

St. Michael Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

11/3/2020

Members Present: Father Felicjan, Lee Lauster, Bob Hegeman, Chris Taylor, Rosemary Strub, Gina Donnelly, Gina Porter, Henry Banker, June Sherman and Finance Council representative, Carmella Owen

Members Absent: Lynn Poiesz, Father Mike, Christine Hasseler and Cody Aquista

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

Opening Prayer: Rosemary Strub

- Welcome to Father Felicjan and members present introduced themselves.
- Joint meeting with the Finance Council minutes were addressed with no questions. Minutes approved.
- Discussion of a possible letter to Bishop Matano. Gina Porter read a proposed letter that she had written. Discussion regarding how upset many Parishioners are over the turnover in priests here at St. Michael's. Unsure of this is a Parish Council issue and we need to consider that perhaps it wasn't the Bishop's decision; it could have been a request by someone. We are fortunate that although there have been multiple changes, we have still received other priests to fill the vacancy. Other churches in our cluster have also had changes over the past several years as well. Letters can be sent by individuals if they choose to do so. We all understand that the Bishop isn't going to change his decision and we won't find out the reason for the change. There's a shortage of priests. Sometimes it's about how the message is delivered. Discussion as to what the role is of the Parish Council and should the Parish Council express the concerns of the Parish. The role is to work with the priest(s) of our Parish. Gina Donnelly shared a letter she sent to the Bishop that she had actually started writing to the Bishop when Fr. Walter left and then finished it when Fr. Tedesche left. She also shared the Bishop's response. Have any other Parishes going through this and it is unknown. Just because we are speaking up for ourselves doesn't mean we aren't grateful and not appreciative. Gina Porter will share her letter with Parish Council members to review, add/edit and when finalized, any Parish Council member who wants to, can sign the letter before it is sent to the Bishop.
- Bob Hegeman shared information regarding the planned church renovations. Building and Grounds met 2 weeks ago and they are meeting with the architect on 12/9/20. The plan for now is to just do the necessary things ie: roof, replace elevator, repair plaster. Extensive plans were drawn up and changes have been made. The plan is to start work after Easter and will take approximately 3 months. The church Hall may be used for Masses if there is enough room or go to Lyons.
- CMA goal for our Parish is \$43,85.001 which is lower than last year. So far, a little over \$9,000.00 has been raised. Discussion about an Outreach Team to contact people from January through March who normally give but have not yet. Those interested in being on

the Outreach team should contact Mary Capone or Carmella Owen. Something can also be added to the bulletin.

- Parish Council is budgeted a \$2,000.00 stipend for a parish event or activity. Suggestions included - possibly a speaker, Lenten retreat, webinar that could be recorded and posted on the website, outdoor Christmas decoration contest (Compile list of participants for parishioners to drive by), something for kids, Youth Mass to get younger generation involved. All agreed an outdoor Christmas decorating contest would be a fun event. Organizing Team – Lee Lauster, Gina Porter, Carmella Owen and Chris Taylor. Lee will be in touch with other team members this week to plan a meeting.
- Possible fundraiser – knit hats in neutral colors. Lee to look into.
- Set up a team to update the Parish Directory – contact info for volunteer committees. June to check the office for the last directory, To make an updated directory digital so it will be easier to update.

New items:

- Bob Hegeman advised a parishioner asked if the church can be open earlier on Sunday mornings at 7 AM so they can pray. Discussion regarding this and individual(s) who have a key will be advised they can open the church earlier if they will remain present in the church.
- Bob Hegeman stated that Building and Grounds meeting discussed the front steps regarding the skateboarders. In the winter, the steps will be closed and just opened up for funerals. Can part of the steps remain open all of the time? Dominic will be salting the parking lot and sidewalk across the street as well as the steps out front, etc. V-Tek takes care of snow plowing the parking lot.
- Gina Donnelly advised of a parishioners concern regarding not being able to sing certain parts of the Mass and not just listen to the cantor sing. Suggestion made to say the Mass parts while the cantor sings. We will continue to recite the Gloria and Our Father. The St. Michael Prayer will continue.

Closing prayer – Bob Hegeman

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 12/1/20 at 6:30 PM in the Church Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Taylor