

Parish Council Minutes – 17 June 2023

Attendance: Fr. Eickhoff, Barb Chall, Mary Egler, Travis Haberman, Bob Sullivan, Chris Lautenschlager (via phone), Steve Sladky

Opening Prayer: Fr. Eickhoff

The minutes for the 13 May meeting were reviewed. A grammar correction under the Pastor's Updates was made to remove the "will" from the scheduled date's sentence for Fr. Johnson's welcome gathering. Bob Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes with the grammar change. Mary Egler seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with the grammar change.

Pastor's Updates:

- we are scheduling three acolytes to go to the home bound and nursing homes on Sunday. The nursing homes are now allowing parishioners to attend Mass celebrations.
- Hope for the Poor ministry – Scott Watts is going out on his own to work with the poor. He is also interested in the prison ministry. He is also an acolyte for the parish.

Pastor's Financial Report:

- the weekly collections have been looking good. The e-tithe amounts have increased some.
- we are coming to the end of the fiscal year on 30 June.
- we have one assessment to Neumann High School and one assessment to the Diocese before the end of the fiscal year, totally approximately \$90,000.
- we are expecting to be approximately \$100,000 in the red at the end of the fiscal year.
- half of the GALA funds for St. Wenceslaus Catholic Grade School, in the amount of \$22,700, have been deposited in the Lightning Campaign 2.0 fund. The balance of the Lightning Campaign 2.0 fund is approximately \$68,000. The current interest rate on the Diocesan loan is 4.75%. Council members discussed options with the money in the Lightning Campaign 2.0 fund and the amount remaining on the Diocesan loan. We will pay what we have now in the Lightning Campaign 2.0 fund toward the Diocesan loan.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Council – during the Parish Fair there were about 20 new enrollments in parish organizations and ministries. We are thinking about holding another fair in the fall. Council members suggested the possibility of focusing the fair on 2-3 groups and the projects that they are working on to encourage participation. Another suggestion was to have group members setup outside of church and have donuts available for those parishioners departing after Mass who do not want to go down to the church basement. Council members discussed how the Director of Ministry Programs position could assist with these types of parish events.

-Scott Watts has been scheduled for another presentation for the parish on Sunday, 13 August.

Building, Maintenance & Safety – women's basement bathroom – the repairs to the bathroom continue. The ceiling has been installed. The toilets have been installed. The sink installation is in work.

-Church bell – the equipment has arrived. The work on the church bell in the bell tower needs to be scheduled.

-Choir loft and choir stairs carpet – we will have John Benal look at the choir loft sub-floor prior to the carpet installation. Bob Sullivan has talked to Tom and Terry Dailey to be on a maintenance review team for the parish.

Education – the next St. Wenceslaus Catholic School Advisory Board meeting is scheduled on Monday, 28 August 2023. The next Neumann High School Advisory Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, 21 June 2023.

Finance – no additional reports

OLD BUSINESS:

School Update – all the staff positions for the upcoming school year have been filled.

-the student numbers for the upcoming school year are similar to last year's student numbers.

-we will be at capacity for the pre-school programs for the upcoming school year.

Men's Ministry – we are planning a Men's Day of Reflection on Saturday, 19 August, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church.

Town Hall meetings follow-up – the tentative date is Sunday, 22 October.

Parish Council elections – planned for January 2024. Want to have candidate names a couple months prior to the election. Council members discussed possible candidates.

Saturday Vigil Mass times – the survey to study the Vigil Mass time is in progress. Fr. Eickhoff explained the reason for the survey at the Vigil Mass last weekend. The survey will run for two more weeks. It is one survey per family. Council members discussed at what thresholds will the Vigil Mass time stay the same and at what thresholds will the Vigil Mass time be changed for a test period. Also discussed were options for wedding times and options for Confession times if the Vigil Mass time is changed.

New ministry and position – Directory of Ministry Programs – Ava Fujan was assisting with and has provided a job description. Chris Lautenschlager will talk to a FOCUS representative to inquire about the FOCUS pilot program in parishes and about the possibility of being a parish in that program. He will meet with the FOCUS representative on Monday. FOCUS has been using their parish program for over ten years. Council members discussed the way to go forward with the Director of Ministry Program position. An interview committee will be established and will meet to review the job description. The interview committee members are: Fr. Eickhoff, Fr. Jirovsky, Chris Lautenschlager, Bob Jurgensmeier, Katie Ostgren, Gery Kenney, Ava Fujan, and Ryan Mascarello.

Parish Council Retreat – council members discussed holding another Retreat Day to review the Parish Council By-Laws. The goal is to have the By-Laws updated before late fall to have them current by the next council elections in 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

40 Hour Devotion – will be discussed at a future meeting.

Next Meeting: 8 July 2023 at 6:30am

Closing Prayer: Fr. Eickhoff

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Sladky