

Parish Council Minutes 11/12/2024

Voting Members	Present/Absent	Non Voting Members	Present/Absent
Stacy Celli	P	Julie Brown	P
Tiann Colwell	P	Terri Calvert	P
Mike Esselstein	P	Ethan Gion	A
Jerry Fitzgerald	P	Mary Skiles	P
Terry Fox	A		
Father Konka	P		
Nick Marez	A		
David Nash	P		
Casey Seymour	P		
Brooke Talkington	P		
Shelly Thomas	A		

Additional representatives attending: Larry Gion, Finance Committee

Meeting called to order 6:33 pm

Fr. Konka opening prayer

Old Business:

-Gutter screens and down spout work complete on the rectory as well as the north and east side of the church. Next action will require some guidance to join downspouts on the west side of the church and direct the water they carry to the drain/sewer. Comment made that Aguilars may be of some help in this regard.

-Fr. Konka spoke to the parish about the Diocesan Appeal. Our goal is \$37,710. To date we have collected \$15,495 representing the contributions of 53 families. Our goal is determined by the number of parish families registered with the parish, our numbers need revision.

-Parish office cleaning completed 10/25. Big Mack did the work.

-Revisiting tabled discussion about yearly contracts for cleaning of the Rectory, Church and Parish Offices. Service contract with Big Mack for the year would be \$3000. This would include biyearly maintenance going through all systems, grease moving parts, change filters in spring and fall as well as basic maintenance. Labor and repairs would be covered, however, not parts. So far we have been billed as work needed done.

Discussions surrounded how much was spent in the previous years without a contract. Larry Gion would check the payment history of the last two years.

Our last contract covered a partial year and cost \$2200

After discussion motion was made by Tiann Colwell to pursue the \$3000 contract quoted to us by Big Mack, motion was seconded by Jerry Fitzgerald. Vote occurred and motion was carried. Mike Esselstein will contact Big Mack and get the ball rolling.

New Business

Mike Esselstein

- a. Bylaws. At the previous meeting questions were asked about whether we had bylaws. No one seemed to know at that time where any were. It was mentioned that as the entity we are we should have formal bylaws and perhaps a constitution. We have received sample bylaws and constitution from Heather Eicholz the Chancellor of the Diocese. David Nash agreed to send them to all members of the Parish Council. We were instructed to look them over and then at some point after the holidays a special session would be scheduled for us to utilize what was sent to us and tailor them to our specific needs. The bylaws sent by Heather are capable of being edited.

Fr. Konka

- a. The Feast of Immaculate Conception is historically on December 8th. This year the 8th falls on Sunday so the Holy Day of Obligation for the feast is moved to Monday December 9th. It is a day of obligation and Masses are scheduled for 7:00 am, 12:00 Noon and 5:30 pm. *****The decision to move to 5:30 from the usual 7:00 was made at the Liturgy Committee meeting held 11/14. The move is an experiment to gauge whether this move will increase numbers in the seats!**
- b. Fr. will be on vacation January 12th to February 13th. In his absence Fr. Neal Nollette will be in charge. Fr. Neal will be in residence during the entire time Fr. Konka will be gone. He will officiate all proceedings including Catholic Schools Week. Fr. Neal will be covering CSW and the Bishop will be here for his annual visit during Catholic Schools Week.

Terri Calvert Parish Representative

- a. Preparations underway for the Jubilee. Some questions still remain about timing, Fr. Konka and Terri will follow up with the Bishop.
- b. So far lots has been done and the dates for the celebration will be January 4th and 5th. Panels of fabric that look like one of the "Holy Doors" have been made and blessed by the Pope during the trip to Rome made by Mike and Terri Calvert. This year's theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", focusing on prayer.
- c. Fr. Jim Sichko will be here for Masses August 23 and 24 and will additionally conduct a parish retreat beginning on the evening of the 24th and continuing until the evening of the 26th.
- d. Terri also reported a little later in our meeting that Fr. Konka and Kathleen Rhoel are working on a funeral planning session. The purpose of the meeting will be to encourage parishioners to begin planning their funeral ceremonies complete with readings and music potentially also discussing estate planning. *****At the Liturgy committee meeting on the 14th it was revealed that the potential dates of these sessions would be January 12th and 19th.**

Julie Brown School Representative

- a. Julie commented on the future of scholarships in light of the election. Several students utilize the funds set by previous legislation, she is working closely with the families to chart a path moving forward.
- b. Following discussions centered around lawn maintenance as well as snow removal. Julie reported that current custodian Kobie Bradley was happy to do the care of the lawn for the school as well as the rectory. Kobie is also happy to do snow removal during the week. Discussion ensued over yearly concerns about potentially large amounts of snow falling during the school day. Last winter we made out ok but the potential always exists for more than Kobie would reasonably be expected to handle. Need alternatives that can utilize large equipment incase needs arise. Tiann mentioned she believed the Moreno's could possibly provide that assistance. Austin Gonzalez takes care of the block when

removal is required and he is happy to continue into this coming winter season. Austin Gonzalez also takes care of business on weekends should the need arise. Kobie is only available during the week on school days.

- c. Julie also reported on the great success of the school's "Singspirations"! Gold medal winners of the recent Old West Choir Fest. They recorded the 2nd highest score out of the 19 competitive groups. They were invited back to participate in the "Best of the Fest" show. Congrats Singspirations!!!!
- d. Julie reported that the estimated damage to the sign in front of school totalled \$9500, after \$2500 applied to the deductible, there will be approximately \$7000 from the claim that will be put forward for a new sign. A new sign is this year's "Paddle Auction" item at the upcoming Premiere. Regarding additional repairs to the school, screens most notably, Julie is waiting to move forward with repairs until she knows the amount she will have at her disposal.

Larry Gion Financial Committee Representative

- a. Larry reported that the current budget is determined by budgeting \$10,000 per month or \$520,000 per year, same as the fiscal year 23-24. Therefore, through October we budgeted for \$170,000 to be raised. Through October \$141,500 has been raised, a \$28,000 shortfall. However, a parishioner has donated \$25,000 as a designated gift bringing the total raised to \$166,500 and a much smaller deficit of \$3500!!!
- b. Larry will have annual report by the first week of January.
- c. Larry also reported that Catholic Mutual, our insurance provider, needs to schedule a "walk through". Mike agreed to take care of this.

Question posed about whether we have a building maintenance committee.

Mary Skiles

- a. Mary reported on the "Outreach Project" Nearly all of the calls have been made. Lots of feedback has been gathered and will be shared soon. Address and phone number information will be given to Theresa so she can update parish records. It is believed that we do not have nearly the families that are used to determine our goals for the Diosecan Appeal. This information will likely prompt adjustments into the future. Mary will present comments gathered during the process at our next meeting.
- b. There were a couple ideas presented to add even more accuracy to our info, possibly a card at the end of the pew similar to the time and talent surveys.

Fr. Konka conducted the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned 7:53 pm.

Next meeting Tuesday December 10th at 6:30