

St. Paul Church Parish Council Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2019 ... 6:30 PM
St. Paul Rectory

Present: John Taglianetti, Mike Powell, Andrea Kanfer, Joan Dreger, Ethel Reed, Bob Price, Roseann Ward, JoHanna Polcaro, & Kathy Brunelle

Other Parishioners Present: Carl Orsini (Finance Committee)

Absent: Derek Pirruccello, Peter Crump

Attachments: Meeting Agenda

John Taglianetti offered the opening Prayer.

Review of Recommendations and Questions: John Taglianetti explained the recommendations and questions discussed at the ad-hoc Pastoral Council meeting held on November 25th were forwarded to Fr Mark by email the following day. Fr Mark's response to the recommendations and questions were reviewed at this meeting and are as follows:

Trustees: Heather-Jo Purcell and Alan Roessler have agreed to stay on as Trustees. They understand that they may not be chosen for this role.

Fr Mark's Response: According to the timeline the new Trustees will be named in May after a meeting at the Chancery for Parish Corporations along with signing the Canonical Decrees concerning Parish mergers. Concerning the question about Trustees, there are only two to be named according to Canon Law. This was the answer I was given by the Bishop and the Vicar for Clergy. We will try to name an alternate if allowed by Canon Law. The role of Trustees is really "Pro Forma". The Bishop, the Vicar General, the Pastor and the two trustees are what comprises the corporation when making any final decisions regarding the sale of property or approving any major projects.

Finance Committee: Bill Sheehan and Carl Orsini have agreed to stay on as members of the new merged Finance Committee. John Taglianetti will continue to serve on the Finance Committee until July 1, 2020 to assist with this transition.

Fr Mark's Response: I am glad that Bill Sheehan, Carl Orsini and you will be continuing on the Finance Committee until July 1st and that Bill and Carl will join the newly merged committee.

Post Meeting Note: Fr Mark clarified that he wants three members from each Church to serve on the Finance Committee.

Pastoral Council: Ethel Reed, Kathy Brunelle, and Derek Pirruccello have agreed to continue on the new merged Pastoral Council. Joan Dreger is undecided about whether or not to continue. Andrea Kanfer, Bob Price, Mike Powell, Peter Crump, and John Taglianetti will not continue on with the new merged Pastoral Council. Kevin McKinzie resigned effective immediately after the November 25th ad-hoc meeting. We will all continue along with the current Pastoral Council until the new merged Pastoral Council is initiated. It was mentioned last Wednesday evening that St Mary would have one more member on the new merged Pastoral Council than St Joseph and St Paul (i.e., 6 versus 5). We consider it appropriate the new merged Pastoral Council should have the same number of members from each church, either all 5 or all 6

Fr Mark Response: I am grateful that Ethel, Kathy and Derek will continue with the newly merged Pastoral Council. The timeline that was handed out at the joint council meeting indicates this. I am not sure why Kevin has resigned, but that is disappointing knowing of his experience and expertise. According to the timeline the newly merged Finance Committee will occur at the same time that the Pastoral Council is merged sometime between June 15th and July 1st.

Recommendation: An overarching recommendation is that the new merged Pastoral Council and Finance Committee be given the opportunity to meet with members of a previously merged Pastoral Council and Finance Committee to learn about their experiences in the hopes of learning about the potential mistakes or lessons learned in establishing new merged Councils and Committees. The obvious objective would be to not repeat the same mistakes.

Fr Mark Response: I believe the suggestion and recommendation of St. Paul Pastoral Council is a good one concerning meeting with another Pastoral and Finance Council that has been already merged to learn from their experience. Good benchmarks are always helpful.

Post Meeting Note: Fr Mark agreed to provide points of contact to JoHanna regarding discussing lessons learned from previously merged Parishes.

Question: How will priorities be set and decisions be made as to the allocation of funds for the repairs of buildings and grounds? We assume each church will consider their maintenance needs to be the most important. This is an example of an item that would benefit from the experience of another merged parish.

Fr Mark Response: As to the Council's question concerning how decisions will be made for the allocation of funds for repairs, electricity etc. These will be based on the tracking of what each parish brings in for their collections, fundraising and what they have available for the sale of property that would go directly to benefit the particular parish for capital improvements and other projects. If a parish chooses not to fundraise or participate in a cluster fundraising event then they are choosing not to support themselves which in the end only hurts that parish that does not contribute.

Question: Parish Fund raising events have served the dual purpose of raising money for targeted expenditures while also strengthening Parish community and growing the volunteers base for a common cause. With the combining of all finances at the Administrative Parish Center there is concern the financial incentive to hold fund raising events will be severely impacted and sense of parish community will also be impacted. The question becomes, will each event's host Church retain the proceeds from fund raising events to be used for targeted expenditures that benefit that host Church, or will all raised funds be rolled over into the Administrative Parish Hub to be allocated as needed? It's certainly recognized that there will be merged Parish fund raising events that are not hosted by any single Church that will serve those same dual purposes.

Fr Mark Response: These will be based on the tracking of what each parish brings in for their collections, fundraising and what they have available for the sale of property that would go directly to benefit the particular parish for capital improvements and other projects. If a parish chooses not to fundraise or participate in a cluster fundraising event then they are choosing not to support themselves which in the end only hurts that parish that does not contribute.

Question: A similar discussion raised the a concern about the St Paul Buildings & Grounds Fund and Funds donated in memory of beloved ones or end-of-life Bequests (i.e., Memorial Fund). Similarly, the question becomes, will each Church retain the proceeds from their Buildings & Grounds Fund, memorial donations, and Bequests to be used for targeted expenditures to benefit that Church, or will all such funds be turned over to the Administrative Parish Hub to be allocated as needed?

Fr Mark Response: Money that is raised for Building & Grounds or monies donated in memory of someone will be tracked for each parish and credited accordingly. All monies go to the Administrative Center, but will be tracked accordingly for each parish.

Question: Concerning the name of the new merged Parish, we consider it appropriate to name it St Brendan the Navigator Parish, but it is not as important as the name of our Church. The Pastoral Council strongly considers it most beneficial to retain the name of St Paul in whatever naming convention is applied to merged Churches. It is thought that losing the St Paul name is would be devastating to our Parishioners.

Fr Mark Response: The name of the newly merged parish will be the new corporation name, but it will read for example: The St. Brendan the Navigator Community at St. Paul or at St. Mary or at St. Joseph. So, the individual names will not be taken away.

Results of Breakfast with Santa: JoHanna reported she had not completed a review of the expenses, but believes the net will be approximately \$70 which will be added to the Building and Grounds fund.

Update on the Building & Grounds Collection: JoHanna reported the recent Buildings & Grounds collection yielded approximately \$1,200 but that total does not include some late donations coming in. Expenditures to date have been \$6,400 for heating system repairs (i.e., \$1,900 to Alberca for asbestos removal and \$4,500 to Bartol).

Post Meeting Note: The total December Buildings & Grounds collection was \$2,301 as reported in the December 29th bulletin.

Committee Reports/Assignments:

Prayer and Worship - Kathy Brunelle reported there will be a combined choir rehearsal on Saturday December 21st on 2:30 for the Christmas Eve Mass. Kathy also reported that Fr Mark has approved having the traditional Christmas Pageant prior to the 4:00PM mass. Kathy also reported the additional key dates and planned activities:

- January 5th: Pot Luck Epiphany Party will be held in the Church Hall from 11:00 to 1:00 and is open to the entire Cluster.
- March 21st: Kathy and Joan will co-chair the St Patrick's Dinner following the 4:30 Mass in the Church Hall. Fr Mark's band will once again perform after the dinner.

Christian Formation - Andrea Kanfer prodded the following report:

- **Advent Program:** On November 26th & December 3rd, 10th, 17th Mike Powell facilitated the discussion about the "Readings and Gospels of Advent" from the December 'Exploring the Sunday Readings' news letter as a guide.
- **Breakfast with Santa:** This event was held on December 15th after the 1000 Club drawing. JoHanna Polcaro coordinated this event and Bob Price led the effort in the kitchen.
- **Blessing of the Breads:** Following the Holy Thursday service on April 9th tables will be set up in the vestibule for the blessing of the breads. We are hoping this will encourage parishioners too return back for adoration.
- **Dinner and a Show:** This will be a Pasta dinner on May 23rd and a one man show following the 4:30 mass. The profits will go to the Buildings and Grounds Fund. Because of the possible limited seating tickets will be sold to St. Paul parishioners and after two weeks, opened up to the Cluster. The price yet to be determined. The Christian Formation Committee is working with JoHanna to coordinate the event. Dave Kane is from Rhode Island and is an actor. The show, about old-schooled, Catholics is a hoot. He engages the audience and is a lot of fun. His character is Father Misgivings and he performs for churches, schools, and other non-profits.
- **Baskets for High School Graduates:** Roseann will provide a list of students graduating from high school that were confirmed at St Paul Church. This event will be held on June 7th.

Human Concerns & Social Justice - Bayview picked up the donated gifts on December 18th and expressed great appreciation for all the gifts. The general consensus was that the gift tags requesting specific gifts worked out well and the parishioners were pleased with the approach of donating these items. Mike Powell mentioned the plan for a donation collection for Safe Futures in March to coincide with Lent. Mike will meet with Safe Futures to create a list of needed items.

Buildings and Grounds - John Taglianetti reported Alberca Construction Company completed the asbestos abatement work and Bartol began working by installing wiring for the new control thermostats.

Post Meeting Note: Bartol explained that the delivery schedule for the new replacement control valves has slipped and are now expected to arrive in the first week of January.

Additional Pastoral Council Members: A brief discussion was held concerning new Pastoral Council Members. Joan Dreger is still undecided about continuing, but will do so if not enough new members volunteer.

New Business:

- Tag Sale: The date for this year's Tag Sale was discussed but there appears to be a number of conflicts needing to be resolved.

Action Items:

- JoHanna: Request clarification on the number of members for the merged Finance Committee. Completed ... Three (3)
- JoHanna: Request Clarification on the next Cluster Council Meeting. Complete ... Currently no Cluster Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled.
- JoHanna: Discuss with Fr Mark addressing the Parish the weekend after Christmas and address the merger. Complete ... Fr Mark agreed to provide points of contact.
- John Taglianetti: Request from Fr Mark points of contact to initiate discussions with previously merged Finance Committees and Pastoral Councils to open discussions about lessons learned. Completed ...

Next Meeting Schedule & Agenda Items: It has been agreed to plan for a meeting every 4th week of the month going forward. The next Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled Tuesday January 28th at the Rectory beginning at 6:30.

Mike Powell led the closing prayer.

These minutes were prepared by John Taglianetti and approved by the Parish Council via email on January 21, 2020.

St. Paul Church Pastoral Council Meeting Agenda
December 18, 2019 ... 6:30 PM
St. Paul Rectory

Agenda Topics & Allotted Time*

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| Opening Prayer | (2 minutes) |
| Review of our Recommendations ... John Taglianetti | (15 minutes) |
| Results of Breakfast with Santa ... JoHanna Polcaro | (5 minutes) |
| Update on Buildings & Grounds Collection ... JoHanna Polcaro | (5 minutes) |
| Subcommittee Reports/Assignments: | |
| • Prayer and Worship ... Kathy Brunelle | (10 minutes) |
| • Christian Formation ... Andrea Kanfer | (10 minutes) |
| • Human Concerns & Social Justice ... Mike Powell | (10 minutes) |
| • Buildings and Grounds ... John Taglianetti | (10 minutes) |
| Additional Cluster Pastoral Council Members ... John Taglianetti | (10 minutes) |
| New Business ... All | (15 minutes) |
| Action Item Review ... All | (3 Minutes) |
| Next Meeting Schedule & Agenda Items | (3 Minutes) |
| Closing Prayer | (2 Minutes) |

* The **Allotted Time** is the time targeted for completing **Agenda Topic** discussion. The Pastor, Chairperson, or Vice Chairperson will have the option to allot additional time for discussion or to table further discussion as deemed appropriate.