

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
Notes of Meeting of November 15, 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
	X	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 changes were noted. The notes were approved as-is.

Building/Maintenance – Jim Brickey

Driveway entrance – This job is complete. Jim briefly summarized costs for gravel, the grate and labor. These amounted to less than \$1500.

Drainage into basement furnace room – Work on the back of the church (north of the west entrance) was more expensive than expected. Total for dirt, excavation and gravel was \$2284.50, already paid. Jim is waiting for the bill from K2 Concrete for the installation of the drainage.

Parking lot insurance liability – Jim had talked to the insurance company about liability for unauthorized public use of the west parking lot, including skateboarding. They suggested we develop and post at least two signs advising the public the lot is for church parking only, and warning that unauthorized use is prohibited. Jim purchased three signs at a total cost of \$248. These will be placed at the three entry points to the lot.

Snow removal contract for this winter -- Jim talked to Steve Davis. He is willing to clear sidewalks of snow and plow the east parking lot this winter. He doesn't want a contract. Steve will contact Jim if he can't do it on occasion. **Jim will ask Dennis Rosane to see if he is willing to be Steve's back-up.**

Rectory bathroom – Work is progressing on the shower. John Fejfar did the plumbing, and Greg Lacey is doing the tile. //// Discussed a suggestion to move the washer and dryer upstairs for priest convenience. This would require rewiring to provide 220 volts. Apparently this would be feasible. Jim will talk to John. No big rush right now.

There was a problem this past Monday, Nov. 14, with the elevator. Jim called the elevator company, and was told it would be very expensive for them to come look at it. They suggested he contact a local electrician. Jim contacted a local electrician, who fixed the problem.

OLD BUSINESS

Gathering Area

(The Parish Council had previously asked that a small steering group explore possible renovation concepts, including upgrading power to the building to allow for installation of air conditioning units, providing for an accessible gathering area, and upgrading the basement bathrooms. The group should also discuss some possible funding ideas. Mary Krogman convened a group and is serving as the liaison.)

Mary updated the group on the efforts of the steering committee. Group members include Craig Bobzien, Rich Zacher, Tab Arthur, Finny Sechser, John Fejfar, and Mike Lewis, and several others. Several of these people have served on similar groups in the past.

The sentiment of the group currently is that we need both a gathering area and additional seating. Bathrooms in basement may not be feasible or necessary to include in this project. Mary has looked at prior plans developed in earlier attempts to build an addition. Apparently soil sampling was done for an earlier effort, and the group wants to see those results. This could help them determine where to go next. The need for fund raising was also discussed.

After the group has further discussions and makes some determinations, they would come in to brief the Council on their findings. Mary stated she will continue to meet with the group in December, but is planning to leave after that for part of the winter season. She will touch base with us before then.

Father Gerlach said that the Diocese may have some guidelines for new constructed facilities that should be included in the concepts. He has reviewed a Diocesan flow chart for building projects. He plans to call the Diocesan building commission (or equivalent) to make initial contact, advise that we are exploring alterations to the building, and that the project could exceed \$10,000.

Priority Plan Action Items

(Fr. Gerlach had asked that members read the document, *Through Him, With Him and In Him*, authored by Bishop Gruss, which was sent to all parishioners this summer, specifically Chapter IX. The Diocesan action plan calls for at least one meeting of prayer and reflection on reconciliation in the dimensions of the individual, family and parish. The suggestion was made that youth could be reached by a presentation on a Wednesday evening at Faith Formation. No decisions were made on that or other Parish meetings.)

Father handed out several copies of the book to members, and discussed grouping the chapters logically to read the book. Wants the Council to go through this together.

Father conducted a meeting to develop a reconciliation plan in Hot Springs this past weekend. He said they had begun with prayer time after Mass. The Diocese developed a sheet with reflection questions, which can help identify areas where relationships are currently good, and areas where reconciliation is needed. A plan will be developed later to address these needs. Father has scheduled a similar session in Edgemont (Sun, Dec. 4), and now wants to schedule one here. He would like to complete a Parish meeting by mid-December.

The group initially discussed doing this after a Saturday night Mass. The Council members preferred Wednesday night. Father would facilitate the group. Father asked Amy to poll Jeannie, Kathleen, Belinda, re: whether to feed kids first, or later. Amy suggested feeding them first. The Church would provide an entrée, and parishioners would be asked to bring a potluck item such as a salad/side or dessert.

We would need pencils, people to hand out papers, and a scribe to record comments raised by the group.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Terms

(The 2-year terms of John Dvorak and Donna Hafner expired Fall 2015. No nominations were received from parishioners for those positions in November 2015, and since both were willing to continue serving, Fr. Kerry appointed both to three-year terms. He recommended at that time that we have an official ballot in the future.

(The 3-year terms of Ed Fischer and Mary Krogman expired Fall 2016. As agreed at the October meeting, nominations were requested at Masses on two successive weekends; a candidate slate was identified and provided for Parish review the next weekend; and elections were held the fourth weekend. Donna Hafner assisted with the nomination process, and Mary Krogman and Phyllis Wheeler counted votes as part of their money-counting work.)

Ed reviewed the election results. Votes were as follows:

- Ed Fischer – 75
- Mary Krogman – 59
- Cindy Weidenbach – 50
- Joe Raver – 34
- Mary Hoover – 14

Ed shared that Cindy was willing to be considered for appointment in case a current member chose to step down. The group discussed having an alternate member sit in on meetings, who could act for a member who might be occasionally or chronically absent, or step in in case of a resignation. Although there is no provision for this in the by-laws, Father Gerlach agreed it would be good to have an alternate member in such cases. Ed will talk to Cindy and ask if she'd be willing to do this.

Motion by Mary to retain officers as-is. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Ed will email Father Gerlach a copy of the Parish Council by-laws.

Wednesday Morning Mass Time

A parishioner had contacted both John and Ed with a suggestion to move Mass time from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m., in order to allow increased Mass attendance. Father suggested a trial run during Advent, on three Wednesdays in December. Moved and approved. Father Gerlach will talk to Karen about details including a bulletin notice.

REPORTS

(At the October meeting it was agreed that Ed would send out notes of the most recent meeting two weeks prior to the next one, and request Council members to “reply to all” with any reports from their liaison committees. Members could review these email replies, and then initiate any discussion at the next meeting.)

Email replies were as follows:

- Finance Committee (Brenda) – We have \$50,000 in savings, \$14,700 in capital improvement, and \$53,000 in the gathering area fund.
- Arts and Environment (Donna) – A+E had a very successful bake sale/arts and crafts sale during the Buffalo Roundup weekend. Looking ahead to decorating during the fall and Advent/Christmas seasons.
- Women of St. John’s (Donna) – WSJ held the second of their bi-annual kitchen cleanings earlier this fall. Held another quarterly meeting Sunday, Nov. 13. Continue to have discussions regarding the Church basement floor.
- Liturgy Committee (Ed) – An all-ministry training session was held in September to update ministers on procedure and other changes to their ministries; intend to make this refresher an annual event shortly after Labor Day each year. Also, several folks new to the Parish have stepped into roles in the liturgy, including three new readers, and at least two new sacristans; we are blessed to have them, and it’s a success to have identified new parishioners and their abilities and to accommodate their willingness to serve.

NEXT MEETING

Next Parish Council meeting will be held at the Parish Center on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.