

Draft

**St. Francis Parish Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; Brunsman Hall
Tuesday, February 12, 2019**

Fred Bermudez, excused
Francine Freitas, present
Jo Gonsalves, present
Darrin Greer, vice chair, present
Margaret Healy, present
Linda Hill, present
Melba Hinajosa, present
Bob Lavelle, excused
Dennis Mahoney, present

Kent Meyers, present
Emer McKenna, present
Gary Myrick, present
Fr. Des O'Reilly, pastor, present
Bob Reid, chair, present
Tom Sweetman, present
Janet Vitt, secretary, present

Also attending were parish staff member Beth White and parish member John Brozek.

Chair Bob Reid opened the meeting at 6 p.m., and Melba Hinajosa led the room in a prayer.

The minutes of the January 8, 2019, council meeting, upon motion by Melba Hinajosa, seconded by Darrin Greer, were approved unanimously. They will be posted on the parish website.

Pastor's remarks

Father Des said he appreciated the success of the February 2 Parish Conversation on the Crisis of Sexual Abuse in the Church. He said the Diocese had contracted with an outside investigative firm and plans to release before Easter the names of clergy dating back to the 1950s accused of sexual abuse. It could be profoundly shocking even when we know about the scandal within the church.

Chair's Report

Chair Bob Reid gave his report, including a reminder for Council members to wear the name tags that identify them as members at Masses the weekend of Feb. 16-17. He said the By-Laws Revision Committee has a document being processed that will be presented at the March meeting. He reviewed the success of the Feb. 10 Welcome Breakfast for new parish members, which had good representation by council members.

Staff liaison report

Beth White began her report with an update on the planning for the Gala fundraiser on Feb. 23, which had sold approximately 200 tickets.

On March 2-3, the Annual Catholic Appeal will be discussed during all Masses.

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6, and the parish again will offer small booklets of reflections for Lent, Triduum and Easter for a \$1 donation.

The Faith Formation ministries move into the final season before Easter, when at the Vigil a large group of adults and children will enter full membership in the church. And on Feb. 24, several dozen children from the parish and school will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. Before that, they will be interviewed by teams of parishioners, and volunteers for those teams are being sought.

Council Member comments

Janet Vitt delivered a report on the Feb. 2 Parish Conversation on the sexual abuse scandal in the church. It is attached to these minutes.

Old Business

Parish Directory – Francine Freitas delivered the update on the progress being made, saying additional dates had been established with the photographer. Francine has been filling the appointments on those dates. Also scheduled are dates for photos of several ministries, including the March 12 photo of the Parish Council before the meeting that evening. Final publication of the directory is set for mid-summer.

Committee Reports

- Finance – Dennis Mahoney said the roof of the church is estimated to cost \$2.5 million, but after several inspections, there is hope that it may need only repair and not replacement, which would cost about half of what replacement would cost.
- Parish Safety Committee – Gary Myrick and John Brozek explained that the timing of the Council's interest in response to emergencies on church property coincides with a diocesan request for assessment from each parish. That diocesan directive dictates that that each parish get a plan in place and provides us with a structure in which to work. A committee has been formed to proceed on the issue, comprising Gary Myrick, Melba Hinajosa, Francine Freitas, Emer McKenna and John Brozek.

After the discussion, Gary Myrick moved:

The St. Francis Parish Council recommends that action be taken to plan for the event of a fire, earthquake, flood or active shooting. Those plans should cover the church building, Brunsmann Hall, Friary and Parish Center. The Sacramento Police Department SWAT Unit will be allowed to conduct a needs assessment for those four spaces. The plan will be reviewed annually with the parish members.

The motion was seconded by Janet Vitt and unanimously to approve by the council.

- Membership Committee – Darrin Greer presented council members with an updated chart of council terms, showing that the terms of five members expire – those of Bob Lavelle, Darrin Greer, Dennis Mahoney, Emer McKenna and Janet Vitt. Of those, only Dennis Mahoney is termed out. Further plans are being made for the upcoming elections in May.
- New Member Orientation – Melba Hinojosa said she and Bob Reid and new council members Tom Sweetman, Emer McKenna and Linda Hill met to discuss the background of the parish and the council.
- Outreach – Margaret Healy said there are more than 65 persons who volunteer as part of the Steps and Breakfast ministries.
- Faith Formation – Kent Meyers & Emer McKenna explained that children in faith formation classes had completed a service day on MLK Day, which involved donations to the Steps Ministry, the Breakfast Ministry and to Mercy Peddlers. Some of the children are doing their first Reconciliation.
- Building & Grounds – Janet Vitt said she had met at least briefly with lead volunteers of the Grounds crew and the Cleaning Ministry to listen to their needs and concerns. She said a custodian has not yet been hired, but several strong candidates have applied for the part-time position.

The next Council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2019, in Brunsman Hall. Emer McKenna and Linda Hill will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Emer McKenna led the Council in a closing prayer after which the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Vitt, secretary

Report on the

Feb. 2, 2019 Parish Conversation, *Crisis of Trust: The Sex Abuse Scandal in the Church*

For Feb. 12, 2019 Parish Council Meeting

About 60 persons attended the half-day Parish Conversation in the Parish Center.

The program started with prayer, brief acknowledgements of the organizing committee and a few minutes of context before a 5-minute video of three assault victims who were a part of the 2018 Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report.

Participants broke into seven discussion groups in as many rooms in the Parish Center. In the hourlong discussions every participant contributed at least some comment.

After a short break to reassemble in the chapel, group leaders summarized to the large group the topics and themes of each small-group discussion, pointing out similarities to and also differences from the other summarized comments.

Connie Koppes, a member since the 2002 inception of the Sacramento Diocesan Independent Review Board, briefed participants on the work of the board and explained how cases since 2002 are handled. Her remarks were informed by questions submitted from the discussion groups, and she took questions directly from the participants as part of her remarks. She also explained reasons for the delay in the release of names of diocesan priests who have been accused of sexual abuse. That release is scheduled for March.

Closing out the program was a reading from Lamentations and a brief reflection outlining the parallels between the time the poet wrote those verses and the times we are living now. The program ended in prayer with the Angelus bell ringing in the background.

The organizing committee in early March will assess the event and the participants' feedback forms. It will consider if another Parish Conversation on the same topic will be offered, and if so, details regarding it. Informally, it seems participants hoped for a follow-up. Verbally, positive remarks were made to committee members.

A report will be prepared by the organizing committee to include the number of participants and summaries of the small-group discussions, of the questions asked of the diocesan representative and of the feedback. That report will be posted on the parish website and sent to Bishop Soto. Also to be posted on the parish website will be a resources list provided to participants and copies of the prayers.

Janet Vitt

For the committee: Bob Reid, Beth White, Ruth Cornell, Jo Gonsalves, Darrin Greer, Paul LeBoeuf, Gary Myrick, Janet Vitt,

St. Francis Parish Project Progress Report February 12, 2019

January 22, 2019:

The Directory Team, Bob Read, Sue Murphy, Francine Freitas and photographers, Karl and Kim Vostrez met. At the meeting, the following photography schedule was established:

- February 23, baptisms
- March 2, individual photo sessions for parishioners
- March 2, 3 choirs, ushers/greeter for all Masses
- March 3, Parish Center Staff
- March 7, Liturgy Committee
- March 12, Parish Council
- March 14, Pathways for Justice Committee
- April 6, 7, individual photo sessions for parishioners

Additional dates will be established between the directory team and the photographers to choose pictures for inclusion in the directory, as well as to identify different events. A review by both teams before final publication will be made to ensure accuracy of names, events and captions.

The photographers anticipate the final directory will be completed, published and delivered to the Parish for final distribution by mid-summer.

Submitted by:
Francine Freitas