

DRAFT

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes

Regular Meeting; online via Zoom

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Fred Bermudez, absent

Ed Condon, present

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, present

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 6:04 p.m., and Francine Freitas led a prayer.

The minutes of the March 10 regular council meeting and a special April 18 meeting, upon motion by Linda Hill, seconded by Patrick Mahan, were approved unanimously. They will be posted on the parish website.

Pastor's Report:

- **Re-opening Church:** Fr. Des explained that staff is working with the diocese to devise a plan for the eventual return to in-person Masses. While the situation is fluid, the likelihood is that a streamed Mass will continue to be offered as an option because health orders most likely will require physical distancing that will limit the number of people who can be at a Mass in person. There remain lots of practical issues to be determined.
- **Steps Closure:** One of the five remaining Steps guests eventually decided to accept the help of the non-profit Sacramento Steps Forward and move to the Capital Park Hotel where he will be housed, fed and provided immediate social services and eventual permanent housing. Four more individuals who had been staying at a hotel near the parish since closure of the Parish Center courtyard opted to not accept the help. The parish paid for a room for each of the five persons through May 5.

Ministries of Care Review Committee Report - Ed Condon and Melba Hinojosa summarized the written Final Report of the Ministries of Care Review Committee and took questions/comments from council members. After they answered the questions and helped bring understanding to the council members, the report was accepted unanimously on a motion by Kent Meyers, seconded by Darrin Greer.

The report is attached to these minutes.

Staff Liaison Report: J.D. Warrick explained that Parish staff has been working remotely except for such exceptions as those who help stream the Mass live on Sunday mornings or such as Custodian and Facilities Asst. Manny Dabay, who has been working on a number of current and long-term repairs on the property.

Council Member comments

Melba Hinojosa thanked staff for streaming a Mass on Sundays, saying the online Mass connected her with the St. Francis faith community in a way she had not imagined was possible. Her comments were followed by agreements of other council members.

Committees & Liaison Reports

- **Liaison to Finance Council** - Janet Vitt reported that the Parish Finance Council also had been meeting virtually through Zoom software and was turning its attention to the upcoming new budget, which comes together at a time of great uncertainty related to the pandemic stay-at-home orders.
- **Membership Committee-Election** - Darrin Greer expressed the hope that termed-out council members will continue to serve extended terms until parish-wide elections can be held after pandemic orders are relaxed. If conditions look to be long-term, the committee will return to the council with suggestions of alternative elections.
- **Liturgy Committee** - Francine Freitas said Beth White has sought suggestions of what must be taken into consideration when the church reopens weekend Masses.
- **Parish Safety Committee** - Gary Myrick said further training and communications of plans are on hold because of the pandemic.
- **Faith Formation** - Kent Meyer said First Communions has yet to be scheduled. The St. Baldrick's Day fundraiser was held in individual homes rather than jointly and raised \$10,000 for

childhood cancer research. Emer McKenna reported that weekly emails are being sent to the parents of all the children in sacramental preparation and will continue through the summer.

- **LGBT Ministry** - Ed Condon said a May 13 dinner was cancelled but that time will tell if an Aug. 17 events can proceed.
- **Special celebration** – Bob Reid briefed council members on efforts coming together to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Fr. Des' ordination, which will be June 3. Without a group gathering, volunteers are organizing efforts to be coordinated for March 31-June 7. Efforts will be publicized through the weekly bulletins, parish emails through FlockNote and in outreach by members of the planning committee.

The next Council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2020, probably by Zoom. The Chair will notify members.

Emer McKenna and Melba Hinojosa will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Kent Meyer led the Council in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Vitt, secretary