

St. Petronille Church

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

1. Call to Order: The regular minutes of the St. Petronille Parish Council called to order at 7:05pm
2. Opening Prayer: Fr. Milota
3. Attendance: Present: Joe Dougherty—President, Kimberly Meinhart—Vice President, Molly Hoerster—Secretary, , Joe Dougherty (Worship), Eileen Buccola (Religious Education), Rich Cullotta, (Christian Service), Klovirt Alnar (Sudanese Community), Kevin Moffitt, Bob Solak, Fr. Thomas Milota—Pastor, Absent: Victor Trinkus, Tom Kane (Finance), Robert Van Witzenburg (School Board), Fr. Les—Parochial Vicar
4. Parishioner Participation: None
5. Approval of minutes from last three meetings: Motion to approve May 16, 2023, August 15, 2023, and September 26, 2023 minutes by Rich, 2nd by Eileen, and all in favor. Change made in September minutes to reflect that Joe was absent. Council spent a fair amount of time discussing the sharing of commission minutes in preparation for monthly parish council meetings and agreed on the following:
 - Committee chairs will send approved monthly minutes, once they become available, to Molly and Joe
 - Committee chairs will create a summary of highlights from committee meetings and forward to Molly and Joe. These summaries will be shared with council members prior to monthly meetings and will be incorporated into monthly parish council minutes
 - Committee chairs will determine how to best maintain a digital file of monthly committee minutes, should there ever be a need to look back at the details of a particular meeting. There was discussion of posting them monthly, where possible, on the parish website in the area dedicated to each committee. In cases where this is not possible, committees should seek some other method of preservation.
6. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve October 17, 2023 agenda by Kevin, 2nd by Rich, and all in favor
7. Commission Reports

- a. **Worship** (Joseph Dougherty reported): Highlights from September 26 meeting include

September 26, 2023 - Worship Commission Meeting Summary

- Joliet Diocesan Convocation for Priests
 - Held on September 18 – 21, 2023.
 - The Joliet priest convocation is held every other year.
 - All priests of the Joliet Diocese attend to participate in prayer, continuing education, and fellowship.
 - Some topics discussed included:
 - Eucharistic Revival
 - Healing for the Priests
- Upcoming Significant Anniversaries
 - 2024 is the 75th anniversary of the Joliet Diocese
 - July of 2024 is the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana.
 - 2025 is the 100th anniversary of Saint Petronille Parish
- Blessing of Fr. Palmer's Organ
 - Scheduled for October 21, 2023, at 11:00 AM
 - The Viatorians will be invited to the dedication along with the parish.
 - A luncheon is being planned for after the dedication.
- Music
 - Adult choir has returned to rehearsing.
 - Coordination of a Children's choir is in-progress.
- Altar Servers
 - Letters will be mailed to the school children in the 4th grade and up encouraging participation in this ministry.
- EMHC & Lectors
 - There as a shortage of service ministers in the previous schedule cycle
 - Four (4) new EMHC ministers were in training.
- Ushers & Greeters
 - Ushers will count the attendance during October masses.
 - It appears that the attendance numbers are increasing.
- Eucharistic Adoration
 - There is a Holy Hour of Adoration on the third Friday of the month from 7 pm to 8pm.
 - This service includes Vespers.
- Art & Environment
 - The next meeting shall discuss Christmas decorations.
- Live Streaming of Masses
 - The ambient microphone will be adjusted or replaced to reduce noise from the congregation.
- Interfaith Prayer Breakfast
 - Scheduled for 10/25/2023 from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM at the Abbington Distinctive Banquets, Glen Ellyn.

- b. **Finance** (Tom Kane absent): No recent Finance Council meetings. Next meeting scheduled on November 16.
 - A search is still underway for the replacement of Betty Glover, the parish's most recent Finance Manager. Jeff May has continued to fill the gap in the meantime.
- c. **School Board** (Robert VanWitzenburg absent) Met on October 10; minutes not yet available. Father provided a few key items of discussion:
 - In process of rewriting agreements regarding the establishment of a teachers endowment fund to supplement salaries.
 - Discussed participation of school families in Capital Campaign. The three particular projects involving the school are the roofs of all buildings, HVAC system in the school, and windows in the school
- d. **Religious Education** (Eileen Buccola reported) No October meeting. No formal report.
 1. *Young Adult/Youth Ministry* - Gabi
 - Producing some great young adult and high school ministry opportunities, with stable attendance
 2. *Religious Ed* - Julie
 - Two sessions of RE (4:30 and 6:15) are going well
 - Staff did a great job working around the painting of the PLC in the first weeks of class
 3. *Adult Ministry* - Tim and Nancy O'Donohue
 - Focused on OCIA, with 14 candidates in the program
- e. **Christian Service** (Rich Cullotta reported). Highlights from October 10 meeting include:
 - **CCW** - Audra Disser is running Adopt a Family program for a limited number of families (20 in number), most of which are Mary's Closet clients. Father noted that we could make an appeal to the parish to be able to increase the number of families that might be helped. Kimberly suggested using Sign Up Genius to augment the potential for outreach by the provision of gift cards. Klovirt suggested gift card being more in the range of \$25 instead of larger denominations that can't be shared among family members. Father predicted the parish would be highly responsive to a request for gift cards.
 - **GE Walk-in-Ministry** - Added one volunteer from First Presbyterian; Serving a few clients currently
 - **Ministry of Care** - Eight people are receiving Communion at home now; Placing request in bulletin for additional EMs for the homebound
 - **SVDP** - Concentrating on rent assistance but funds are very low (approx. \$3,500) and increased rents (\$1,100-\$1,500) may impact capacity to help; Awaiting latest issue of Safeguarding Policies which we hope include only minor requirements;

Stores need more clients (99 cent Mondays designed to draw people to the stores) but locations are somewhat of a problem as they are not in high traffic areas. SVDP clients are already asking for turkeys/food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Auto repairs have been suspended for now until funds balance increases. Driver volunteer has to abide by diocesan rules and has to go through Protecting God's Children

- **Bridge Communities** - Added two mentors, one from St. Petronille and another from Christ the King; more than 40 people are awaiting consideration for Bridge assistance; Sleep-out-Saturday can be done anytime between October 27 and December 2; Media focus and rally will be at COD on November 4 at Lakeside Pavilion at 6pm with food prepared by the COD culinary students
- **ESSE** - Recognized as one the best non-profits by *Daily Herald* Readers' Choice Award; Budget stable but less grants since the end of Covid; Recruiting drivers, activity assistants and music therapist; Ribbon cutting at St. Mark's Aurora site (open four days per week, Mon-Thurs)
- **GEFP** - Food drive planned for December, includes help from school students
- **MC** - Averaging 12 to 18 clients per week; In need of help for drop-off second Saturday of each month; Completed switch of winter to summer clothes; Have volunteer coordinator, Anne Stratton
- **Choose Life** - October is Protect Life month; Cross field on east side of church represents souls lost to abortion
- **Sudanese Service** (Klovirt Alnar reported)
 - Celebration last Sunday of St. Daniel, who served in Sudan for almost 30 years. Dressed African for the occasion and performance by kids' choir. Two presentations given (Arabic and English).
 - 8 Sudanese kids altar server training
 - Contribution efforts for Capital Campaign still going on
 - Catechism for about 30-40 kids on the 7th and then again on 21st
 - Kids have a choir, as well as performing at certain events. Father suggested that they perform at a Donut Sunday and that it could be publicized in the bulletin in advance.
 - Kimberly suggested sharing movie about St. Bahkita at the re-dedication of Colonial Hall (January 13 after 5pm Mass)

8. Pastor's Report:

- Father interjected his commentary at various points during the commission reports, as noted in the commission summaries

9. Pending Business:

- a. **Parish Council Constitution and By-laws review** — Joe questioned the reasonableness of Numeral III E (that includes the requirement to review all commission by-laws annually). After some discussion, the council agreed that we don't want to review and edit them every year. Instead, we could be a collector of the by-laws every year but not necessarily review them in detail every year. The council agreed to strike Numeral III and roll the contents of Numeral III into Numeral II ("Purpose of the Parish Council"). Kevin agreed to revise Numerals II and III. Changes will be shared in advance of and voted upon at November meeting. Council members decided that, in keeping with the by-laws, Sudanese Service should be broken out as its own commission, made effective after the by-laws changes are approved at the November meeting.

10. New Business: None

11. Executive Session: None

12. Closing Prayer: Offered by Fr. Milota

13. Adjournment: 8:42pm

Next regular meeting – Tuesday, November 21, 2023

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