

St Sebastian Pastoral Council Minutes
June 11, 2018

Location: St Catherine Parish

In attendance: Fr. Larry Chapman, Eunice Frieseke, Cathy Hoffman, Lori Larch, Jen Ohlendorf, Carole Poth, Edie Schwabe, Del Slowik, Maricolette Walsh, and Jim Ewig

Guests: Judy Hill, Joann Stasiewicz

Excused: Dillon Ambrose, Michelle Hansen, Lori Larch, Stephen Ragatz, Andrew Zeidler

Jen called the meeting to order at 07:03PM.

Opening Prayer

Margaret led the Council in opening prayer.

Introductions

Judy Hill and Joann Stasiewicz were introduced to the Council. They will be joining the Council in August 2018. Judy had previously participated on the Parish Council and is currently on the Prayer and Worship committee. Joann is currently the Chair of the Faith Formation committee.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Eunice moved to approve the May minutes as presented. Del seconded the motion. There were no abstentions.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Del reported that “new” plans have been created to fix the gym wall. The original estimate of approximately \$36,000 has now increased to approximately \$56,000. Two reasons were cited for the increase. The first is the severe shortage of skilled labor which is driving costs higher. The second is the scope and amount of work was found to be more than originally thought. There was also a change to a different masonry contractor. Maricolette reviewed the history of delays and obstacles in getting the project moving.

A date has not yet been selected to start work on the bell tower lighting project.

There were several modifications made to the lighting in the altar area of the church.

Finance – Maricolette stated that the Finance Council had met on May 16th. The yearend projection of “one pot” funds was estimated to be \$37,000, but it was felt that projection may be lowered at the next Finance Council meeting. Additional funds may need to be allocated for the gym wall project. She stated regular contributions continue to trend downward. Mike and Trisha Zielinski have agreed to co-Chair the auction this fall.

Faith Formation Cathleen reported that an offer has been extended to a candidate for one of the Faith Formation Ministers. The Committee wrote and distributed Thank You notes to the teachers at end of school.

The Committee created and summarized goals for the upcoming year. The goals are in sync with our parish strategic plan.

Cathleen mentioned that there is a need for a real time parish calendar.

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Human Concerns - Edie gave the summary for the Human Concerns committee. She stated the MICAH dinner event was well attended. Ed Duncklee will attempt to coordinate and strengthen the connection between the Faith Formation and Human Concerns committees.

School - The Council briefly discussed the status of the part time data position that is being created to free up Heather Grams so she may perform more administrative duties.

Administrator Report

Carole said there will be an orientation for new Pastoral Council members held on Tuesday June 19th at 5:30pm. This will cover a number of topics, which include the Council norms and the Pastoral Council Manual.

Carole also announced that the campus has adopted a smoke free and vape free policy. The policy was drafted by school staff.

Pastors Report

Fr Larry covered three topics. The first was that an offer has been extended to a candidate for one of the newly created Faith Formation positions and there are three promising candidates for the other newly created Faith Formation position. He was hopeful that an announcement could be made by the end of this week that these positions have been filled.

The second topic was that St Catherine School will have new leadership. St Catherine is a member of the Seton Catholic School system, which has just filled two leadership positions. The Head of Schools position was filled by Michelle Paris. She is also the Head of Schools at Northwest Catholic School and will split her time between St Catherine and Northwest Catholic. St Catherine also has a new principal or "School Leader", Chequetta Ferguson. Her time will be dedicated solely to St Catherine. She is also an employee of Seton. There is also a Dean of Students position which is yet to be filled.

The third topic addressed was Fr. Larry's retirement. Father Larry announced he would like to pursue senior priest status to take effect at the regular spring transfer time in 2019. The process consists of his submitting a letter requesting approval for retirement to the Archbishop. If approved, June of 2019 will be the final month for Fr Larry as the pastor of St Catherine and St Sebastian parishes. Fr Larry stated he is willing to make himself available if the recruitment process for his replacement takes longer than expected. The Council had many questions and thoughts on this matter. While some questions were addressed, Jen asked that due to time constraints that other questions be held until a future meeting.

Old Business

Jen gave a summary of the inter-committee planning session held on Sunday June 3rd. She felt the session was well attended, even with the short notice. The only committee not be represented at the session was Buildings and Grounds.

Jen is at the end of her Council Chair term. She said she will be available to work with next Chair to transition her duties and review open projects.

The Council discussed Mike Kamenski's emergency preparedness plan presentation which he gave prior to yesterday's Masses. The overall consensus was that Mike did a great job of communicating information on what can be a difficult topic to discuss. The information was presented delicately and concisely.

Margaret reported that the School Foundation has given over two million dollars to the school. A small celebration was held to commemorate the milestone. Bishop Haynes was on hand for the celebration and joined Heather Grams on a

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tour of the school. Heather shared a synopsis of the School successes, which included State recognition of great math scores and the Archdiocese recognition of “educating the whole child”.

Pastoral Council Member Recruitment plan

Jen queried the Council to gauge if any of the Members have a personal interest in becoming Chair or Vice Chair. There were some questions, but no one volunteered at that time.

Eunice will also be stepping down from her Vice Chair position, but will remain on the Council as in an “at large” position.

Andrew has just completed his term as the Council’s youth representative. Andrew’s younger brother may have interest in taking his place. Jen asked the Council to submit any candidates to her.

New business –

Due to lack of time, new business was not discussed.

Next Meeting

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Monday August 6th, 2018 at 7pm at St Sebastian.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Ewig