

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; online via Zoom
Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Fred Bermudez, absent

Ed Condon, absent

Francine Freitas, present

Jo Gonsalves, present

Darrin Greer, vice chair, present

Margaret Healy, excused

Linda Hill, present

Melba Hinojosa, present

Sue Kenney, present

Patrick Mahan, present

Emer McKenna, present

Kent Meyers, excused

Gary Myrick, present

Fr. Desmond O'Reilly, present

Bob Reid, chair, present

Janet Vitt, secretary, present

Also attending was J.D. Warrick of the parish staff.

Chair Bob Reid opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m., and Janet Vitt led a prayer.

The minutes of the November 10, 2020, regular council meeting were reviewed and upon motion by Sue Kenney, seconded by Jo Gonsalves, were approved unanimously after amendment to fix the dates of the "Open Our Hearts" report by Francine Freitas. They will be posted on the parish website.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Des made the following points:

- The school is open for in-person learning with modifications, including open windows, which are leading to higher utility bills.
- The parish continues to make donations to area food banks and organizations that serve the homeless and/or poor.
- Finances: As reported on the parish website and in the emailed newsletter, the donations to the church for 2020 ended up about 32% lower than the previous fiscal year. That's better than some churches, but still means economies are being made and studied. He said several one-time Covenant of Sharing donations were coming in.
- On Sundays Masses are celebrated at 7:30 a.m. in the Parish Center Courtyard and at 9:30 a.m. drive-in Mass in the parking lot. The 9:30 Mass is also streamed. There are weekday Masses, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:10 in the Parish Center Courtyard.
- Covid stimulus funds – The parish is planning to join any effort by the diocese to apply again for payroll help in federal stimulus programs. The parish has learned that its 2020 PPP loan was forgiven, and thus will not need to be repaid as specified in the program rules.

- Homeless guests – The Parish paid for a few former Steps guests to stay in motel rooms over Christmas weekend, a tradition over many years.

Chair’s Report: Bob Reid asked Patrick Mahan to briefly report on the Outreach Working Group’s Socks, Hats & Glove drive during advent. Patrick said Beth Mullen took the items collected by the school to Loaves & Fishes on Dec. 18 and during the week of Christmas, he delivered the items collected by the parish at Sunday Masses or at the Parish Center. Loaves & Fishes was happy to receive the items.

Staff Liaison Report: JD Warrick shared numbers of people who viewed the online services during the Christmas season: Christmas Eve Carols & lessons, 590; Christmas morning Mass, 249; Sunday, Dec. 27 Mass, 307; Jan. 1 Mass, 129; Sunday, Jan. 3 Mass; 205; Sunday, Jan. 10 Mass, 317.

Special Reports

- **Gala 2021** – Janet Vitt said the March 27, 2021 combined Church-Elementary School Gala will be held as a virtual event using the production studio of the Golden One Center. The Parish Gala Committee will solicit donations for Live and Silent Auctions, and the funds raised from those items will go to the parish. Clayton Whitehead will address the pastoral council in February.
- Pathways for Justice – Francine Freitas said 35 attendees from a variety of parishes participated in the five-week “Open Wide Our Hearts” series. St. Francis parish took the lead, putting a lot of work into the preparation and materials. The Pathways ministry is planning an exploration of Pope Francis’ Fratelli Tutti encyclical.
- 2020 Christmas Party – Emer McKenna and Francine Freitas were thanked for their successful online holiday celebration that brought together members of parish staff, Pastoral Council and Finance Committee for fun and fellowship.

Standing Committee Reports

- Building & Grounds – Janet Vitt heard from a few parishioners who stream the 9:30 Sunday Mass that they noticed the supports to the Brunsman Hall awning looked great after Manny Dabay painted them. Planning for projects that need a lift – such as cleaning gutters and changing some indoor lighting fixtures – so that specialty equipment can be rented once for all the tasks.
- Finance Council – Janet Vitt – The Council meets by Zoom on January 26.
- Liturgy Committee- Francine Freitas explained that committee members don’t know what to expect for Lent, including Ash Wednesday, which is February 17 this year.
- Parish Safety Committee - Gary Myrick & Francine Freitas remind everyone to wear masks.

- Faith Formation – Emer McKenna said children are preparing online for confirmation and will attend the March 6 “Fired Up” conference virtually this year. No date has been set for confirmation itself.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2021, by Zoom. Francine Freitas and Sue Kenney will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Emer McKenna led the Council in a closing prayer, and Fr. Des said a benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Vitt, secretary