

Parish Council Meeting Minutes February 22, 2017

Note: Next Meeting – March 29, 2017 – 6:00 PM in Library

Members Present: Antonio Tranquillino, Deacon Bob McGahran, Diane Nagle, Fr. Ryszard, Giselle Bawab, Jack Semanko, Jane Moore, John Ingraham, Neil Nucci, Peggy Dotson, Sandy Gemach and Sheila Dunn. Parishioners in attendance: Fran Salone Pelletier and Rita Canfield. Member excused: Marie Frost and Rigo Salazar.

Fr. Ryszard opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with a prayer. Meeting minutes from January 11, 2017 were approved and will be posted to the web site.

Finance Council and Facilities report – The audit report has been received from the Raleigh Diocese; minor changes have been made based on this audit. All ministry leaders are reminded to get their budget requests submitted not before April 20 but by May 1, 2017. These budget items should be submitted to Bob Hack at the Parish Office. Bishops Annual Appeal – thanks were extended to the speakers at all masses requesting support for the 2017 appeal; we are currently ahead of last year; our total may not include electronic pledges or any sent directly to Raleigh.

A parishioner has asked when the building loan will be closed; the debt will be closed in December 2017. We are six to seven years ahead of the original loan expiration date and all parishioners are thanked for their generosity.

Once the loan is retired, may we consider purchasing new hymnals? Everyone was reminded that nothing is guaranteed when budgets requests are received; decisions will be made by the finance committee. **Action:** Sandy will ensure that the music ministry knows to submit this request through the budget process for 2017.

Concerns have again been raised by parishioners about our sound system and the hindrance to hearing and understanding what is being proclaimed from the altar. Based on previous research, decisions were made that nothing more can be done to improve the system given the height of our ceiling in the sanctuary. Previously, the use of acoustic panels was denied due to concerns for esthetics. We have been experiencing a problem with blown relays and continue to deal with these on a case by case basis. There are locations in the church which are better for hearing and understanding words proclaimed from the altar; we will encourage parishioners to test seats in the sanctuary to find a better location. **Action:** Sandy will coordinate with the individuals who staff the sound board, individuals who train our readers and our cantors in scheduling a workshop for all lectors, cantors and sound board helpers. This workshop should include taking a closer look at our communication skills, (verbally, vocally and visually) and learning techniques from the sound board. The goal is to hopefully review and bring up the levels of being heard clearly by all in the congregation.

A discussion was held about considering the publication of funeral guidelines for those people who are in attendance who are not Catholic. It was decided that this is not necessary because visual instructions are provided by the presiding Deacon and/or the funeral coordinator.

A discussion was held about the possible benefit of having window plaques near each stained-glass window. A decision was made not to use the plaques but to rely on the existing pamphlets located in church. **Action:** Jane will submit a bulletin update reminding everyone that copies of the stained window pamphlet are always available on the Gathering Space desk.

Hispanic update – Antonio reported that S. Mary Teresa has been busy with raffle ticket sales for the Festival. There is a concern on the part of many of our Hispanics about the current political environment and policy changes that are coming out of Washington. Antonio said that despite these concerns, the community is hopeful and planning is underway. **Action:** Antonio will bring a list to the next meeting so that ministries may be encouraged to support the Festival with donated monetary or other gifts to help defray expenses.

Parish Vision Group – The health group has changed its name to Healthcare Wellness Center Committee. The group has been active in meetings and plans are in place for the Mobile Mammography Van at St. Brendan Church on March 29, 2017. Consultations are ongoing with attorneys from the Raleigh Diocese to ensure that all legal bases are covered for this partnering initiative. Novant Health has also been cooperative in seeking their legal counsel so that a formal agreement will be in place prior to any health care screenings at St. Brendan Church. There is an individual interested in speaking to the Healthcare Wellness Center Committee. **Action:** Jane will have Joe Butler contact John Ingraham.

Planning continues for the St. Brendan community garden and we are following the expert advice of an individual who has experience in gardens of this type in the area.

We have received initial approval to plan for a new office building. There will be no fund raising for this campus expansion. Benefits were again reviewed: Loaves and Fishes will have their own building and there will be expanded room for classrooms and health screenings by our healthcare partners.

Faith Formation Update – Given the absence of a Bishop for our Diocese, permission has been granted to have confirmation officiated by the parish priests. We have 28 children who will be confirmed at the 11 am mass on April 2nd. Faith Formation has been rescheduled from this date to April 9; Loaves and Fishes will be reminded to the date change. Everything is going well in our Faith Formation program. We have 65 young people who meet on their own every Wednesday; these individuals comprise the previous three years of confirmation class attendees. High School students are also returning to provide classroom assistance to our faith formation teachers; their parents stay and attend the class given for the parents of our faith formation children. **Action:** Peggy will remind Rusty Joy to speak with Mike Bailey about the computer connection in Brendan Hall for our overview system.

Music Program – Planning and rehearsals are underway for the cantata to be held on March 12.
Actions: Members of our Hispanic community will be in costume and will hold the lover offering baskets at each door after the cantata. The music program is continuing to recruit for individuals to serve as cantors.

Comments –

Discussion was held about a second sacristan parking space to make it easier for the sacristan for the Hispanic mass to park.

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Father Ryszard concluded meeting at 7:25 PM with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Moore, Recording Secretary