

Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting
November 16, 2016

Attendees:

Fr. Roger
Joanne Boyko
Lou Hinds (chairman)
Kathy Greene (co-chair)
Ben Gutierrez
Jennifer Langley
Jack Pierson
Peter Regan

Opening Prayer: All joined in the opening prayer lead by Lou Hinds.

Approval of the minutes – After reading over the minutes, the group approved the October 12 minutes as written. Jack Pierson moved to approve the minutes and Kathy Greene seconded the motion.

Approval of Expenditures -Peter Regan

Peter Regan made an observation that he had noticed that the Pastoral Council authorizes expenses and that the Finance Council is often not consulted beforehand. Jack Pierson said that he had been under the impression that the costs were passed onto the Finance Council for approval after we voted on them and granted approval. Fr. Roger said that he consults with the Finance Council along with the Pastoral Council before he gives his final blessing and approval for any project or expenditure. Fr. Roger pointed out that both the Pastoral Council and Finance Council work together to advise and guide him in his decision making.

Peter Regan pointed out that as a member of the Finance Council he finds that our actual income generally is running behind that which is expected for most of the year. He pointed out that up until now, we always had an additional money in the bank if needed in the case that we might run out of funds. Now that we are spending that fund on renovations we should be more careful at what spending we approve and make sure it falls within the budget.

Church Renovation update – Peter Regan

Peter announced that a committee including Fr. Roger, Peter, Lou, Ben and Al Nardone would meet with the two bidding companies for the renovation and question the builders. Both bids were almost exactly the same. One is a local builder, the other was recommended by the Diocese and had done work for the Diocese at other churches. After they decide whom to select, they will take it to the Diocese (BARC) to get approval. He hopes to get on the BARC schedule in December.

Peter said that we will need to borrow about \$300,000 in a building loan and we have about \$500,000 in savings to put into this renovation.

Peter discussed buying pews online from other churches. He said that Al Nardone offered to cut the pews if needed to a size that we can use.

Peter also said that the trees would be cleared out on the side of the Church and the McNulty building and that the parking lot would be expanded on that side also. A&N would bury an electrical cable for about \$1,000.00.

Lou thanked Peter for all his hard work on this project.

Parish Yard Sale - Kathy Greene

We collected \$1,100.00. We rented 28 tables. Kathy thanked Fr. Roger for letting us leave the unsold items until Hospice could come and take them away.

Lou thanked Kathy Greene for her efforts and work on this project.

Parking Lot – Lou Hinds

Lou looked for a compactor to rent and could not find one at Eastern Shore Tractor. He consulted with Fred Camden and he agreed to add stone for \$5,000.00, but that wouldn't cover the parking bumpers. Lou consulted with Fr. Roger and they agreed to approve an additional \$650.00 for the parking bumpers. Fred Camden leveled and compacted the lot and spread more stone than we had originally expected.

Peter Regan pointed out that if it happens to snow, we need to notify Dale Marsh that we have just spread some fresh stone before the snow plow scrapes it all off.

Lou Hinds showed where we have placed parking bumpers on the outside edges of the lot, but that we have none in the middle area. Charlie Schmidt and Lou have been working on how to maximize the number of cars in the center area. Lou demonstrated how we could improve the flow of traffic on Sunday by blocking off a certain area for egress.

Peter Regan suggested that we mark the area with paint. Lou agreed and pointed out that old fire hose would work very well as a divider also. Lou asked Jack Pierson to check with the Onley Fire Dept. to see if that might be available. Lou commented that he is still planning this and welcomes any suggestions. He stated that it is important that we make the Parking lot safe for our parishioners.

Parish Cleanup – Ben Gutierrez

Ben stated that we had more people show up than for the last clean up and they split up into 2 crews and they did a very good job. They pressure washed the McNulty Building, they cleaned up the statue of Mary, and the gardens, they removed the anchors on the storage shed and they removed overhanging limbs and foliage on trees.

Fr. Roger took his own crew over to the woods by the rectory and they cleaned up that area also.

It was a very successful Fall Parish Cleanup.

Parish Hall - Lou Hinds

Total for the ceiling Renovation is \$1109.63. Peter Regan asked where we were getting the money. Lou said that Fr. Roger was going to discuss this with the Finance Council before we start this project. Peter Regan pointed out that we have the renovation account and that each time we dip into this account we have a formula to comply with, but that we can most likely use that for this project. Peter Regan announced that since four members of the Renovation Committee were in attendance at this meeting they could authorize to approve the expenditure of the money from the Renovation Account. So then the project is approved and we can move forward.

Lou pointed out that we can keep any good ceiling tiles and save them for the bathrooms or other areas. Peter Regan agreed that there will be other areas that may need the ceiling tiles after we start renovating.

The Council discussed how we were going to replace the ceiling tiles and paint the walls and supports. Lou asked for someone to organize volunteers. Ben said that once he gets approval he can ask for volunteers. Lou said that he and Ben would work out how this project would be started the first week in December. Lou told Kathy that we would need 27 boxes of tiles ordered.

JoAnne Boyko pointed out that it needs to be finished quickly because there are a lot of meetings on the agenda for December.

Hispanic Ministries – Ben Gutierrez

Rudy Gomez, Coordinator for Hispanic Ministries, was supposed to attend this meeting, but he couldn't make it. They had a meeting on the previous Friday with the new coordinators of each of the Hispanic ministries. Ben explained that there had been a misunderstanding that the second coordinator for each ministry would not be able to talk at the ministry meeting. That upset some of the ministers as they asked why they should bother coming to the meeting.

Fr. Roger said that he had set up these guidelines in the interest of time management. The secondary coordinator should discuss any matters with the first coordinator before the meeting. With too many people speaking the meeting will take up too much time. If the first coordinator is not there, the second coordinator presents in their absence. Meetings would be a maximum of 2 hours. Fr. Roger also set a guideline that if you are absent for 3 meetings in a row for which you have not given an excuse, you are no longer a coordinator for that ministry.

Ben says that when he and Rudy meet with the ministries every month they allow each coordinator to talk for 5 minutes only. Ben suggested that it is difficult at times for a coordinator to make a decision on his own. Fr. Roger said that no decisions need to be made at these meetings – that the concerns can be collected at this general meeting and presented to Fr. Roger. Concerns and decisions must be made with the Pastor present.

Ben suggested that Fr. Roger attend this meeting to help this situation in the future. Fr. Roger said it is better having the meeting on Fridays and that he could attend more in the future. Fr. Roger also asked

Ben to continue to help Rudy with these meetings. Lou commented that while the Hispanic Ministries meet monthly, the Anglo ministries do not meet together at all. Lou suggested that after Fr. Roger returns in February we arrange a meeting of the Anglo ministers to discuss the new meeting guidelines with them.

Fr. Roger thanked everyone for working together to move these projects forward. He wanted to remind everyone that he is praying that we as a Church are united as one community, above cultural or language differences. He asked that minutes be translated into English and Spanish so that we can all participate together in the events and activities taking place in our Parish.

Hispanic Retreat – Ben Gutierrez

This two day event will take place on Jan 21 and 22 at Mary N. Smith Middle School. Ben said the speaker for the event is from Mexico, but lives now in Arizona. He will be here on both Saturday and Sunday. He formerly spoke in Richmond and attracted a huge crowd. The Hispanic ministries will sell food at the event to raise money for the Church renovations. Ben asked if they were allowed to invite people from other areas such as Norfolk and Baltimore to this event Fr. Roger said that he would give Ben the blessing to spread the word in other parishes if he asked permission of the pastor of the Church before you give them the flyers. Lou Hinds asked if the event was all Spanish or would it be bi-lingual? Ben responded that the speaker is bi-lingual and if enough English speaking people attended that the speaker could switch to English also.

Simbang gabi – Fr. Roger

Simbang gabi will be on December 17 at 5 pm. The San Lorenzo choir will attend again and following Mass there will be an Agape celebration in the Parish Hall. Fr. Roger thanked everyone who helped last year with the food. Simbang gabi celebrates the Spirit of unity and the Spirit of welcoming Christmas. The meeting of the committee for this will be this coming Friday at 7 pm.

Vacation – Fr. Roger

Fr. Roger will change his scheduled vacation from this coming May to January. This has been approved by the Diocese so he will be leaving January 9 and return February 9. There will be no weekday Masses during that time since Fr. Mike is getting his Visa approved at this time and is in the Philippines right now. For Sunday Masses Fr. Nixon and Fr. Jules Buena will say Mass on alternate weekends. Fr Roger said that he hoped that before he leaves for vacation that we could settle the Church renovation plans with the Diocese.

On January 21 and 22nd when the Hispanic retreat occurs they will be raising money for construction of the Church and an invited priest will say Mass. The invited priest would have to be approved by the Diocese. Ben Gutierrez said that the Hispanic ministries wanted to invite Fr. Jimmy, but they wanted to check with Fr. Roger first. Fr. Roger said that they would have to check with Fr. Jimmy's schedule.

March for Life - Joanne Boyko

The March for Life in Washington will be held on January 27th 2017. The Diocese is helping to pay for the busses in response to grant applications.

Parish Software – Joanne Boyko

There will be new software in each Parish coming soon. ParishSoft has met over the past 6 months with a select group of people from several parishes and used the input from the meetings to customize the software as needed. They will have training sessions in the Spring of about 20 people at a time in Va Beach or Richmond.

Training Center at St. Peters – IT at the Diocese is still negotiating with computer companies for enhanced computing ability for a future conference center at St. Peters.

Parish Calendar – Joanne announced that we could not find sponsors for the Parish Calendar this year, so the decision was made not to produce one this year. The cost was \$1,000.00 before sponsorship. We paid \$500.00 last year after sponsorships were paid. Fr. Roger said that it would only be for this year and that the money formerly spent for the Calendars would be used toward Church Renovation.

Christmas Party – The Annual Christmas Party for Ministry Chairs/Coordinators will be held on December 9th at 6 pm in the Church Hall. Everyone was asked to bring a side dish.

Fr. Roger closed with a prayer

The Next Parish Council meeting will take place January 18th at 7 pm.