

St. Petronille Church

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

1. Call to Order: The regular minutes of the St. Petronille Parish Council called to order at 7:04pm
2. Opening Prayer: Building in Faith prayer
3. Attendance: Present: Kimberly Meinhart—Vice President, Molly Hoerster—Secretary, Tim Donahue, Victor Trinkus, Tom Kane (Finance), Robert Van Witzenburg (School Board), Eileen Buccola (Religious Education), Maureen Shekleton (Christian Service), Klovirt Alnar (Sudanese Community), Fr. Thomas Milota—Pastor, Fr. Les—Parochial Vicar; Absent: Christy Collie—President, Joe Dougherty (Worship)
4. Parishioner Participation* (if any): None
5. Approval of minutes from last meeting: Motion to approve March 21, 2023 minutes by Maureen, 2nd by Molly, and all in favor
6. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve April 18, 2023 agenda by Tim, 2nd by Maureen, and all in favor
7. Commission Reports
 - a. **Finance** (Tom Kane reported): Highlights include:
 - Tom talked through the parish finance committee’s effort to reconcile an inconsistency in how something was accounted for at the parish several years ago
 - School has approved a budget and finance committee tentatively approved it for final approval in May, with final overview to come by parish council. Way ahead of schedule!
 - b. **Worship**: (supplied by Joe Dougherty) Highlights from April 4 meeting include:
 - 100th anniversary celebration
 - Preparing for Easter (decorations, music, setup, etc)
 - Ministries—need to do a better job recruiting (especially altar services). Council brainstormed ideas of how to increase altar server numbers. Kimberly made the recommendation for everyone to bring an idea of how to further our recruiting success for launch in the fall. Fr. Les suggested that two parents be lead recruiters and planners for an “altar server group” that involves some social activities.

- c. **School Board** (Robert VanWitzenburg reported) Highlights from April 11 meeting include:
 - Winding down school board year. Reviewed candidates for next year's board. Excellent slate of candidates. Current year's school board has been engaged, effective, and unified.
 - Positioned for a great year ahead (budget, enrollment, tuition)
 - Need a candidate to run the proposed STEAM lab
- d. **Religious Education** (Eileen Buccola reported) Highlights from April 11 meeting include:
 - Sense of purpose and impact of board seems to building
 1. *Young Adult/Youth Ministry* -
 - Gabi — will join us in June; all are excited to meet her!
 - Gabi will be involved in Confirmation retreats this summer
 - Low involvement in mission trip (only one kid so far; will need to cancel trip if less than 6)
 - Planning for SparkFest
 2. *Religious Ed - Julie*
 - Confirmation retreats in the summer
 - Julie has been soliciting opinions from members of the board about how well the RE program is working, as well as optimal days/times for RE sessions
 - Introduction of summer programming ideas to keep families connected, students comfortable at church and building those ties
 3. *Adult Ministry - Kathy (no report)*
- e. **Christian Service** (Maureen Shekleton reported). Highlights from April 13 meeting include:
 - Rich Cullotta has graciously agreed to assume the chair role of the CSC which includes representation on PC beginning in the Fall
 - Deacon Peter has met with our new young adult coordinator, Gabi Goritz, to share info on our ministries and solicit volunteers from that group
 - CS informational brochures were updated and shared at the fish dinners – agreed this should be done at future social parish activities
 - During Centennial celebration CS would like to encourage involvement in ministries “day of service” concept through the month
 - The online fundraiser, Giving DuPage Days, will be held May 1-5 and will benefit ESSE, GEFP, PADS and Catholic Charities, so a parish communication has been submitted for inclusion in the e-blast and bulletin

- Discussion of starting a parish nurse program (starting simple, blood pressure screenings, and growing from there)
- Due to inflation and the loss of SNAP benefits demand is increasing for services of most of our ministries
- **Choose Life:** Has been added to CS roster and will attend CS meetings moving forward
- **PADS:** Heidi Mayer is new CS representative
- **MC:** The generosity of the Parish toward Mary's Closet is commendable
- **Sudanese Service** (Klovirt Alnar)
 - Shared in Easter Mass in large church for both Masses. Brought up three large fruit baskets for offertory
 - Did own Easter celebration, including 146 people
 - First Communion and Baptism of two community members coming up this week
 - More frequent executive committee meetings are becoming necessary to get more organized given group's growth

8. Pastor's Report:

- **Happy Easter!** Weekend was busy and beautiful!
- Dr. Mary Kelly event was well attended by approx. 70 people; dedicated the Kelly Stage for the Performing Arts to Mary and Jim Kelly; enjoyed small luncheon with handful of people who knew her previously
- Main parking lot being resurfaced this summer, with additional entrance and landscaping near the old priest residence, to be finished by end of summer; minor effect on weddings this summer

9. Pending Business:

a. **Capital Campaign**

- Refurbishing of pews will happen this summer (starting after June 25 for 8 weeks); carpeting removed and floors restored; runners installed; refurbished wood on sides of church
- Windows in school will be evaluated for repair; replacements
- STEAM lab (school)
- Side entrance to church on Hillside is being repaired and will be done by end of year
- HVAC assessment of school has been started

b. **Centennial Celebration**

- \$5.5M plus \$200K matching gift

- Centennial Celebration determined dates:
 - May 31, 2025 — Outdoor Mass/Picnic Party
 - September 6, 2025 — Formal Gala

10. New Business: Voted on and approved 2023-24 Parish Council Members

11. Executive Session (if necessary called by Pastor or President): At 8:55pm, we moved into executive session. We resumed the regular meeting at 9:05pm

12. Closing Prayer: Offered by Fr. Les

13. Adjournment: 9:10pm

Next regular meeting – Tuesday, May 16, 2023

***Parishioners are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and speak during Parishioner Participation**