

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
Notes of Meeting of August 2, 2016

The meeting was held at the Parish Center, and began at 6:30 p.m. Attending were:

Present?		Name, Position	Elected/ Apptd.	Rep/ Liaison
Y	N			
X		Fr. Grant Gerlach, Pastor		
X		Ed Fischer, Chair	Elected	Liturgy, CLM
X		Mary Krogman Vice Chair	Elected	Bldg/Mtc
X		John Dvorak	Elected	Rel. Ed.
X		Donna Hafner	Elected	Arts + Env., WSJ
---	*	Joe Uhrich	Apptd.	KCs
X		Brenda Oster	Apptd.	Finance
X		Amy Miklos	Apptd.	Young Adults/Youth
X		Jim Brickey, Bldg/Mtc Chair		

The notes from the last meeting were reviewed. No discussion was had. Motion was made and seconded to approve. Approval was unanimous. *(NOTE: *Item corrected 10/11/2016.)*

Introductions

This was the first meeting of the Parish Council with Fr. Grant Gerlach. Members of the Council introduced themselves to Fr. Gerlach. Father introduced himself by saying the Bishop has appointed him Pastoral Parochial Administrator for this first year. In this capacity he cannot initiate large building projects, but will administer the Parish in most other ways.

Fr. Gerlach said he has a B.S. in computer programming and software from the University of South Dakota. He worked in information technology for six years in Rapid City, Pierre and Spearfish. He accepted a call to the priesthood, and studied at St. Paul Seminary. He was ordained in 2014, and served two years at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Rapid City.

He shared that baseball “was his life”. He played three years with Post 22, until he injured his elbow. The nature of the injury was severe enough that he could not continue with the sport. He shared further that the Lord healed him while he was in the seminary. He strives now to lead people closer to Jesus Christ.

Fr. Gerlach admitted to being introverted by nature, and said it’s sometimes difficult for him to initiate. He said it helps him when others initiate conversations and ideas. He stated he is a “blank slate” going into this year, and looks forward to hearing from us things that might help him become a better pastor.

Father reminded us that this body is a Parish Pastoral Council. He asked to start with meetings every two months, and we agreed on Tuesday night as a meeting night.

OLD BUSINESS

Building/Maintenance

Jim Brickey suggested that the Council publish the actual costs of the recently-completed parking lot, as well as the work on the north wall of the Church, with a summary including who did the work, etc.

Jim briefed the Council on other needs and progress:

- North garage driveway – Jim will gather information on how to fix the ongoing problem of providing safe access for Father’s car across the small drainage ditch.
- Rectory bathroom – Fr. Kerry had purchased appliances and they are now on hand.
- The recent annual facilities inventory identified the need for a place to safely store paint. Jim will look into a paint locker.
- Parking lot lighting was another need identified in the annual inventory. Jim will look into that.

Gathering Area Planning

Mary Krogman is the Council liaison to the steering group initiated by Fr. Kerry. Mary had talked to John Fejfar and Craig Bobzien, and will talk to Rich Zacher and Ed Hoffman. She said that Dawn Holland had declined to be on the steering group, but said she would help with the effort.

The Council asked Mary to continue to contact potential steering group members, and to convene a group of six or less, to come up with a few conceptual ideas to begin the planning process. Fr. Gerlach contributed that, as part of planning, we should remember the patron saint of the Parish, and remember the reason for the narthex of the Church (*Note: The narthex was originally a place inside the entrance of the church from which those not eligible for admittance into the church could hear and participate in the service. Since there is no longer a requirement to exclude non-members from services, this area could now be considered a vestibule.*)

NEW BUSINESS

Diocesan Priority Plan

The Council reviewed Appendix I of the book, *Through Him, With Him and In Him*, by Bishop Robert D. Gruss, and specifically the action items included in the Priority Plan (see Ed Fischer’s summary handout, attached). Parishes are responsible to accomplish several of these action items within the next three-six months.

Items of note:

- First three sections (Mission, Core Values, Diocesan Statement of Vision) are foundational principles
- Section “Diocesan Pastoral Priorities” contains three priorities, two of which carry tasks assigned to parishes (*Note: Fr. Gerlach clarified that St. John the Baptist is already a stewardship parish*)

- Section “Foundational Ministries” contains five ministries, each with one or more tasks; ministries #1, 2 and 5 contain tasks for parishes

Fr. Gerlach said the Council should discuss this further at another meeting to develop an action plan and prioritize work items. He noted that our actions flow from our being.

Next Meeting

The Council will meet next on Tuesday, October 11, at 6:30 p.m.