Beverly said it would be important to keep the specific responsible person in the loop regarding emails that come in. Alex Clark volunteered to set up and manage the email account. Katie will check with Melissa Pakurar to confirm Diocesan communication guidelines. Joyce asked about getting a list of current groups. Katie has that list, and she will email it (along with leaders and contact information) to all Council members. She will contact leadership so that they will be up to date.

Baptismal Font Repairs

Angel Martinez reported that repairs to the font were still in the exploratory phase. Goal is to eliminate what is unnecessary and keep the repair as simple as possible to take care of the leak. It will be after Easter before any work is started. If the footprint stays the same, approval is not required from the Diocese for a repair. Angel said Tim is more technical and we will take his lead, but hopefully this will be completed by year-end. Tim said the project will require new tile inside and new stone outside. Beverly questioned why the outside stone had to be replaced. Tim explained that the top flat part of the font has to be removed to work on the inside. If the stone is damaged, it will have to be replaced because matching stone is not available. We will not know what is required for the stone face until work is in progress. Fr. Ernest said this matter is best left to the experts.

Memory Garden

Cathy Jones met with Melissa Pakurar. There will be an announcement this weekend (January 21-22) and a sign-up poster in the commons to determine if there is sufficient interest in expanding the Memory Garden. We want to assess the interest before getting cost information from the vendor, but we can give an unofficial estimate of \$50 per brick based on prior cost if need be. The church has absorbed the previous deficit so we will be starting this at zero, but we need to be prepared for possible extra expenses (e.g., sinking). There is enough room for at least 100 more bricks and ways to expand the current space without damaging the tree. Katie said we will make an oral announcement first and then include it in the email the following week. Current committee members are Pat Blaszak, Tom Bahr, Evelyn Keesler, and Cathy.

Leaking Roof Update

Tim read a note from Melissa Pakurar regarding the sanctuary roof leak. The company the church hired has found the leak, and we are waiting for the written report and recommendations before repairs can be made. The company verbally explained that the leak appears to be from a structural defect when the building was constructed. There is not a thru-wall or cap flashing from the curved brick to catch and divert the water seeping through the brick and weeping holes for this area (facing Aldridge Avenue). Water runs along the steel beams until it drips onto the ceiling on both the right and left side of the sanctuary. The leak is a slow one, which made it difficult to detect.

Renting Out the Hall

Mally Mason was absent tonight. Her report was postponed until the February meeting.

Crucifix

Erin Drumm has not been able to meet with Melissa Pakurar yet. A parishioner would like to donate toward a crucifix for our worship space. The reason for not having one is unknown, but it is not a Vatican II issue. Installing a permanent fixture (hanging) requires approval from BARC or the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. However, we need a freestanding one due to the other ways the space is used. This topic will be added to February's agenda to allow Erin a chance to talk with Melissa.

Hospitality

Hospitality will be offered after the two Sunday Masses on the third Sunday of the month (not Saturdays at this time). Melisa Phillingane showed us a sample of the artwork for the sign that is being made. She has put up a hospitality donation box. She is working with Wyatt Signs in Petersburg to make 5" magnets at a cost of \$7 to sell for \$10 and window clings at a cost of \$1.80 to sell for \$5. She will go over the estimates with Melissa Pakurar. Melisa (Phillingane) would like to see Hospitality incorporated with our other ministries. She expressed interest in

having a ministry fair with all groups during a Sunday hospitality time to get more people involved. Beverly thought a ministry fair was a great idea. Maybe the initial one could be big and then alternate spotlighting on specific ones. Katie estimated there were 35-50 ministries. Melisa sees the Hospitality ministry as not just for food but a way of bringing people together and reconnecting.

Closing

The following items will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Please let Tim know if there are other items to consider.

1. Renting Out the Hall (Mally Mason)
2. Crucifix (Erin Drumm)
3. Communication Follow-Up (Katie Johnson)

Father Ernest led the closing prayer.

The next PPC meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.