

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; Brunsman Hall
Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Fred Bermudez, present
Francine Freitas, present
Jo Gonsalves, excused
Darrin Greer, vice chair, present
Margaret Healy, present
Linda Hill, present
Melba Hinajosa, present
Bob Lavelle, excused
Dennis Mahoney, present

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

Also attending was parish staff member Beth White.

Chair Bob Reid opened the meeting at 6:04, and Darrin Greer led the room in a prayer.

The minutes of the November 13, 2018, council meeting, upon motion by Darrin Greer, seconded by Margaret Healy, were approved unanimously. They will be posted on the parish website.

Mr. Reid introduced the two newest members of the Council, Tom Sweetman and Emer McKenna, both of whom gave summaries of their involvement with the parish.

Pastor's remarks

Father Des said he appreciated all the work parish members had put into successful Christmas season Masses. He explained that he has moved into the house on 26th street purchased by the parish to be the pastor's residence. He offered a warm welcome to the new Parish Council members.

Chair's Report

Chair Bob Reid gave his report:

- The Bylaws Review and Revision team has not met.
- He turned the meeting over to Margaret Healy, who asked that Council members attend the Welcome Breakfast on Feb 10.
- He asked for a volunteer to lead the Buildings & Ground Committee. Janet Vitt volunteered.

Staff liaison report

Beth White reported to the Council:

- The furnace in the Parish Center has been fixed.

- To fill the Building Manager position, four candidates had been interviewed and three more scheduled for interviews before Jan. 13. She said all the candidates are well qualified, and staff hopes to have a person in place soon.
- The Liturgy Committee reviewed the recent Christmas Masses and the comments received about them and was pleased with the way things went.
- Infant Baptisms will be repositioned from a few Sundays on which they are conducted during Masses to seven baptism events each year. Those will be on Saturdays and families of baptized babies will be asked to attend a Mass that weekend or the following to introduce their children to the parish. The switch will answer the requests of young parents for timelier baptisms and will be a cohesive ceremony. Parishioners will be welcome to attend the ceremonies, which will be about 40 minutes and will include music and readings.
- Planning for the Gala fundraiser on Feb. 23 continues with approximately 140 reservations paid for and items being donated for the live and silent auctions. More details are in the bulletin.

Parishioner Input

- Diane Mahoney said a Better Angels workshop will be conducted March 23 in Brunsman Hall. Participants are being recruited. Bulletin notice will provide more details.
- John Brozek asked the council its thoughts on pursuing Safety training for the parish that would cover a variety of issues, including earthquake, active shooter and fire. A committee, comprising Gary Myrick, Melba Hinajosa and Francine Freitas, will work with Mr. Brozek and report back to the council.
- Paul Leboeuf gave more details about the Feb 2 Parish Conversation titled “Crisis of Trust: Sexual Abuse in the Church and the cover-up.” The facilitated event is hosted by the Parish Council and is designed as a day of “listening and being heard” and not as a venue for complaints only. The half-day event will include small-group breakouts as well as large-group portions. The Conversation is the second event on current topics of deep interest to parish members. The first was on LGBTQ inclusion in the Church. Sign-up for the Feb. 2 Conversation will be detailed in the bulletin. A committee will solicit topics for future Conversations. Mr. Leboeuf commended Fr. Des for his role in launching and promoting the series of Conversations.

Council Member comments

Gary Myrick asked for clarification of the use of funds raised by Gala that were not a part of the Fund-a-Need effort. Beth White, Janet Vitt and Dennis Mahoney explained that the funds support parish ministries. In the early years of the Gala, the funds were dedicated to the Steps Ministry, but several years ago were changed to allow broader use because Steps Ministry was well-funded through other means. The bulk of the funds help support outreach efforts by the parish.

Old Business

Parish Directory: Francine Freitas provided a handout, which is attached to these minutes, that outlined the progress of the project to publish a new Directory. She will meet with the photographers to schedule more photo sittings.

Committee Reports

- Membership Committee – Darrin Greer said preparations will begin soon for the elections, which will occur in Spring. Of the five positions (one-third of the council) election, one member, Dennis Mahoney, will term out.
- New Member Orientation – Melba Hinojosa said an orientation packet is being organized to give any new member of the Council. In addition, the committee wants to provide more information in bulletin announcements that seek candidates.
- School Liaison – Fred Bermudez said he will have an opportunity in January to attend his first St. Francis School Board meeting.
- Finance – Dennis Mahoney said the Finance Council will resume its meetings later in January.
- Outreach – Margaret Healy said volunteers are needed to help with the Steps Ministry.
- Faith Formation – No report with the absence of Kent Meyers
- Building & Grounds – As new head of the committee, Janet Vitt will meet with staff and the new Building Manager when one is hired.

The next Council meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, in Brunsman Hall. Melba Hinojosa and Emer McKenna will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

There being no more business, Janet Vitt led the Council in a closing prayer after which the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Vitt, secretary

Parish Directory Progress Report

January 8, 2019

- First photo session April 21, 2018; last session September 30, 2018
- 20 sessions completed, including 3 half days
- 161 photo sessions completed (individuals, couples, families)
- 20+ names still on original wait list created April 2018
- Still to be photographed:
 1. Parishioners on the wait list
 2. Parish staff
 3. Various ministries
- The majority of pictures purchased by parishioners between July 2018 and September 2018 were delivered between November 30 and mid December 2018. Parishioners are very pleased with their pictures but expressed concern regarding the length of time it took to receive them.
- Remaining photo sessions dates will be determined at a meeting later this month between the photographers and Parish Directory Project team (Bob Reid, Sue Murphy, Francine Freitas). In addition, the team will confirm with the photographers the date the directory will be completed and delivered to the parish.

Submitted by:

Francine Freitas