

Sacred Heart Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Attendees:

Parish Council Members: President, Harry Workman, Vice- President, Cliff Morin, Secretary, Meg Guerriero, Sal DeDominicis, Al Smith, Maricris Matsikas, Margaret Honan, Susie Carlson, Susan Strait, Nancy Preimer. Not attending: Martha Clarke, Renee Santos

Staff: Monsignor Clancy

Trustees: Paul Lichtenberger and Cal DiPippo

The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm by Harry Workman. Msgr. Clancy led the group in an opening prayer.

Minutes for 1/11/18 meeting were distributed and read by the group. They were accepted with one note added. In the Winter/Spring Events heading, the date of the Easter event was changed from April 18th to April 1st.

Committee Reports:

Prayer & Worship: Committee met on 2/22/18 and discussed the Paschal Triduum planning for Easter. We will now have 3 additional altar servers. Paul Lichtenberger presented report.

Christian Formation:

Religious Education:

There are a total of 32 students registered and 22 families with 2 new families. Religious Ed is collaborating with the Youth Minister (YM) Steve Potyra. There are 11 volunteers, 1 new. One student is doing his confirmation on April 29th. The new confirmation classes have started. On April 21st, 4 students will be doing their First Reconciliation and on May 6th, First Communion. During the year there were two meetings with parents, 10/15/17 & 2/11/18. In Advent there was a Reconciliation Service for all students and a Family Advent Retreat on 12/9/17. During Lent, they will have Reconciliation Services for all young people and a Family Lenten Retreat on 3/10/18. At the request of the archdiocese, a "child lures prevention" booklet was distributed to most families in the program. Report submitted and presented by Doris Battle.

Youth Ministry:

There are 7 students in Confirmation classes. It is going very well and has picked up. Classes are the first Sunday of the month and go for 2 years. Youth group is being held for middle schoolers and high schoolers on the third Sunday of the month. Report presented by Steve Potyra.

Finance Council:

No representative attended. The annual report was distributed and discussed.

Social Justice and Human Concerns:

Easter baskets were made for Catholic Charities with approximately 52 kids receiving baskets. A Lenten outreach activity was collecting canned goods and meats. A DACA petition received 100 signatures for the Archdiocese. There will be a Spring Fair Trade sale with CREA and Sister Rosenbaum on April 28, from 10-6pm and April 29, 9-12:30pm. Sale is open to the public.

Interfaith Clergy:

Paul Lichtenberger attended an Interfaith meeting in town on behalf of Monsignor Clancy. This meeting was called by the Mayor of Bloomfield and 8-10 churches were represented. This had been an ongoing activity but the meetings were not sustained. The new mayor is trying to establish meetings and communications again.

Old Business:

Youth Representative to Parish Council: The Youth Ministry is working to find an appropriate representative.

Selection of New Parish Council Members: The nomination process began at Mass on 2/10 & 2/11 and will end on 3/11. The selection subcommittee, four members of the parish council, will meet on 3/11 after the 10:15am Mass to review nomination forms and begin scheduling meetings with the nominees. After conversations with the nominees the subcommittee will sit down with Monsignor before May 5th and discuss the possible new members for the Parish Council. Final decisions will be made by the Monsignor before May 10th, when the new members will be identified.

Easter Activity: The program will be held on Easter Sunday at 9am. Activities will include Resurrection Eggs, Egg hunt, Arts & Crafts and a group activity with Steve Potyra.

Parish Picnic: Meg Guerriero and Nancy Preimer will be keeping it simple, more to report at the next meeting.

Board Painting: Event will be held on March 22 at 6pm. Initially there were 30 spaces available but at the time of the meeting only 5 spots remained. It was noted that this was not a fundraiser but a community event, everyone is welcome to attend.

Coffee Hour: Participation of hosts has declined. It was asked "How do we increase participation?" Some suggestions were to ask all committees to sign up to host, and to insert the coffee host procedures in the bulletin.

New Business:

Long Term Pastoral Planning: What do we need, as a parish, to continue along a healthy path? Are there actions that we should take to keep Sacred Heart a vibrant community? There was some discussion and reflection on long-term planning. The Council was urged to think about planning for the future and to bring thoughts and ideas to the next meeting. Some brainstorming ideas: Welcome "church shoppers" and new parishioners better, bus trips to Boston, NYC or a museum, involve the Knights of Columbus, adopt a sister parish in another country.

Council Comments: No comments

Pastor's Report: The Finance Council's Annual Report was discussed during the Committee Reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm after a closing prayer was led by Monsignor Clancy.

Respectfully submitted,
Meghann Guerriero, Secretary