

ST. MARY - HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The parish council meeting was called to order on 2/21/2023 at 6:30:00 PM. Members present were: Father Parker, Celia Shedd, Terri Hamm, Tammi McClain, Drew Hanlon, Lisa Schoening and Larry Sauer. Guests present were: None.

The opening/closing prayer was led by Father Parker. The meeting adjourned at 8:13:00 PM.

The next meeting will be held on 3/21/2023 at 6:30:00 PM.

MINUTES

-

Amended **Tabled** * There was some discussion about the altar that Father Andrew had obtained and a question about the final disposition of it being brought back to the rectory garage from temporary storage at Tim Loraditch's residence. Drew was under the impression that the Tim was going to take it permanently and that it would not be returned to the rectory. The January minutes will be amended to indicate that the altar was going to be stored at Tim's' until a decision was made by the council on what the final disposition would be.

The January, 2023 minutes will be amended as stated above. Celia made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Terri.

COMMITTEE/GROUP REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP

Amended **Tabled** * The committee is: 1)Visiting the homebound providing a small religious related gift to them a couple of times per year usually around Advent and Lent. 2)Providing dessert snacks for the Knight of Columbus fish fries. Donations given at the dessert table are utilized to help fund scholarships for our students. 3) Planning Father Ross' celebration of his 10 year anniversary of his ordination.

K OF C

Amended **Tabled** * Father Ross is going to help in the serving line for the upcoming fish fry.

B & G

Amended **Tabled** * Furnace - Drew advised that the new furnace has been installed and is working fine. A brief mention of the costs for the elevator and furnace repair was made the last couple of weeks in hopes that parishioners will assist with these unanticipated costs. Donations for these things are much appreciated by all.

OLD BUSINESS

TECH EQUIPMENT

- Amended Tabled * Upgrades - Lisa spoke with Kevin Taber and he indicated to her that the process is moving forward. Doug said that Barb told him the computers and monitors had been ordered on this date. After giving Kevin permission to obtain the last parish phone bill from Huxley Communications he did receive the last bill and has been reviewing it for the next step with the parish phone system.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Amended Tabled * AED Training - Terri Hamm said that Paramedic Specialist Brian Helland will be coming on March 4th, 2023 after wine and cheese to do training on the AED for anyone that is interested in attending. He offered to come again if needed in the Spring.

BLOOD DRIVE

- Amended Tabled * Larry Sauer - The next blood drive is on May 25, 2023. Lisa and the RE folks will help with set-up.

RECTORY

- Amended Tabled * Preparation for Father Ross - Father indicated that the rectory is very nice and that there is nothing that is needed.

B & G

- Amended Tabled * Steeple Repair - We are still on hold at the present time waiting to figure out funding for the repair as it will be quite expensive and will depend, in part, on the Ignite campaign for some of the repairs.

IGNITE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Amended Tabled * Father believes we have met our percentage goal in the Ignite campaign pledges and that we should receive some money back. He will get back to the PC with further information. The money received back is based on what actually comes in from the pledges.

THE EUCHARIST

- Amended Tabled * We have gone back to offering the Precious Blood again at all Masses. More volunteers could be used at 10:00 AM Masses.

B & G

- Amended Tabled * Security of St. Mary Church - Doug said that in the past the St. Mary building was open from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM and was being locked up by the priest or Barb Liske until we started having problems with juveniles trying to sneak into the church in the past few months. Father Ross suggested a Knox Box be installed that gives someone who needs in would have access to the church. Drew will check into the Knox Box.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Amended** **Tabled** * Altar - Father Ross spoke with Father Amadeo about the possible altar change. There is a required process through the diocese to change the configuration of a sanctuary before changes can be made. Father emphasized that we also must consider existing pieces in the sanctuary area that may have significant meanings to the parish or individual families. He does not want to make a mandatory decision without input from the parish or PC. When asked for his personal opinion, he said that whatever, if anything, is changed it should be in such a way that makes Christ the focus of the area. After discussion ended, a motion was made by Doug that the altar in question would not be utilized but that the topic remains open for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Celia and carried unanimously. Lisa will speak with Tim about the final disposition of the altar.

After the motion, Drew said that he had refinished an old altar piece for his mother several years ago that came from a church. He said that his mother no longer has space for it and we could possibly utilize it. He will be bringing it back in April for the PC and parishioners to see. Drew said that it is made from walnut and would fit nicely with the existing décor. This subject will remain open.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Amended** **Tabled** * Parish Council Contact Information - Celia wanted to make sure that everyone on the council had each others contact info including Father Ross.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- Amended** **Tabled** * Larry asked Father Ross' thoughts on a policy manual. Father said that there was some guidance that came out in 2015, the Pastoral Council Guideline. Father indicated that we will review this document and then develop policies specific to SMHC.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Amended** **Tabled** * Review by Diocese - Father Ross indicated there is no new information on the review at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS

- Amended Tabled * Elkhart Days - The city wants to know if they can use church grounds during the celebration as they had in the past. Doug made a motion that we allow them permission with the understanding that the grounds need to be returned to the original condition prior to the event. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

- Amended Tabled * Discussion was held on having an appreciation event for recognizing parish employees and volunteers. Celia thought that it might be a good thing for the youth groups to co-host. Further discussion and planning will be conducted and Celia will reach out to the youth groups to discuss their involvement.

PARISHSOFT SOFTWARE

- Amended Tabled * Discussion was held about how historical data regarding families was captured by the parish. Larry asked about ParishSoft as a possible solution but others indicated that the parish already does use it. We do use ParishSoft but we are not sure what it does or if there are different modules. Larry will conduct further research on this matter.

DONATION POLICY

- Amended Tabled * Considerations about donations: 1) How do we thank/recognize? 2) Does the person want to be recognized or remain anonymous? 3) Where does the news get posted? 4) Does the contributor want the gift to go to a specific project? We could develop a questionnaire that provides guidelines on the process.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Amended Tabled * Greeting Prior to Mass - Celia suggested we return to the greeting after the announcements prior to Mass. The practice was discontinued when Covid broke out for health reasons. Father Ross was asked for his thoughts. He said the sign of peace is not a required part of the Mass. Considering you have just taken the Holy Eucharist and immediately after such a holy moment you shake hands with someone taking the focus off of what you have just done. Father believes it more appropriate that a greeting be offered before Mass begins. There will be further discussion.