

St. Michael Parish Council Minutes

Monday, August 28, 2017

Members Present: Helen Bryant, Bettie Carter, Nick Fears, Denise Hampton, Nancy Hoover, Stephen Keller, Angela Kimbel, Paul Mangeot, Dennis O'Donoghue, Kevin Popp, Brenda Rickert, Michelle Sileo, Jason Tretter, Colleen Truman, Trip Weck, Lisa Wilhelmus

Members Absent: Stacy Davis, Tom Marks, Fr. Dick Sullivan, Stacy Tackett

Guests: Phil Green, Business Manager

Minutes Secretary: Teresa Watson

Opening Prayer: Jason Tretter

Introduction:

1. Stephen Keller introduced the use of a sign-in sheet which will be circulated at each meeting in order to better to track attendance.

2. New agenda item: Brenda Rickert

Brenda reported that Father Dick left this morning on a medical leave of absence. He will be gone approximately three months. During this time, Brenda will serve as the Parish Office's contact person. She invites and encourages everyone to go to her with their questions and issues. Her current plan is "business as usual."

- The Sunday mass schedule will not change.
- The weekday mass schedule will change slightly:
 - Fr. Edmund will celebrate mass on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings.
 - Fr. Kenney will celebrate mass on Tuesday and Friday mornings.
 - There will be no mass offered on Wednesday mornings.
 - The Archdiocese may send extra help at a later time.

- A priest will be assigned to every wedding and baptism already scheduled.

Brenda requested prayers of healing for Fr. Dick and prayers for all who will be filling in for him during his absence.

3. Revised Council roster

Stephen reminded the members that a revised roster was e-mailed to them with the meeting agenda. There is one change: Tom Marks is now Communications and Technology Chair.

New Business:

1. WeShare Giving Platform: Presentation by Phil Green

WeShare is an on-line based giving program that will be rolled out with the Stewardship Appeal in January. This program provides every parishioner a secure way to make donations to the church, for both regular tithing and for donations for special needs such as St. Vincent de Paul and Building Fund gifts. It also provides a simple way to register and pay for special events, such as the Women's Conference.

With WeShare, donations can be set up to come directly out of an individual's checking account, relieving the parishioner from writing and mailing checks. For the church staff, WeShare eliminates the physical handling of the huge number of checks submitted to the church each year.

Payments can be individualized as far as the date the payments are made and how they are being made, such as via checking account withdrawal or credit card. Payments made through checking accounts are free of fees. Payments made through credit cards will include a 3% fee for the credit card company.

The company estimates the use of this program can increase overall giving within the parish by 10-12%.

Those who are not tech-savvy can call the parish office and a staff person will walk them through the enrollment and set-up process over the phone.

For the first year both modes of payment, paper and on-line, will be accepted. After that, we will transition to on-line only, but parish staff will continue to help those who are having difficulty with the process.

Donors will be able to print receipts for each donation and a year-end donation receipt for tax purposes.

The program is ready to accept registrations at Stmichaelchurchlouisville.weshareonline.org.

2. Discussion of Parish Council Goals for this year

Suggested Short-Term Goals:

- Creating a Parish Council presence on Facebook
- Creating an in-box for parishioners to submit questions to the Parish Council (Stephen will ask Tom Marks and Michael Raymer to look into this.)

Suggested Long-Term Goals:

- A STEM lab for the school
- Development of a strategic plan that will help St. Michael comply with accreditation standards for its school.

Stephen asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to help create a long-term vision for the parish. This committee will consist of Stephen Keller, Dennis O'Donoghue, and Nick Fears.

Committee Reports:

1. School Advisory Board, Bettie Carter: No report. Their first meeting will be in September.

Stacy Tackett submitted a brief report showing 620 students enrolled in K-8 and 97 in preschool. There are 66 staff members (including instructional and administrative).

2. Communications and Technology, Tom Marks: No report.
3. Worship, Dennis O'Donoghue: report submitted via e-mail.

The committee is working on short term goals; he will have more details at the next meeting.

Bells: Though the bells will peel, ring and chime, the bell system was also supposed to be compatible with a mini keyboard that would allow the playing of songs. This feature has never worked, and to date, the company responsible has not followed through to address the problem. The company is being pursued to make good on their promises, and other companies that may be able to fix the problem are being investigated.

4. Formation, Jason Tretter: report submitted via e-mail.

Jason reported he has reached out and introduced himself to the 14 committees that make up Formation. Karen Karem has stepped down as the head of RCIC; a replacement has not been found. The Baptism Prep Team is looking for more help.

5. Justice and Charity: report submitted via e-mail.

6. Finance, Denise Hampton: report submitted via e-mail.

Denise distributed an additional cash flow summary for the last fiscal year (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017). It provided a summary of three areas: Income (budget and actual), Expense (budget and actual), and Surplus (Deficit) (budget and actual) for the church, school, and building fund.

Some significant points:

The Church had a surplus of \$83,000, mainly because more money was received in church collections than was projected.

The School had a deficit of \$192,910. Denise explained that this occurred, in part, because expenditures on School personnel had far exceeded the amounts budgeted.

The Parish's expenses for last fiscal year (Church and School combined) exceeded its budgeted income by \$151,000. However, Phil Green clarified that the overall combined income (Church and School) exceeded expenses by \$233,000.

Denise cautioned that keeping the School's personnel expenses under budget this year will be a significant challenge because the amounts budgeted for School personnel are smaller this year than last.

In response to questions about the School's deficit from last year, Phil Green explained that a significant portion thereof was covered by the withdrawal of funds from an Archdiocesan savings account that was created for and funded by the School. He also acknowledged that the School's personnel expenses did exceed the amounts budgeted. He said that at least some of the discrepancy stemmed from the use of "reporting categories" when the prior personnel budget was created.

Stephen asked about several revisions that were made to the Parish budget after it was approved by the Finance Council and the Parish Council. Denise listed a few of those items as \$20,000 for floor cleaning, \$6000 for new work in the new daycare space, and \$14,000 for work in the old church.

7. Parish Life, Helen Bryant: will e-mail her report after tonight's meeting.

Round Table Remarks from At-Large Members:

Paul Mangeot asked about results from the church picnic. Brenda Rickert responded with "Wonderful!" Last year's picnic profit was about \$100,000; an increase is estimated for this year. Brenda said that the capital prize revenue brought in most of the additional money. The proceeds from the picnic will be evenly divided between the church and the school.

Brenda also shared that in response to an appeal from Catholic Charities on behalf of the recent hurricane victims in Texas, a second collection will be taken during Masses on September 15 and 16.

Closing prayer: Denise Hampton

Next Meeting: Sept. 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm