

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; online via Zoom
Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ed Condon, present	Patrick Mahan, present
Francine Freitas, present	Emer McKenna, present
Jo Gonsalves, present	Kent Meyers, excused
Darrin Greer, vice chair, present	Gary Myrick, present
Margaret Healy, excused	Fr. Desmond O'Reilly, present
Linda Hill, present	Bob Reid, chair, present
Melba Hinojosa, present	Janet Vitt, secretary, present
Sue Kenney, present	

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

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

The minutes of the April 12, 2021, regular council meeting were reviewed and approved upon motion by Sue Kenney, seconded by Jo Gonsalves. They will be posted on the parish website.

Gala Report: Gala Committee chair Clayton Whitehead reported that the 2021 joint gala with St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School raised \$11,399.25 for the parish. February 19, 2022, has been set as a tentative date for a 14th annual gala and discussions have begun with the presumed venue, where the event has been held for a few years before the pandemic. A gala planning committee will have to recruit more members if an event is to take place.

St. Francis Elementary School Report: Principal Ivan Hrga spoke about the fun the school staff and volunteers had with the joint gala and mentioned the possibility of some future joint effort.

He also summarized these issues regarding the school:

- 8th-grade graduation was to be the week of May 17. All the graduating students have been accepted for admission to local Catholic high schools.
- The International Baccalaureate Program made an official site visit April 19-20. The school expects to receive a report from that visit with feedback around June 1, but there were promising comments from the visiting team. The IB application is for grades K-5th. The school hopes to qualify its middle school and junior high program in the upcoming years.
- The 2021-22 academic term will be conducted as totally in-person learning, and masks will be worn in some situations but not in the classroom when the only persons present are a part of that class. The diocese will operate and online-only school for the entire diocese as an option for parents who would prefer not to send their children to in-person classes. The school programs will be completely separate.
- The admission process is under way with openings only in 2nd and 4th grades. There have been 120 applicants for the 7 openings between those two grades, so it looks as if the school will be close to capacity. All but one staff member is returning for the next year.

- This ending academic year saw no student or staff member in quarantine for the Covid19 virus. The school mandated that all students and staff will have to be vaccinated if they are of the right ages.
- So far 123 families have signed up for extension service for the upcoming academic year.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Des O'Reilly said the Sacramento County Covid rates were too high to further relax the restrictions on the numbers who can attend Masses in person. Even after restrictions are removed, until all parish members are comfortable with in-person, we are likely to have a hybrid approach with an outdoor Mass, an indoor Mass and a streamed Mass each Sunday.

Bishop Soto has asked every parish to address racism even though many parishes think it's not an issue that concerns them.

Chair's Report: Bob Reid reported these points:

- Council member Fred Bermudez has resigned from the Pastoral Council. His resignation was accepted, and he was thanked for his years of service.
- Several members of the Parish Pastoral Council attended the bishop's convocation for councils in mid-April. Another convocation is planned for Oct. 2, 2021, at St. James Parish in Davis.
- An effort to organize and post a video "Jerusalem Challenge" with members of parish and school has been dropped because of problems concerning privacy and technical issues.
- Sue Kenney Melba Hinojosa have joined the council's Outreach Working Group.

Staff Liaison Report: JD Warrick there has been a noticeable drop in the number of persons viewing the streamed/recorded 9:30 Sunday Masses as more people have begun attending Mass in person.

Standing Committee Reports

- Pathways Committee – Francine Freitas said the four presentations arranged by Pathways were successful, two on racism and two on the Pope's 2020 encyclical, "Fratelli Tuti." On June 26 Pathways has arranged for a presentation about gun violence and prevention by the head of Americans Against Gun Violence. Promotion for the presentation will begin in early June.
- Faith Formation – Emer McKenna said that on consecutive Saturdays in May students from the school and from the religious formation classes were to receive their first Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The two weekend events accommodate pandemic spacing requirements. All services will be livestreamed by invitation only. Religious education classes are to end on Pentecost.
- Finance Committee – Janet Vitt said – Members of the Finance Council on April 27 heard from Gala Committee chair Clayton Whitehead. The council continues to work with bookkeeper Michelle Elfrink to fine-tune the format of the financial data it receives and analyzes.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 8, 2021, by Zoom. Janet Vitt and Emer McKenna will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Darrin Greer led the Council in a closing prayer, and Fr. Des said a benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Vitt, secretary