

**Mary, Mother of Mercy**  
**Parish Council Meeting of 6/24/2021 ~ Minutes**

**Present:** Mark Albanese, Tom Duff, Gerry Frank, Susan Guydosh, Scott Hamula, Leo Kawczynski, Jacqueline Leidenfrost, Fr. Bernard Maloney, Bill, Masterson, Andrew Morpurgo, Charles Mullins, Richard Pell, Kathleen Rourke, Donna Ryan, Lynne Stager, and Barbara Willers

**Excused:** Tim Davis, Laurenda Denmark, Martha Woledge

**Brief Introductions**

**Opening Prayer:**

For St. John the Baptist, led by Fr. Bernard. Prayers were also offered for Fr. Eugene's health on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination.

**Minutes:**

The minutes for the Council's meeting on March 12, 2020, were previously accepted by the executive committee via e-mail due to COVID restrictions. They are available on the parish web site.

**New Council Business:**

Father explained the contents of the packet of information provided to all Council members. Some additional notes:

- Terms for all were extended a year due to no PC meetings in 2020-2021.
- Alternates have only one-year terms.
- The nomination process for the executive committee was explained. Alternates on the council will help count tonight's votes.
- Everyone needs to fill out a "conflict of interest" statement for the diocese.
- See parish membership list and let secretary know of any needed corrections/updates.

**General comments from Father:**

- The Parish Council (PC) is not a board. Its purpose is to give counsel to the pastor who is the person solely responsible for parish decisions; hence there are no votes (except for chair and vice chair).
- PC does not make decisions, the pastor does.
- Council members are to be visionary about how they see the future of the parish. They are to reach out to parishioners to get them involved in the work.
- Term limits for PC members are for three years and they can be reelected for a second 3 year term. After 6 years members are to step down for at least 1 year.
- Committees of the Council touch every aspect of parish life. If things are happening in and through the committees, that is indicative of a parish that is alive and active.
- The Finance Council is required by canon law and works with the PC. A PC is required by our diocese.
- When proposals are brought to the Councils' attention, unless urgent, they are sent to the appropriate committee who will return to the PC with a formal proposal for moving forward.
- The goal is to have PC meetings be only 45 minutes in length.

**Finance Council:**

- Income went up during COVID, \$8k over last year, while expenses went down.
- “We are in the black!”
- We have very faithful parishioners who stepped forward for the parish.

Building and Grounds:

- The three B&G committees for each church are now combined into one parish committee.
- St. James needs a new roof for the rectory and sacristy, also possibly the pine room. The church cross needs to be straightened and the old sidewalk is uneven.
- St. Francis boiler needs to be replaced. Considering change to hot water or mini splits. Possible the latter for St. James too?

Cemetery:

- Alan Gillette has moved to PA. He was the manager for both of the parish cemeteries. Father is looking for a new person to fill this paid position. Meanwhile, Alan continues to help out as needed.
- The St. James cemetery is a corporation and, as such, needs to meet annually.
- As of yet, no one has signed up for the parish’s combined cemetery committee.

**Election of Officers:**

- Tim Davis was elected as chair and Gerry Frank as vice chair. Kathleen Rourke was accepted as secretary.
- Council members were then assigned to PC committees and then each committee gathered to select chairs. These are the results:
  - Word Committee: Andrew Morpurgo, chair, with Marc Albanese, Susan Guydosh, and Jacqueline Leidenfrost.
  - Worship Committee: Thomas Duff, chair, with Leo Kawczynski, Donna Ryan and Barbara Willers.
  - Witness Committee: Lynne Stager, chair, with Bill Masterson, Charles Mullins and Richard Pell.
  - Fellowship Committee: Scott Hamula, chair, with Laurenda Denmark and Martha Woledge.

**Other business:**

- The Saturday Mass at St. James was started in order to accommodate more people following COVID guidelines from the diocese that limited numbers at one gathering.
- Some discussion followed about where to have the Saturday evening Mass.
- Father pointed out that the parish is 40 miles long and the schedule needs to fit the availability of one priest to serve at all Masses.
- The parish does not need two Saturday evening Masses. The number of people who presently attend both Saturday Masses can fit into one church.
- Father prefers to keep the St. James Saturday Mass as temporary but a change will be made soon (by end of July?), possibly with a different time on Saturday.
- COVID: there is no present need for social distancing, though unvaccinated people should wear masks in gatherings.

**Next meetings:**

Our meetings are generally quarterly, on the second Tuesday of a month, at St. Francis. The present schedule:

Sept. 9 (reminder that is “buy a priest a beer” day)

Nov. 11

Jan. 13, 2022

March 10

May 12

June 9

**Closing prayer:** Praise God from whom all good things flow, led by Fr. Bernard

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke - Final*