

Newman Hall – Holy Spirit Parish Council Minutes

February 10, 2020, 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Hecker Room

Attendees: Fr Ivan Tou, Amanda Wehrman, Bob Gannon, Frank Rockwood (timekeeper), Walt Lindquist, Youali Ramirez, Kimberly Hebert, Ned Niccolls

7:30 - 7:35 **Opening Prayer**--Amanda

7:35 – 7:40 **Adopt Minutes from January**—Minutes adopted

7:40 – 7:55 **Purpose of Parish Council Meetings**

Level-setting discussion about purpose and best use of Parish Council meetings, and what topics/level of detail are better suited to other venues. What does a “successful” Parish Council meeting look like?

Primary purpose is to support Fr Ivan, and giving him a sense of what is going on. (“Additional eyes and ears”). Provide support if an unexpected “bombshell” occurs, advise on pressing issues. Occasionally the PC can take on tasks that are not picked up by others (i.e., due to constraints of staff time); for example, the Picnic. An additional PC role is to assess whether are we on track of where the parish is (or ought to be) going, looking at big picture strategic questions. For example, are there any ministry needs not being met?

Further discussion:

Amanda—occasionally we may get into the weeds on specific issues. The issue of a solar system is an example where we would be better served by another specific committee.

We tend to ask Fr Ivan for updates; is there a way to become more action oriented?

Walt—we can also communicate via email between PC meetings. This should help establish focus for particular issues, to be followed up with more discussion/action at the PC meeting.

Youali—concur that emails can be useful as “food for thought”, then Amanda can determine how to handle it. Also, we want to get to action items; and to ensure that all voices are heard. Another specific suggestion is to move the Pastor’s notes to earlier in the agenda. Further efficiency would be gained if it is possible for the PC to receive the Pastor’s notes a little earlier, say, two-three days before the PC meeting.

It is recognized that PC members should not feel the need to respond to all the emails....the PC team recognizes that people are reading and thinking about them.

7:55 – 8:15 **2020 Budget and Fundraising**

Brainstorm of ways to close the gap on 2020 budget. Discussion of possible plan for 2019 financial report and Open Forum with parish to discuss.

Fr Ivan: More useful for PC to focus on what we should be doing as a parish, versus getting into how to finance. At the same time, we are financially constrained so the PC is helpful as to where we should spend the \$.

Fr Ivan: For the 2020 budget—will freeze salaries and ministry costs again. Will increase other funding by 10%. People will need to be more generous. People gave more last year than the previous year.

Bob and Walt: despite the challenges, we need to be positive. Overall, we are in a strong position with money in the bank and a vibrant parish.

Fr I: Why the need to raise additional money? To keep us functioning as now, without a reduction in staff. Several members of PC suggested that they could help with the message. Fr I: usually the FC chair gives a presentation at each of the masses...then have a town hall meeting after a 10AM mass.

Bob: the message and focus really should be more pastoral than financial.

Action: Fr. Ivan to share draft communications for open forum with parish regarding 2020 budget, and PC will offer feedback on how best to frame.

Walt: the FC mission is not to decide which projects...that is where the PC can help.

Frank: in some ways the PC is a form of a planning committee...not necessarily deeply involved in the numbers part. (This led to a discussion of a possible solar project. Bob and Frank are especially interested. They can form a committee to identify additional resources outside the PC. **Action item:** put a notice in the bulletin asking for solar knowledgeable people to help obtain and assess vendor proposals, with Bob and Frank as lead coordinators).

8:15 – 8:45 **Pastor's Updates (see associated Pastor's Notes dated 2/11/2020)**

- *Proposed joint Parish Council/SMT meeting*
Prior to this PC meeting, there was a thought to have a joint Student Ministry Team and Parish Council meeting. The general PC thinking is that we very much want to better engage, support, and understand the SMT....while also recognizing the time constraints and workloads of both the SMT and PC. Kimi and others suggested possibly having some form of joint dinner. **Action: Kimi** to suggest some dates that might work with the SMT. Then PC can see if any of those dates

would work.

- *Status of Fr. Steven's hospitality efforts* (tabled)
- *Parish Worship Team re-formation* (it happened)
Noted that some people including students are not fans of the music at the 10AM and 5PM masses...maybe bring up to the Parish Reformation meeting formed by Colleen. **Action Amanda:** will attend that meeting and report back
- *Proposed charity giving changes* (nothing more needed from us)
- *Single point of contact for scheduling/booking rooms at Newman*
Amy is the coordinator, in office 9-12 Monday-Friday; often Fr I and other staff assist with scheduling as well. Suggestion by PC to include contact information in bulletin to clarify point of contact.
- Noted that we have another Paulist coming on sabbatical, as well as a Paulist novice joining us.
- Undergrad student Lina Gannon was identified as a candidate to join the PC—the PC and Fr I enthusiastically agreed to invite her to join the PC. **Action: Fr. Ivan** to formally invite Lina to join the PC, and share contact information with Amanda.

8:45 – 8:55 **Student Dinner**

*Selection of date for Parish Council to cook student dinner.
Options: Mar. 8, 15, Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26, or May 3.*

Date selected: Apr 19, Amanda will follow up to coordinate with PC

8:55 – 9:00 **Future Agenda Items**

Staff morale/appreciation

How to shorten the 10AM mass

How to incorporate women

How to feature Newman in the *Catholic Voice* (Fr I will give this to Staff)

9:00 **Closing Prayer – Youali**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Hecker Room