

Parish Council Minutes for January 17, 2019

The meeting was opened with a prayer. The following persons were in attendance at the meeting: Father James Schumacher, Deacon Rich Miller, Julie Lefevre, John Schumacher, Tom McMahon, Stan Grove, April Pendleton, Peggy Whiteplume, Maggie Miller, Debbie Barry, Chris Drewiske, Kathy McKee, and Eliner Shields.

Minutes. A motion was made by Debbie Barry and seconded by Kathi McKee to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2018 meeting. The motion was approved.

Parish Council Officers. The following people were elected as officers of the Parish Council by consensus:

Julie Lefevre, President; Kathi McKee, Vice President; John Schumacher, Secretary

New Members. The following new members, who were recently elected to serve on the Parish Council, were welcomed to the Council: Maggie Miller, Chris Drewiske, Tom McMahon, and John Schumacher.

Good Samaritan Dinners. Debbie Barry reported on the January Good Samaritan Dinner for which the Parish was responsible. Debbie expressed that God's hand was with the event. When persons who signed up could not make it, someone else unexpectedly showed up and filled in. Debbie stated that the event was a community builder for the members of the Parish who helped with the dinner. Debbie reported that the next turn for the Parish to serve the dinner is May 2, 2019. Julie Lefevre reported that the Methodist Christmas store contributed \$2500 to Almost Home Wyoming. Julie discussed suggesting that various agencies who provide services to the community be contacted to provide information at the Good Samaritan Dinner.

Sanctuary. Julie Lefevre updated the new members on the sanctuary updating plans. The new ambo is planned to be completed by Confirmation this spring. The next step will be to acquire a larger tabernacle and construct an appropriate altar for it to rest on. The third step is to decide on options for the statues of Mary and Joseph on the altar. Julie Lefevre also updated the Council on her inquiry as to the possibility of acquiring a Joseph statute to match the statute of Mary in the basement of the classroom building. A motion was made by Stan Grove and seconded by April Pendleton to purchase the Saint Joseph statue with the understanding that its placement would be decided at a later date. The motion passed.

Incense. A concern was raised about the amount of incense being used that the Masses because it was having health impacts on some parishioners. Father Schumacher stated that he would look at scaling the use of incense to where it is liturgically appropriate. He stated that there is no incense at the Saturday evening Mass which will provide an alternative for parishioners. There was also discussion of using incense that was hypoallergenic. April Pendleton reported that the current incense is hypoallergenic. Father Schumacher reported that there were other types of incense which may be explored as an alternative.

Parish Events. The Parish Council discussed setting up a committee to oversee coordination of events supported by the Parish. The following persons volunteered to serve on the committee: Julie Lefevre, Debbie Barry, Eliner Shields, and Chris Drewiske.

Estate Planning and Digital Contributions. Julie Lefevre updated new members on the Parish Council's goals to have estate planning information made available to parishioners and to make information for digital contributions available. John Schumacher reported that Alyssa Lozier and he were scheduled to hold estate planning information sessions on February 11th and 12th and March 4th and 5th. One evening of each group of sessions will be geared to parishioners under 50 years old and the other session will be geared to parishioners over 50 years old. Information about the sessions will be put in the bulletin. John Schumacher also reported that he was working to write instructions for making digital contributions from the various financial institutions in the city. This is taking more time than anticipated due to the differences in programs within the various banks.

Youth Ministry. Father Schumacher reported that he would be speaking with Brianna next week about setting up a committee to develop an overall vision and goals for youth ministry within the Parish. The idea is that all youth ministry activities would be under one coordinated vision. Father Schumacher also reported that the Diocese is requesting all Parish is est. a prayer program for vocations. Father reported that in the next seven years there will be ten priests within the Diocese retiring.

Lent. There were discussions about videotaping the Sunday Mass for shut-ins. It was mentioned that the sermons are already taped and broadcast on the local Catholic radio station. The suggestion was made to periodically make general inquiry of parishioners to identify people who are shut-ins. Julie Lefevre reported that a discussion group has been developed to discuss Father Schumacher's homilies. The group shall meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. The group will start February 6, 2019. There was discussion about providing some adult education classes during lent. A suggestion was made to select a few pertinent programs from FORMED and put the information in the bulletin as a stimulus for parishioners to begin using the programs.

Security. Father Schumacher informed the Parish Council that the Bishop had indicated that in other parishes the biggest issue with the development of the Diocese's Parish security recommendations centered around concealed firearms. The Diocesan plan is that no concealed firearms will be allowed in churches, except for law enforcement. There was discussion about training for the use of automatic emergency defibrillators if they are placed within Parish facilities. Stan Grove updated the Council on the plan for making the west side of the drive in front of the main entrance to the Church a no parking fire lane. There was discussion of getting updated first aid kits for Boeseke hall, the education building, and the sacristy. Father Schumacher reported that efforts to install security cameras will be going forward.

Carillon (Bells). Stan Grove reported that the carillon is working now, but some of the times when the bells will ring (such as the Angelus) need to be reset.

The meeting ended with a prayer. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be February 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.