

Church of Saint Mary Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Steve Russell at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Sonya Skinner (3), Dan Hilback (3) Tammy Huss (3), Steve Russell (2), Megan Bristow (2), Mike Sponsler (1), Tabatha Odens (1), Father Steve, Francie Peterson and Carol Gaffaney.

Absent: Dawn Houska (2). Mary Jane Reif (1), and Todd Wentworth.

Opening Prayer

Father Steve led the opening prayer.

Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for the January 18th meeting and the minutes of the November 30, 2017 meeting were approved by consensus.

Purpose of Pastoral Councils – Dan Hilback and Mike Sponsler led discussion on chapters 5 and 6 of “Making Parish Councils Pastoral.”

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cemetery Committee- Steve Russell.

Minutes of their last meeting were reviewed. The committee is finalizing their review of cemetery rules & regulations and updating the cemetery fee schedule.

Liturgy Committee – Tabatha Odens.

Father Steve reported that Patty Dahlheimer has resigned as Art & Environment Committee chair. A new chairperson is needed.

Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Committee- Dawn Houska and Tabatha Odens.

Tabatha said a Respect Life Prayer Service will be held this Sunday, January 21st at St. Mary’s Church. JRLC Day on the Hill is scheduled for March 13th. JRLC (Joint Religious Legislative Coalition) is an inclusive interfaith public interest group in Minnesota. St. Mary’s Parish will send interested parishioners to this event. The contact person is Ken Howell.

The committee is exploring a Sister/Parish relationship with a parish in Guatemala. A meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Great Hall for parish leadership groups to talk with Mr. Bill Peterson, executive director of a mission in San Lucas, Guatemala. If you have any questions, please give them to Lee Ann Sticha.

Stewardship Committee- Tammy Huss.

Tammy noted that the committee is working on scheduling events throughout the year. Ministry Moments will again be given during the mass.

Board of Education Committee- Sonya Skinner.

Minutes of their last meeting were reviewed. Sonya said the topic of a preschool was discussed. The consensus was that there is no real need for another preschool in our community now, so it will not be pursued. They are recruiting new members for the board of education. Kindergarten Round-up will be held soon.

Parish Life Committee- Megan Bristow and Mary Jane Reif.

Minutes of their last meeting were reviewed. The committee is hosting these events: Movie Night for Grownups - Friday, January 19th in the Great Hall; and Mardi Gras for Families - Saturday, February 10th, from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. (free will offering) held at St Mary's School.

Evangelization Committee – Mike Sponsler and Tammy Huss.

Mike said they are continuing to read the book on the goals of an evangelization committee, which would create a cultural change within the parish. The committee is developing their mission statement.

Finance Committee- Todd Wentworth and Dan Hilback.

The parish has settled the claim for storm damage to the roof and HVAC unit. It was noted there are about 13 available spaces for bulletin ads. They are considering ways to sell more ads.

Human Resources Committee- Todd Wentworth - No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Inspired to Be – Sr. Rita and a former colleague are working on a peacemaker presentation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Diocesan Planning – Father Steve shared the following handouts: (1) Profile of St. Mary's Parish [parish population statistics, number of households, mass attendance counts, contributions, etc.]; (2) Task force implementation; (3) Map of diocese and the location of churches and catholic schools; (4) Seven Elements of a Viable Parish; (5) Basic statistics for parishes within our deanery; (6) PowerPoint presentation given at the Diocesan Ministry Day and at other meetings [including a summary of responses]; (7) Five questions that were asked on Ministry Day; and (8) a sample agenda for parish meetings. The bishop has asked that parishes hold parish meetings to present the information from the Deanery meeting, to reflect on the five questions with small group discussion and compile the answers. The main question to answer is "What recommendations do you have for future planning in your parish or parish cluster?" The answers should be compiled and returned to the Chancery by April 30, 2018.

There was a suggestion and discussion about scheduling a meeting of the Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee to plan next steps. A tentative date of February 13th (5:30 p.m.) was set for the meeting.

The next pastoral council meeting will be held Thursday, February 22nd.

The meeting adjourned with the Beatitude Blessing Prayer.

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary