

Newman Hall – Holy Spirit Parish
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2023

Present: Alan Roselius, Carlos Mora, Greg Govan, Homer Teng – *Chairperson*, Lorina Daves Tornai, Marie Retherford, Mark Stanley, and Virginia Muller

After enjoying cookies, hot cider, and eggnog, Homer called the meeting to order at 7:40PM. Alan led the opening prayer.

MINUTES: It was noted that, in the future, the minutes would include motions made and any amendments, whether or not they were approved. The minutes will not include specific comments made during discussions.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Alan reported on the status of several projects:

- 1) The new banners for Christmas are ready now and the pulleys and cables will be ready the day before Christmas.
- 2) The glass doors at the entrance are nearly completed. Minor adjustments and fixes are being made. The Council expressed their approval and were pleased with the new look.
- 3) The Boiler is undergoing short term repairs after its mechanism failed. Requests for Bids are being prepared and sent out for a new boiler heating system.
- 4) The cause of the ceiling leaks in the Hecker room is still under investigation. At this stage, it looks like the large concrete planters are not the cause. There are low areas in the concrete patio deck that accumulate standing water that may be the cause. Plans are underway to level or fill in these depressions and then resurface the whole deck with a new sealant.
- 5) There were other projects not mentioned: Solar, two large trees removal, trimming redwood and spruce trees, Emmaus Door and Confessional Room Remodel and interior lighting, and the new roof.

There was a discussion of Habitat Days or clean-up days and the need for more student involvement as part of intergenerational goal between students and regular parishioners. Alan commented that one student in a leadership role worked for days by himself moving all the rocks out of planters probably because the students at this time were preparing for finals. The next scheduled Habitat Day is January 24.

CATHOLIC HOSPITALITY TRAINING: Lorina presented a proposal for a 6-hour training on what Catholic Hospitality entails and how we at Newman can put it into practice. A representative from the Catholic Hospitality Institute will deliver the training. The training fee is \$1,500 for up to 150 people.

Revised January 6, 2023

The council would like the parish to pay for the training out of its budget. Lorina will talk with Fr. Ivan about financing it. She will contact the representative about her availability on the first three Saturdays of February and the first Saturday of March. Mark has volunteered to help Lorina with the logistics of organizing the event.

PARTICIPATION OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL: In order to promote a better understanding of the financial picture and fundraising needs of the parish, the council would a Finance Council member to attend a future meeting. Council members specifically mentioned Rich Campos, who is a veteran member of the Finance Council. Homer will ask Fr. Ivan to invite him to the January 8 meeting.

SHARE PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ABOUT THE COUNCIL

What have we accomplished since June 2023: July Potluck and Bible Trivia Night, St. Phoebe's Liturgy and Discussion, Ministry Faire, Student Dinners, St Francis of Assisi seminar and the personal Crèche Displays, Children's Faith and Formation Program and the completed and ongoing Capital Improvement and Maintenance Projects.

What do you want to see the council focused on in 2024: Continue promoting the themes that the council has voted on – Intergenerational Collaboration and the Integration of Faith and Life.

How could we improve: Be more aware of what the many different committees of our Parish are doing but not take the appearance of interfering with them. Perhaps with this knowledge, the council could act as a coordinator of their efforts.

For its next meeting in January, the council agreed to review the progress of ideas that were discussed in previous meetings, such as a parish retreat, an educational series on forgiveness and other virtues, and forming a board for the Loaves and Fishes ministry.

Some council members noted that these comments and observations provide a good overview of Newman Hall for whoever succeeds Fr. Ivan as the new pastor of Newman Hall.

Alan led the group in a closing prayer. Homer adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, January 8, 2024, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM, Hecker Room