

St. Francis Parish Council Minutes
Regular Meeting; Brunsmann Hall
Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Fred Bermudez, present
Francine Freitas, present
Jo Gonsalves, present
Darin Greer, vice chair, present
Margaret Healy, present
Linda Hill, present
Melba Hinajosa, present
Bob Lavelle, present

Dennis Mahoney, present
Kent Meyers, excused
Gary Myrick, present
Bob Reid, chair, present
Fr. Des O'Reilly, pastor, present
Janet Vitt, secretary, present

Also attending was parish staff member Beth White.

Chair Bob Reid opened the meeting, and Gary Myrick led the room in a prayer.

The minutes of the October 9, 2018, council meeting, upon motion by Margaret Healy and seconded by Darrin Greer, were approved unanimously. They will be post on the parish website.

Parishioner Input

Sue Kenney, a 17-year member of the parish, shared her thoughts about the change from community-baked bread. She said she did not intend her words as criticism. She saw the bread as a sign of servant leadership to the parish, and as one way for Grace to be with the people within the walls and pews of the church. Fr. Des thanked her for sharing her thoughts.

Pastor's remarks

Father Des said the first Town Hall Parish Discernment, which was on the topic of the LGBT membership in our parish, went well and was a beneficial to the parish. Bishop Jaime Soto participated. The next Town Hall topic will be the sexual abuse scandal in the Church. Details are being developed.

A house has been purchased on 26th Street as a residence for the St. Francis pastor. Its proximity to the church (about 3 blocks) allows the pastor to walk to/from the church and parish offices.

Joe Prassa is retiring from the parish staff as heads of grounds and buildings maintenance. A replacement will be recruited and hired.

Staff liaison report

Beth White reported to the Council:

- The annual attendance count was done throughout the diocese on the Sundays in October. She said the average over the four weekends was a little more than 650 persons in attendance. That's a drop from last year's average of 680 people.
- Richard Hernandez is asking that people be reminded of the fundraising gala on Feb. 23. There will be another fund-in-need activity at the gala. Last year's fund-a-need has provided a new San Damiano cross being used during Mass. Ms. White said a new use for the heavy cross that has been replaced will be discussed.
- A new type of Advent/Christmas booklet will be tried this year to introduce some variety into the seasonal reflections.
- Mr. Hernandez sent word that attendees at 7:30 Mass will have a special event on Dec. 9 to mark the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- Brother Mark will lead an Advent retreat on Dec. 8.
- On Dec. 12, the school children will participate in an 8:30 a.m. Mass

Chair's Report

Chair Bob Reid gave his report:

- He thanked all involved in the Town Hall Conversation about LGBT issues. He said the next topic in the series of parish conversations would be the sex abuse scandal within the church. The Parish Council sponsors the Town Hall Conversations. The committee for the February 2 Town Hall Conversation comprises Paul Leboeuf, Gary Myrick, Darrin Greer, Dr. Jo Gonsalves, Ruth Cornell, Mary Myrick, Janet Vitt and Bob Reid.
- He said the Bylaws Review and Revision team has been formed with Margaret Healy, Darrin Greer, Dennis Mahoney and Bob Reid.
- The Chair introduced St. Francis Elementary School principal, Ivan Hrga, for a special address. Mr. Hrga said:
 1. Enrollment: He described the school's enrollment as about equal to St. Ignatius with 323 students, 20 full-time teachers.
 2. Fundraiser: A successful fundraising event was held Nov. 3 at Mosaic Law Congregation. The school hopes to pursue more joint projects with Mosaic Law.
 3. Staffing: St. Francis Elementary has seen a lot of stability in its staffing with low turnover.
 4. Play Structure; A new play structure is being built on the location of the previous structure. It should be in place after a Nov. 24 community building event. Funds came from a \$15,000 grant from the Dr. Pepper Co.
 5. IB program: The school hopes to start an International Baccalaureate Program at the start of the 2019-20 academic year.
 6. Golf Tournament: A date will be set in May for the annual golf tournament fundraiser.

Committee Reports

- **Parish Directory:** Francine Freitas said more photo sessions will be scheduled in the New Year to continue with the parish directory project.

- **School liaison:** Fred Bermudez said he will be attending the St. Francis School board meetings.
- **Membership:** Darrin Greer nominated Emer McKenna to fill one of the council openings, which expires in June 2021. The nomination was seconded by Janet Vitt and unanimously approved. Mr. Greer then nominated Thomas Sweetman to fill a second opening, a term that expires in June 2019. The nomination was seconded by Francine Freitas and unanimously approved.
- **Outreach:** Margaret Healy and Melba Hinajosa described the described the positive and touching reactions by Steps Ministry guests to gift bags and personalized letters given to each of them by 7th-graders from St. Francis School. The students will make special efforts for the guests each holiday.

New Business

- Gary Myrick asked if the parish has a disaster plan in place for events such as active shooter, flood and earthquake. He also noted that there used to be a designated Sunday for council members to be out in front of the church after Mass to be available to parish members for any concerns or comments they have.
- Chair Bob Reid reminded staff and members of the Finance and Parish Councils of a Christmas party to be held December 9.

When it was determined there was no more business, Mr. Myrick led the Council in a closing prayer after which the meeting was adjourned.

The Council does not meet in December. The next business meeting will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in Brunsman Hall. Darrin Greer and Janet Vitt will provide the opening and closing prayers, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Vitt, secretary