

Parish Council Minutes – 11 November 2023

Attendance: Fr. Eickhoff, Fr. Johnson, Mike Weiss, Barb Chall, Mary Egler, Travis Haberman, Bob Sullivan, Steve Sladky

Opening Prayer: Fr. Eickhoff

The minutes for the 14 October meeting were reviewed. Bob Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes. Barb Chall seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as written.

Pastor's Updates:

- the faith history class (RCIA) continues with 10-12 attending; 4 are not Catholic.
- there were a bunch of weddings in October and some scheduled in November.
- the 40 Hour Devotion planned to start on Friday and end on Sunday that was planned for 1-3 December; due to additional events on the first weekend of December, considering moving to 9-11 February to the start of Lent.
- want to use FlockNotes to get information out to the parish. Council members discussed a FlockNotes weekend to get updated parishioner information after the Masses.
- have received applications from Pat Burke and Scott Watts to participate with the prison ministry.

Pastor's Financial Report:

- council members were provided 1st quarter fiscal year financial information with comparison to the 1st quarter information from a year ago. We have seen some increase in tithing.
- we made some adjustments to the quarterly numbers after review of financial categorization of capital improvements and St. Wenceslaus Catholic School text book purchases.
- council members discussed the updated school tuition program and the overall status of tuition payments to Saunders Catholic Schools.
- the check was signed for the last payment on the Diocesan loan for the school addition and the Diocesan loan is paid off. The continuing pledge payments will now be used to repay ourselves and will be deposited in the Friends of St. Wenceslaus account to pay off the \$230,000 that we borrowed from the account.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Council – Scott Watts' presentation that was scheduled on Wednesday, 6 December, has been changed to Tuesday, 12 December, at 6:30pm.

- the community building committee has been meeting every two weeks. The committee has created 10 neighborhoods within the parish geographical area. The committee wants to create a system for parishioners to call when they need assistance where other parishioners can help them. The committee plans to start calling to reach out to parishioners in the neighborhoods.

Building, Maintenance & Safety –

Handicap entrance – Terry Bullock has not been contacted to make repairs to the sidewalk and handicap entrance handrails. Also want Terry to look at the sacristy steps for repairs. Mike Weiss will contact Terry.

Plaster repairs – Bob Sullivan will contact John and Ron Vasa to look at the plaster repairs needed.

Choir loft squeaks and carpet install – plan to repair the loft floor to take care of the squeaks and then install the carpet. The squeak repairs and the new carpet and installation will be paid for from the maintenance fund. We will need to lift the organ during the carpet installation.

2nd Street status – Fr. Eickhoff called Kevin Hittle to find out more about the city's plans with the 3rd street water main repairs in the spring. Seven of the ten donated trees have been planted around the church campus. The remaining three trees are planned for the west side of the rectory.

The planting of these trees is on hold until the city completes the 3rd street water main repairs in case those repairs reach south to 2nd street or 1st street.

Education – the next St. Wenceslaus Catholic School Advisory Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, 13 December 2023. The next Neumann High School Advisory Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, 15 November 2023.

Finance – no additional reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

School Update – have been communicating to St. Wenceslaus Catholic School families on the status of paying off the school addition loans to the Diocese and then to ourselves to repay the Friends of St. Wenceslaus account from which we borrowed \$230,000.

-school parents want to update the playground equipment, but we need to pay off all the school addition loans first. Starting to play for updates to the playground equipment for when the school addition loans are paid off and funds have been raised for the new playground equipment.

Men's Ministry – Fr. Kennett is scheduled to speak on Wednesday, 15 November. There is no event scheduled for December. Mark Houck is scheduled for Wednesday, 21 February 2024, at the Shed. The January 2024 event is in work.

Annual St. Wenceslaus Parishioner meeting (townhall meeting follow-up) – the parish meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 10 December, at 6:30pm. Plan to announce the meeting at Sunday Masses. Items for the parishioner meeting agenda include: parish tithing-good and bad, the Vigil Mass time, the permanent altar, parish engagement with FlockNotes, the parish outreach position, and parish council elections.

Parish Council elections – council members discussed possible candidates.

New ministry and position – Directory of Ministry Programs – the position and way forward were discussed at the last finance committee meeting.

Parish Council By-Laws – by-laws review is in progress with updates being red lined.

40 Hour Devotion and Parish Mission – due to events scheduled in December, plan to move the 40 Hour Devotion to 9-11 February 2024, prior to the start of Lent.

Communion rail – Fr. Eickhoff has been talking to the St. Wenceslaus Catholic School and CCD students about the communion rail and its proper use. Plan to address parishioners in the near future. Considering preaching on the communion rail during Advent.

Bosak's talk to men in the parish on Fatherhood and Daughters – tried to call, but have not been able to talk to them yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Oregon Catholic Press hymnal – want to have the music ministry assist with choosing the new hymnal for the parish. Want to purchase the new hymnal to replace the OCP hymnal during next year to revitalize the music ministry.

Request for Sunday Mass at South Haven – may consider a Sunday Communion Service on Sunday after Pat Burke is ordained a deacon.

Women's World Day of Prayer – on 1 March 2024 - Our parish was approached to host the Women's Work Day of Prayer to pray for Palestine. We declined to host the event due to the charged topic of the event.

Next Meeting: 10 December 2023 at 6:30pm – in the SWCS multi-purpose room

Closing Prayer: Fr. Eickhoff

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Sladky