

St. Thomas Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting
March 16, 2017
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS:

Father Mariusz Majewski: Pastor
Ellen Jaeger: President (via phone)
Joe Dahmen: Vice-President
Pat Lenz: Recording Secretary

Robert Valencia
Dixie Reid
Andy Finney

Opening Prayer: Father Mariusz
Ellen called the meeting to order.

Minutes were read and approved from the previous meeting with a motion from Joe Dahmen and a second from Robert Valencia.

Charity Committee: Dixie Reid

Dixie reported on the following:

- The Parish Nursing program is moving forward. Barbara Neely and Diane Rutherford have been working on the program. A brochure is being created and they are working with Father Mariusz on office space. Father stated that the official start date for the nursing program will be the weekend of May 20-21st.
- The committee is working on organizing a Stewardship Sunday to inform parishioners about the various ministries and volunteer opportunities available to them. Each ministry would set up a table so parishioners could ask questions and find out information for that specific ministry.
- The committee is working on establishing a prayer chain.

Social/Hospitality Committee: Ellen Jaeger and Robert Valencia

The Social and Hospitality Committee met the previous week with a couple of new members joining.

- The committee is organizing Coffee & Donut Socials after the 8 & 10:00 a.m. masses and a Wine and Cheese Social after the Saturday 5:00 p.m. mass. The goal is to have these events twice a month. The biggest challenge is finding volunteers to host the events. Dianna Decker and Louise Blum have volunteered for the Coffee & Donuts and Tina Johnson has volunteered to host the Wine and Cheese. Robert inquired about a budget for the socials. At this time, the people hosting are not asking to be reimbursed for the expense. Father mentioned placing a donation basket out for people to use.
- Robert reported the first organizational meeting for this summer's parish picnic will be next month. Jennifer McDonald will not be about to run the event this year but will continue to volunteer. Robert has volunteered to run the event.
- Ideas for welcoming new parishioners continues to be discussed.

Building Committee: Pat Lenz and Father Mariusz

The Building Committee is meeting once a month with Jeff Clay in attendance.

- A walk through the grounds is scheduled for Saturday, April 15th.
- The committee continues to work on a five-year plan along with dealing with regular maintenance issues.
- Current maintenance needs are checking and repairing the heat tape along the eaves and ensuring the rain gutters are functioning properly along with investigating a few leaks in the steeple areas.

Religious & Adult Education: Joe Dahmen and Andy Finney

Joe and Andy created a mission statement for the committee and submitted it to Ellen.

- First Reconciliation for 2nd and 3rd grade children was on March 15th.
- The Bible Study has begun with approximately 40 people attending. It has been well received by parishioners.
- The Catholicism study after Holy Hour on Tuesdays is over. Approximately 25 people were attending.

Legacy Moves Forward: Ellen Jaeger and Joe Dahmen

- Ellen reported the campaign has \$541,354.55 cash in hand with pledges of \$302,000 still outstanding. An effort is being made to contact people from the parish who have not contributed and more letters will be sent out. Seventy percent of the needed funds for the renovation should be reached by the beginning of June. Jim Faucher will make announcements at masses in April.
- The campaign continues to look for a speaker for the Summer Event fundraiser. A tentative date of July 20th has been set for the Event.

Liturgy Committee: Father Mariusz

- Father is working on the Easter Triduum. The traditions followed last year were well received.
- New robes were ordered for the altar servers. The boys will be wearing the new black robes and the girls will continue to wear the red robes.
- St. Thomas' penance service is scheduled for April 4th.
- The Parish Council will be hosting Stations of the Cross on March 31st. Robert will be leading Stations. Joe, Dixie, and Pat will be providing the soup and bread to follow.

New Business:

- Father asked for input from the Council regarding the Parish renting space for private events. There have been inquiries and there is not a plan in place at this time. Discussion involved insurance concerns; hiring someone to create legal documents establishing rules and regulations; a need for a coordinator to schedule parish and private events and oversee the usage; allowing the use of alcohol at events; income earned from private events; and problems encountered by other parishes. The Council decided to keep the idea under consideration for now with more discussion to follow.
- Father reported the new parish website is almost complete. Parish groups will need to give updated information regarding their groups/ministries.
- The next meeting will be on April 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the Mission House.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Lenz
Parish Recording Secretary