

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; online via Zoom
Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Fred Bermudez, present
Ed Condon, excused
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 6:05 p.m., and Janet Vitt led a prayer.

The minutes of the May 12 regular council meeting were reviewed and a missing verb was corrected in the Pastor's Report. Upon motion by Sue Kenney, seconded by Francine Freitas, the corrected minutes were approved unanimously. They will be posted on the parish website.

Pastor's Report:

- **Re-opening the Church:** Fr. Des said in preparation for the opening of the church for Masses after the pandemic closure, a survey was done through email and on the parish website to get an feeling for the numbers of people who planned to attend Mass in person. The results showed 35% of respondents plan to attend in person, and 65% will not return at this time. With the exception of the 9:30 Mass, that percentage would seem to suggest that over-crowding will not be a problem. The church must limit the number of persons in the building to no more than 100. He summarized the protocols and said they could be found on the parish website.
 - All weekend Masses will resume June 13-14, and weekday Masses have resumed at 12:10 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
 - The 9:30 Mass will continue to be streamed.
 - Among the considerations being made by staff are masks, controlled seating, deep cleaning between Masses, physical distancing during Communion, sign-in, singing only by the cantor, and hand sanitizer,

- The diocese has allowed resumption of funeral/memorial services so long as the guidelines are followed.
- A donation collection box or basket will replace the usual collection methods.
- Beth White is coordinating volunteers for the new needs at and between Masses.
- **Fireworks:** The decision was made to forego the sale of fireworks this year because of the difficulties maintaining safe physical distance during busy periods, when most of the sales are made. The parish has indicated to the supplier that it hopes to resume sales in 2021.
- **Ministries of Care:** The report done by the ad hoc committee will lead to a useful directory of all the parish ministries. A new working group has been formed to specifically study and report on the best way to make use of the parish resources in its programs for the poor and homeless. That committee will begin meeting in mid-June. Its members are Ed Condon, Patrick Corcoran, Amanda Evans, Linda Hill, Paul LeBoeuf, Patrick Mahan, Emer McKenna, Beth Mullen, Fr. Des O'Reilly, Bob Reid, and Janet Vitt.
- **30th Anniversary:** The cards, letters and sidewalk chalk art to celebrate Fr. Des' 30th anniversary of ordination were all very welcome. He noted especially the video from the school and the banner that was displayed above the front steps.

Council Member comments

- Sue Kenney wondered if there would be any celebration or note made of Pope Francis' encyclical "Our Common Home" on its upcoming anniversary. Fr. Des said there hadn't been any talk of it.
- Melba Hinojosa ask in general terms what was the thinking about the likelihood of having the parish picnic, which traditionally has been in October. It was the general feeling that it was too early to tell.

Committees & Liaison Reports

- **Building/Grounds** – Janet Vitt said the outdoor sprinkler system has been fixed and a timer added.
- **Liaison to Finance Council** - Janet Vitt reported that there will be no salary increases for parish staff in the next fiscal year. The Coronavirus stimulus funds arrived to pay for salaries.
- **Membership Committee-Election** - Darrin Greer
- **Faith Formation** –Emer McKenna said the ministry stays hopeful that first sacraments will be made in fall, but it depends on how the pandemic is affecting the city.

- **LGBT Ministry** – In Ed Condon’s absence, Bob Reid said that all in-person events had been cancelled, but that the group has been conducting spiritual online opportunities.

If there is a July Council meeting, it will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, 2020. The Chair will notify members if the meeting will be held, and if so whether by Zoom or in person.

Sue Kenney and Emer McKenna will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Melba Hinojosa led the Council in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Vitt, secretary