

DRAFT

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes Regular Meeting; online via Zoom Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Fred Bermudez, absent
Ed Condon, present
Francine Freitas, present
Jo Gonsalves, present
Darrin Greer, absent
Margaret Healy, absent
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, present
Janet Vitt, absent

Also attending was J.D. Warrick of the parish staff and Dennis Mahoney, parish member.

Chair Bob Reid opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m. and Melba Hinojosa led the opening prayer.

The minutes of the October 10, 2020 council meeting were reviewed and, upon motion by Kent Meyers and seconded by Linda Hunt, were approved unanimously. The final minutes will be posted on the parish website.

Pastor's Report:

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Masses are held outdoors and this practice will continue as long as possible over the winter season.
- Catholic schools are open and 80% of students are attending in-person classes.
- Parish staff are working to develop a parishioner's Christmas message/email communication to ensure parishioners without internet access/capability are reached.
- Parish members, affected by COVID, are remembered at Masses; no special COVID-19 Mass is scheduled at this time.

Chair's Report:

- After polling the council members, the council will continue its regular meeting schedule (10 meetings per year, no meetings in August and December).
- Bob Reid is the parish representative for the Diocesan Deanery/Council.
- The Outreach Working Group met in October. The Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes reported on the efforts their organization is taking to help the homeless.
 - This Parish Council working group is prioritizing a list of 3-4 ideas to move forward and develop.

Liaison to church staff (J.D. Warrick):

- The music director is planning a virtual Christmas choral concert.
- The church boilers are working well, kneelers are being repaired as needed, and small-scale painting projects are underway.

Updates:

- Fundraising Gala 2021: A joint gala with the school and parish is planned for March 27, 2021. A decision will need to be made soon to decide if this will be an in-person or virtual event.
- The Dinners with Father Des fundraiser from the 2020 Gala are at last being scheduled.
- Linda Hunt reported that MidTown HART is very active in providing services for our communities' homeless men and women.

Committee/Council Members' Reports:

- Pathways for Justice — Francine Freitas
 - Racism forum: A five-week online series to explore racism through the U.S. Bishops pastoral letter on racism "Open Wide Our Hearts," begins Nov. 16.
 - Another session is scheduled to begin Feb. 2, 2021.
- Finance Committee — The committee didn't meet
- Liaison to Liturgy Committee — Francine Freitas
 - Masses and Christmas choral concert planning is underway.
 - Father Des reported that Spiritual Communion is now read earlier in the Mass.
- Faith Formation — Emer McKenna
 - Online classes, going well.
- LGBTQ — Ed Condon
 - Support for Pope Francis' personal statement regarding civil unions
- Christmas party — Emer McKenna and Francine Freitas are planning a Zoom Parish Council Christmas party.

Next council meeting: January 12, 2021, 6 p.m.; Kent Meyers, opening prayer and Emer McKenna, closing prayer.

There being no more business, Francine Freitas led the Council in a closing prayer, and Fr. Des said a benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Melba Hinojosa, Council Member
December 8, 2020