**Newman Hall – Holy Spirit Parish Council Minutes *DRAFT***

August 11, 2020, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

**Attendees:** (virtually):Amanda Wehrman (Chair), Bob Gannon; Frank Rockwood; Father Ivan; Jimmy O'Dea; Linda Safarik-Tong; Jimmy Chim; Ned Niccolls; Youali Ramirez; Lina Gannon; Steven Bell; Sam Cabrera

*Secretary:* Ned Niccolls

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| 7:30 - 7:35 | **Opening Prayer: Bob Gannon**--relationships |
| 7:35 – 7:45 | **Welcome and Introductions for New Council Member and Visiting Paulists**  We are pleased to have graduate student (and former RCIA leader) Sam join us. A quick round of introductions followed. New (to us) Paulists Eric and Ken will have opportunities to participate in the PC in the future. |
| 7:45 – 7:50 | **Adopt Minutes from July:**  Adopted |
| 7:50 – 8:00 | **Season of Creation (Sept. 1 – Oct. 4)**   * The Season of Creation committee is attempting to bring better understanding of our environmental roles as Catholics. Pope Francis’s 2015 encyclical letter Laudato Si’ is a major source of guidance. We need to have increased awareness of our habits. This is a joint effort with many churches. The seasonofchange.org website has much more detail including a calendar of events for September. Father Steven noted they are (were) meeting as we speak during this PC meeting. The hope is that interested parties will spring up, then focus on specific issues. Issues to focus on could include as recycling, religious aspects, and relationship with the City. * Bob Gannon is interested in the Search for Justice aspect of Laudato Si’. Fr Steven said yes, there will be intersection of the Justice aspects of Laudato Si and the Season of Creation. Brett and Fr Steve are working that aspect. * Frank Rockwood: To ensure that the PC is kept up to date in terms of communication, we could simply be on their distribution list. * Fr Steven also said a couple of people are interested in putting together a website. Bob Gannon is interested in helping. *(Note for minutes: would this be a Newman Hall website in support of the SoC effort?).* * As the Season of Creation discussion ended, it led to Father Steven’s related “Critical Conversations” meetings held every other Monday evening. Bob pointed out these are important meetings, but there was significant repetition. Ned said he liked the “go slow and thorough” pace of the initial sessions as grounding for future topics and efforts. Amanda found the sessions to be foundational and important. |
| 8:00 – 8:20 | **Pastor’s Updates**   * Church response to COVID-19: Fr Ivan asked the Parish Council to review the guidelines he issued. The PC found them to be appropriate and clear. There is a **PC Action Item for each of us** to giver further thought to the guidelines. Ned requested that as people give feedback to Fr Ivan, that we copy all the PC.   + Fr Ivan noted that the Covid 19 is taking a toll on Newman. Are there other ways we can think of to bring Newman to parishioners?   + There is a huge demand for Fr Steven as a black priest.   + Fr Steve Bossi’s Elder program is growing and going well. It is an effective way to maintain contact, especially for those that feel isolated and stressed. Bob and Roberta have also offered to provide spiritual support. Bob noted that at some point virtually everybody gets depressed.   + Jimmy Chim offered the idea that perhaps we could arrange a system of pairing a person with someone who needed contact. That led to further ideas; Fr Ivan noted that for students there is already the “Doughnut Program”. Amanda: good idea. They are using “Doughnuts” at her work. Perhaps something like the past “ADVenture” program, but super simple. Youali: at her work they did a Bingo game; it was kind of fun but did require some computer savvy.   + Other Covid 19 discussion: Jimmy Chim noted that Cal parties led to breakouts (47 people in one case). Sam: Now, at UCB there are no physical meetings, no gyms, etc. Ned mentioned there are a few facilities set up by commercial outfits for outdoor exercising, which in addition to exercising provides some form of socializing (at more than six feet). Fr Ivan noted they are trying to figure out how to have safe Student dinners, perhaps a BBQ style. But this gets difficult and complicated so probably will not happen. Jimmy O’Dea: do we have a feel for how many students are coming back? Fr Ivan: we do not know; he was surprised that all the student ministry people are coming back. Summarizing: the key to developing and vetting potential programs to help safely socialize in a Covid world is to get the ideas out early and get buy-in by all. * Review of campus ministry plans Not Discussed (ND) * Update on Presbyteral Council: ND * Other updates from Pastor’s Notes |
| 8:20 – 8:55 | **Core Values Brainstorm** (led by Amanda) (*Secretary note: after the PC meeting, Youali asked an important question for clarity: are the Core Values for the Parish Council, or for Newman Hall HSP? Or both?).*   * What do we mean by core values and how can they help us? Core values are consistent, passionate, scriptural, distinctive convictions that determine our priorities, influence our decisions, drive our ministry and demonstrated by our behavior.   + Provide foundation   + Aid in averting conflict   + A language for communication   + Answers why we do what we do   + Provide the courage for risk taking * Core values are   + Shared   + Holy   + Lived * Questions for discerning core values   + A long list of questions   + Bob: Likes Paulists; Evangelization and Reconciliation. Bob is concerned with people that are not even able to talk about difficult subjects   + Jimmy C: Noted that companies that have core values are often not effective, people cannot remember them   + Fr Ivan: The Parish Mission Statement is good, but not specific. There is tension from Top Down from both the Diocese and the Paulists; but also Bottom Up from the Parishioners.   + Amanda: we want to have a longer range, more visionary view, with more foundational values and verbiage.   + Youali: What if just come up with a one word summary of the value (s) that we strive for (to try to simplify the process)? Amanda: Yes. And perhaps in addition have one on one conversation.   + Frank: The values of the Priests absolutely relate to what draws him (Frank) into Newman. Ned concurred.   + Amanda: but note that Student Ministry is an essential part of Newman. *(Secretary note: Amanda please check that I got this right or add to it if needed).*   + Frank: does it help to talk about in terms of priorities? Amanda, yes that is important. What is driving us to do what we do, the decisions we make.   + Bob: Likes the fact that we have all ages. And the skills the community has. The sharing community is one reason why Bob comes.   + Frank: talked about the Hospitality effort. Amanda said yes, the Hospitality effort is definitely related; what do people relate to? Fr Ivan: We do want people to get to Heaven (as individuals), but we also want people to relate to one another.   + Bob: Richard Rohr says “Every Thing Matters”.   + Amanda: we will set up one/one conversations. **(PC Action Item?)**  What are the top 3-5 top takeaways. She may set up a Google Drop. * Building consensus on core values that have taken root (Not Discussed) * How to use these core values as we move forward (ND) |
| 8:55 – 9:00 | **Future Agenda Items** |
| 9:00 | **Closing Prayer: Ned Niccolls—“The Good Ship Parish Council”** (inspired by Fr Steven Bossi’s homily the prior Sunday) |

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Purpose of Parish Council (*adapted from Feb. 2020 meeting discussion*)

* **The Parish Council is an advisory body.** Our primary purpose is to support and advise our Pastor.We are the collective voice of the Parish community, sharing feedback from the community and providing advice on pressing issues of the day.
* **The Parish Council is a strategic body.** Our job is to look at the big picture and evaluatewhether we are on track as a Parish. Are there ministry needs not being met?
* **The Parish Council is an active body.** As appropriate, we can volunteer to take on tasks that need support beyond staff capacity. However, Parish Council meetings are not designed as working meetings; rather, to ensure sufficient time to carry out our advisory and strategic roles, action steps should be assigned and acted upon outside of Parish Council meetings.

Ground Rules

* **State views and ask genuine questions.** This enables the team to shift from monologues and arguments to a conversation in which members can understand everyone’s point of view and be curious about the differences in their views.
* **Share all relevant information.** This enables the team to develop a comprehensive, common set of information with which to solve problems and make decisions.
* **Use specific examples and agree on what important words mean.** This ensures that all team members are using the same words to mean the same thing.
* **Explain reasoning and intent.** This enables members to understand how others reached their conclusions and see where team members’ reasoning differs.
* **Focus on interests, not positions.** By moving from arguing about solutions to identifying needs that must be met in order to solve a problem, you reduce unproductive conflict and increase your ability to develop solutions that the full team is committed to.
* **Test assumptions and inferences.** This ensures that the team is making decisions with valid information rather than with members’ private stories about what other team members believe and what their motives are.
* **Jointly design next steps.** This ensures that everyone is committed to moving forward together as a team.
* **Discuss undiscussable issues.** This ensures that the team addresses the important but undiscussed issues that are hindering its results and that can only be resolved in a team meeting.