**PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**August 29, 2023**

**Present:** Fr. John, Fr. Christian, Fr. Homero Fr. Darnis, Van Ziegler, Maggie Schneider, Jason Messmer, Luke Messmer, Jason Nord, Tim Bell, Christine Brinkman, Sarah Kasprzak, Irma Alanis, Dan Fritch, Tracie Ihle, Tammy Mehringer, Pam Freyberger, Lynn Scheu

**Absent:** Dan Fritch, Pam Freyberger

The 7:00 pm meeting was called to order by Van Ziegler.

**Opening Prayer –** Fr. John led us in prayer.

Jason Messmer made a motion to approve the June 2023 Parish Council minutes. Jason Nord seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval.

Luke Messmer made a motion to approve the July 2023 Parish Council minutes. Tracie Ihle seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval.

Christine Brinkman was welcomed to parish council as the newest member. A thank you to the outgoing chair, Van Ziegler, was given for the time and talent he dedicated to parish council.

Voting took place for those nominated for parish council executive committee. Chair: Jason Nord, Vice Chair: Luke Messmer, Secretary: Maggie Schneider

Jason Nord gave thanks for nomination and appointment to chair. Van Ziegler gave thanks for being able to serve as chair.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Safety & AED Training – Fr. John/Tammy – waiting on hospital to have someone available as the individual who provides these classes is out with an injury.
   1. There is now a sticker on usher closet door to indicate an AED is present.
   2. Jason N to follow up with Scott Brandt on what the proper procedure is in case of emergency
2. Storybook of renovation – Dan – Tracie reported that she has been meeting with Alan Hoffman and Bob Acton. They are in the stage of sifting through pictures, but the process for making the book has begun.
3. Social media account manager update – Dan – Tabled until next meeting.
4. Vote to update constitution – Van - Strategic plan needs to be in a manageable document and needs to be updated. Scott Brandt lead the initial plan.
   1. Looking to change Section 3. The President shall have the following duties: (has list items A., B., and C. Proposing only editing letter C.)
      1. Currently says: To own the overall Strategic Plan for Saint Joseph Church
      2. Proposed Change: “Parish Council chair and Pastor has the responsibility to oversee and manage the Parish Council as it relates to the Strategic Plan” – Approved: 1st Lynn Scheu, 2nd Jason Messmer, all were in favor.
5. Set a date for an all commission meeting – Van – Determined no meeting is needed. All commissions are already communicating.
6. 3 question response discussion – Jason – Next most important to address:
   1. Integrate communities more
   2. More opportunities/ministries/activities for the elderly
   3. More visits to the homebound and ensuring they receive Communion if they desire; more homebound awareness
   4. Men’s organization
   5. Dinners/dances brought back; bus trips
7. More handicapped parking spots needs to be marked and labeled – Pat to be notified to get this done. Building and grounds commission also notified.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. What are the top 5 improvements/changes that can be made to improve cultural cohesiveness within the parish – Irma/Fr. Homero
   1. Incorporate 2 pages of the bulletin in Spanish
   2. Bilingual hymns
   3. Wording in Spanish on the outside of the parish center building that lets Spanish speaking people know they are welcome here
   4. Bilingual masses - participation drops
2. Bus trips 2x a year are being planned. 1 in the spring and 1 in the fall.
3. Brute Award – nominations were voted on by parish council members and commission leaders. Recipients: Sarah Zoglman, Pam Schneider, and Barb & Les Lorey
4. Annual financial statements from finance committee have been published. Will be available in the back of church.

**COMMISSION REPORTS** (Now sent by email report. Copy and pasted directly under commission name from email report):

**Finance:** *Dan Fritch* – **St. Joseph Church Parish Council Meeting**

**August 2023**

**Finance Commission Report**

**Finance Commission Goal: Ensure Long Term Sustainability**

**Objective: Implement Parish Stewardship Program (Time, Talent, & Treasure)**

**Financial Review (June Year End 2022/2023)**

Budgeted Income $ 1,492,986.86

Actual Income $ 1,771,648.22

Variance $ 3278,661.36

\*We have taken a distribution from the Catholic Foundation of $332,161,000 this fiscal year

Budgeted Expenses $ 1,492,986.86

Actual Expenses $ 1,408,199.60

Variance $ 84,787.26

**Sunday Collections YTD**

June 2023 Sunday Collection thru Year to Date $ 1,220,165.67 Weekly Average $ 23,464.72

June 2022 Sunday Collection thru Year to Date $ 1,089,713.30 Weekly Average $ 20,956.03

**Financial Review (July 2023)**

Budgeted Income $ 151,399.98

Actual Income $ 127,306.93

Variance $ 24,093.05

Budgeted Expenses $ 147,628.61

Actual Expenses $ 119,494.45

Variance $ 28,134.16

**Sunday Collections YTD**

July 2023 Sunday Collection thru Year to Date $ 100,961.86 Weekly Average $ 20,192.37

July 2022 Sunday Collection thru Year to Date $ 1,11,577.90 Weekly Average $ 22,315.58

**CPC – Catholic Ministries Appeal**

This year’s assessment is $323,186

**Annual Finance Statement**

We are working on the annual financial statement that will be shared with the parish

**Objective: Address the Holy Trinity support**

No updates currently.

**Objective: Implement effective & efficient parish office staff, systems, & support to support the goals & objective of the strategic plan**

No Updates currently

**Objective: Develop the 5–10-year building and grounds plan**

Building and Grounds Subcommittee:

July Meeting Summary

Parish Center Floors

Discussion on cleaning Kundek and Activity center floors

Discussion on replacing floors in hallway and possible the bathrooms on main floor

Quotes range from $70K to over $103K

Tom to review quotes and confirm which areas are included.

Tom was given approval to move forward with the &70K estimate once confirmed.

Monies will come from Picnic Maintenance Funds

Parish Center Lighting Update

Approved the replacement of bulbs and ballasts with LED lighting – this would put us in compliance with the recent inspection that was performed.

Approved budget of $13,500 – monies from Picnic Maintenance Funds

Trees on North side of church property were cut down – now we will deal with the stump removal

**Other Discussion:**

Soup on the Circle – the finance committee will be hosting this on Saturday, Oct 28th

We will be serving soup and hot dogs after the 4:30 pm Mass

Ministry Fair – Oct 7th and 8th

Finance will have committee members cover

Final – “Our Time” Update

Dan will do a final “Our Time Campaign” update sometime in September

At this time we will recognize Alan Hoffman for his contribution to the project

Action Items

Dan to confirm those who can help with Soup on the Circle

Find someone who can make 5-8 gallons of soup

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Ministry Fair Oct 7th & 8th

Soup on the Circle September 28th

Next Finance Commission Meeting: September 19, 2

**Parish Spiritual Life:** *Tracie Ihle* – Commission did not meet. Next meeting will be September 18.

**Parish Community Life:** *Sarah Kasprzak* - **Community Life Commission Minutes**

**Monday, August 28th, 2023**

Meeting was started by the “Our Father” led by Rose Rasche at 7:00 PM in Kundek Hall at St. Joseph Parish Center.

Present was Chairman Sarah Kasprzak, Co-Chairman Kathy Schneider, Sue Seal, Andrew Luke, Irma Alanis, Jane Gehlhausen, Jon Bell, Rose Rasche, Carol Sanders, Lori Mehringer, and Michelle Schoenbachler.

**Senior Dinner** – September 23rd, 2023, catered by Sander’s Catering. Letter was sent and reservation deadline is September 8th, 2023. Kathy Schneider discussed the menu and asked if we can get younger parishioners to serve food. It was decided that Michelle Schoenbachler, Jane Gehlhausen, Irma Alanis, and Andrew Luke will get approximately 12-15 people to serve the food and drinks that evening. There will be some pickup to go plates to get ready that evening also.

Boy Scouts will be helping also that evening.

Chairman Sarah Kasprzak asked if anyone would like to be Secretary of our commission but at this time it was decided that Kathy Schneider will take the minutes.

**International Dinner** – Discussion was held if this would be a good event to have. We will contact parishioners to see if they would volunteer to make special dishes from their heritage. Irma Alanis said that she would be interested to make Enchiladas (Hispanic). Other suggestion was Lynn Brang, Father Darnis, Schnitzel bank (German). We would need to set a limit for the number of people attending, especially for the first one to see how it goes. Food will be paid for by the parish, if needed. Tentative Date was March 2024.

**Shoe Drive –** Chairman Kasprzak brought up the topic of a Shoe Drive. More information is needed, and Sue Seal will research. Concern was brought up about having shoes brought in that will not be able to use. More Discussion at the next meeting.

**Potluck Dinner -** Discussion was held on having a Potluck Dinner on February 4 2024. Evangelization Commission would help our committee on this project. Several items were discussed: We would charge for the Meat and suggestions were Fried Chicken, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs (K of C will fix?), Charge would be $5.00 per person. No age limit – all invited. The tentative time would be after 10:30 mass – 11:30 and eat at 12:00. Guests will bring a dish. Have a speaker for adults (Father Christian’s name was suggested), have movie for younger kids and have Confirmation kids babysit. Chairman Kasprzak will ask Kathy Gutgsell to reserve the Kundek Hall and Activity Room for February 4, 2024. Irma Alanis discussed asking local restaurants for donations. Carol Sanders will check with Los Bravos to see if they would help. Reservations will be needed for the meat dish and for babysitters.

**Statue Restoration –** Jane Gehlhausen discussed with Sarah Kasprzak about having a Statue Restoration Class starting in January 2024. We would limit to 10 people, and it will be on Thursday’s from 6:30-8:30. Facilitated by Kyle Eckert. Discussion was held on what room would be available because this would have to be set up for approximately 4 weeks to get the project finished. Room 304 was reserved for this project, but it was decided that this room is not feasible. Sarah will check on other places in the Parish Center (Storage Room upstairs, Room 307, etc.)

**Movie Night-** October 13th, 2023, is set aside for Movie night. The Parish Commissions will make Popcorn and furnish drinks. The movie showing that evening will be “Inside Out”. Discussion was held about a Drive In Movie that it would be simpler to have people to bring chairs and blankets to set on grass or plaza. Electricity was brought up, but Andrew Luke said that should not be a problem since we have it run for the picnic. It was also discussed about airing over the Catholic Radio Station for the people that want to sit in their car to watch the movie. An update will be brought to the September meeting.

**Day Trip -** St. Joseph would like to start taking day trips so discussion was help led by Sue Seal. Sue Seal and Sue Williams will lead this. Sue did get information from Celestine Parish on how they set up their trips (2 per year). It was suggested to try to plan a trip for November 2023. Jane Gehlhausen suggested to also check with JorRean Hoffman, as she was the one that planned the previous trips that St. Joseph took. Kathy Schneider suggested going to The Shrine of Christ’s Passion, Northern Indiana, but that would be a long first trip. Sue Seal will bring more information to the September meeting.

**Eucharistic Congress-** July 2024 – we would like to get something going on this. More discussion at September meeting.

**Hispanic Involvement-** Parish Council would like to have a Hispanic representative to join each commission at St. Joseph Church. Discussion was held and Irma Alanis said that it is hard to get Hispanic to join because of language barrier and, they want things to happen but not take charge. Discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

**Ministry Fair –** Ministry Fair will be held on the weekend of October 7th – 8th, 2023. Discussion was held that the last Ministry Fair that was held had no one in charge and a certain group or people needed to lead this fair. Sarah will bring this up at the Parish Council meeting to see what Commission will lead this. It was discussed that we need to always have 1-2 people at the booth to answer questions, etc. Need to get sign up sheets from Rose Rasche for signup of new people for Homebound visit. Also need to pick up job papers from the office so people can see what and where we need volunteers for. Kathy Schneider will get these papers. We also have the poster from last year in Room 304 if we want to use the same one. Michelle Schoenbachler also asked if we could have it open after 6:00 PM mass. Sarah will ask Father John if this would be possible. Information will be brought to the September meeting. Volunteers for the Ministry Fair will be Sue Seal, and Sarah Kasprzak after 4:30 PM mass. Kathy Schneider will take the 6:00 AM mass, Lori Mehringer will take the 7:30 mass, and Carol Sanders and Jon Bell for the 9:00 mass, Irma Alanis for the 10:30 mass, and Michelle Schoenbachler for the 6:00 PM mass.

**Coffee and Conversation –** it was brought up about having something like Coffee and Conversation after 4:30 PM & 6:00 PM mass. Discussion was held and it was decided that the 4:30 PM mass most of the people go out to eat after mass and no one would come over. At 6:00 PM mass it was suggested that they can have cookies, lemonade, etc. This will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting. Michelle Schoenbachler volunteered to be the leader at the 6:00 PM coffee and conversation. It was brought to everyone’s attention that we want to get back to where families would volunteer to work one Sunday a year at the Coffee and Conversation. Sarah Kasprzak (even months) and Kathy Schneider (odd months) will oversee setting up and ordering doughnuts, cookies, etc. A notice was put into the bulletin for volunteers.

**Homebound Ministry -** Rose Rasche brought up the discussion on homebound and shut-ins. If people know of someone to visit, they need to call the Parish Center to set up visitation. We cannot call them. Andrew Luke suggested calling the local Hospice groups and adding a pamphlet or paper in the folder that we do this for our parishioners. When a family signs up for Hospice Care they are given a folder with information that is available to the person in need. Rose also informed us that St. Joseph is visiting 40 parishioners homebound at this time with 10 volunteers: 60 parishioners in Nursing Homes and 40 volunteers. Rose also informed us that the parish wants to start a program that volunteers visit St. Joseph Parishioners only on a weekly basis. A suggestion was to take communion and visit with them for 30 minutes. They were hoping that Stephen Ministry would do this, but they got back to Rose and said that they were not interested but they did give her 3 names of people that would be interested in volunteering.

**Upcoming Events**

**Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Speaker Event**

**Dubois County Community Meals –** will startup again on September 11, 2023. Rebecca Henry will be the Head Cook. More information later

**Quiet on Kundek –** Launches Labor Day – Stop by church for quiet time prayer

**Adult Faith Formation**

**Male and Female in Scriptue and Science**

**Sacred Art Presentation –** Father Christian’s Lenten series for 2024

**Bingo at Cathedral –** October 9th, 2023 at 6:30 PM

**Blankets** – 4 square blankets for expectant mother’s

Prayer was then led by Irma Alanis at the end of the meeting. The meeting closed at 7:30 PM. Next meeting will be September 25th, 2023, at 6:00 PM in Kundek Hall at St. Joseph Parish Center.

Submitted by,

Kathy Schneider

**Evangelization & Outreach:** *Lynn Scheu* – No report.

**Latino:** *Irma Alanis* - meetings are held every 3rd Sunday of the month. With questions contact Irma @ irmaalanis\_8@hotmail.com

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Darnis led us in prayer.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7:00 pm** in Room 303.

**Submitted by:** Maggie Schneider