

St. Francis Parish Pastoral Council
Sept. 10, 2019

Fred Bermudez, present
Ed Condon, present
Francine Freitas, present
Jo Gonsalves, present
Darrin Greer, vice chair, present
Margaret Healy, present
Linda Hill, present
Melba Hinojosa, present
Patrick Mahan, excused

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

Also attending were Amanda Evans Parish business manager, and J.D. Warrick of the parish staff, and parishioner Sue Kenney.

Vice-Chair Darrin Greer opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m., and Francine Freitas led the room in prayer.

The minutes of the July 9, 2019, council meeting, upon motion by Melba Hinojosa seconded by Francine Freitas were approved unanimously. They will be posted on the parish website after approval at the October meeting.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Des, who is on vacation, sent his greetings and said he would attend the October meeting.

Guest remarks

St. Francis Parish Business Manager Amanda Evans introduced herself to the few council members who didn't know her already and said she was appointed to her position about three months ago. She updated the council on a couple of matters:

- Parish picnic is approaching, and looking for volunteers.
- A partnership that has just begun with other Midtown churches to provide a daytime respite for homeless persons. She said the timing of our parish to assess its outreach efforts is timely as others in the city focus on homelessness.
- The staff has been adjusting to changes in personnel, and recruiting for some positions continues.

Sue Kenney addressed the council with her thoughts on a type of ministry that could use volunteers to answer the doorbell at the Parish Center on weekday afternoons to distribute water, food bags and other resources to folks who come in

need. Council members responded that her thoughts were timely because of the newly formed parish task force looking at the outreach efforts of this parish. Ms. Kenney concurred that her idea could be referred to that committee, which comprises members of the Steps Ministry, Parish Pastoral and Finance Committees and parishioners at large. Ed Condon took paperwork Ms. Kenney had brought with her about the concept.

Parishioner Input & Council Member comments

Melba Hinojosa said a parishioner asked her why some people kneel while others stand during parts of Mass. Melba herself wonders if fonts could be installed (or re-installed) at the doors of the church for those who do not pass the baptismal font when they come to church. The question will be related to the Liturgy Committee.

Emer McKenna said one visitor wanted to know where the bells were that other churches ring at the consecration.

Old Business

Parish Directory – Francine Freitas described the situation with a member of the photographer’s family that has led to the further delay of completion and delivery of the Parish Directory. She added that Fr. Des and she intended to meet again with the photographer after Fr. Des’ vacation to see what is needed to complete the project.

Committee Reports

- Liaison to Liturgy Committee – Francine Freitas said preparations for Advent were the focus of the committee right now.
- Liaison to School – Fred Bermudez said the St. Francis of Assisi School Board would meet the following night, Sept. 11. Kent Meyers said a spring event is being planned that will especially celebrate the women who were among the early students of St. Francis High School, which was once in the school building. He also explained that the school has completed its active shooter drills. The school staff will be recognized at Masses the weekend of Sept. 14-15.
- Parish Safety – Emer McKenna said the committee is working toward a presentation to focus on safety issues not covered by the presentation already made on active shooter risks/response. The new presentation will be held at a time other than during or immediately after a Mass. She shared with the other council members copies of the trifold brochure being prepared for distribution at the next presentation. The trifold would be updated annually and also made available at the entries to the church. Other ideas before the Safety committee are the possible recruitment of “watchers” who would receive orientation about that volunteer work and further assessment of locations within the church grounds for inclusion in the parish safety plan.

- Outreach-Steps – Margaret Healey shared some stories of the personal satisfaction volunteers find working with the Steps Guests. She said two guests are planning their transition from the Parish Center Courtyard into a home they will share.
- Faith Formation –Emer McKenna and Kent Meyers said classes begin soon.
- B&G Committee – See attached report by Janet Vitt
- Liaison to Finance Council – See attached report by Janet Vitt

The next Council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, October 8, 2019, in Brunsman Hall.

Emer McKenna and Kent Meyers will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Linda Hill led the Council in a closing prayer. Upon motion of Kent Meyers, seconded by Janet Vitt, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Vitt, secretary