

St. Joseph Pastoral Parish Council

Meeting Minutes, 24 September 2018

1. The meeting was called to order with prayer at 6:03 pm. Fr. Paul Moreau and Fr. Tim Nadolski were present, along with members Jeff Donahue, Dee Elliott, Kevin James, Julie Kuehler, James McGinnis, Reino Mejia, Jose Perlera, Evelyn Tejada, and Ben Williams, and ex officio members Lynn Langston, Theresa Napoli, and David Wilkinson.
2. Minutes from the August meeting were approved as presented.
3. Ex Officio Reports:
 - a. Religious Education: Lynn Langston presented a written report showing a Religious Education headcount of 604 and listing various programs that are underway; she noted that all is going well.
 - b. St. Joseph School: Theresa Napoli reported that the school is applying for a grant for installation and maintenance of solar panels for the building. She is seeking the parish's cooperation in a diocese-wide service project, Super Kids Super Strong, which will involve collecting new or slightly used items such as sports equipment, games, and phones, starting in November, and then traveling to Atlanta for distribution on January 17th. It was agreed that the church and school will start collecting in November. Theresa also asked for further feedback about the Fall Festival. There was a discussion about the nature of the event and its hours. Theresa said that in the past the event had been lightly attended later in the evening and volunteers became harder to find, since parents start setting up around 8:30 in the morning; rather than change the character of the Fall Festival, the parish is holding more evening events which will serve those who would not be able to make it to a workday event ending at 6:00. Dee suggested reviving the teacher/student softball game that had been held in the past, or perhaps something similar (such as basketball), during the Fall Festival.
 - c. Liturgy Committee: Dave Wilkinson reported that the liturgy fair got plenty of signups. Also there is lots of enthusiasm from younger kids, now that those in both the Anglo and Hispanic communities are welcome to join right after they have received First Communion. Fr. Tim is working on standardizing ministry practices as a whole between the two communities; retraining for ministries will follow. Some corrections need to be made so things are being done the proper way—for example, only ordained persons

should be in the sanctuary during the consecration, and this is in the process of being implemented. This will involve the servers carrying candles more often; that is a favorite part of their job. Not taking the chalice around the congregation at the close of communion is another necessary change. There was also discussion of the simplifications made to the lectors' scripts. Fr. Tim is also working on audio. There have been some concerns about people being able to hear at the back during the most full Masses. Adding an extra speaker at the back does not appear to be an option; feeding audio to the Fellowship Hall and using it as a cry room will be worked on, and perhaps a video feed to the television in the entry hall as well. A request has also been made to put a hearing loop for the hearing impaired in place when the new church is built; it is likely that can be put in place now and moved to the new church later. Fr. Tim will look into it, and Kevin will reply to the note on behalf of PPC.

- d. Communications: A poster of Parish Council members with photos will be made up to place in the hall. Members and ex officio members should send digital photos (from waist up) to Kevin. Name tags also will need ordering once officers are in place.
4. Committee Reports
- a. Stewardship: More communications are needed regarding the new electronic offering/tithing system.
 - b. Athens Catholic Radio (and St. Joseph Charities): On the parish books, the radio station has been changed from a separate self-supporting entry to a program supported by the parish since it has been running a deficit. Three second collections per year have been authorized for the radio; such special collections will be announced the week before, and again on the day at collection time. These collections are expected to amount to \$2000 to \$3000 each; together with a spending cut this has the prospect of bringing the station's budget into balance. (Second collections are also being approved for EQUIP, 3 per year, and the school, 12 per year. Second collections from the Hispanic Masses need to be brought in line with the parish and diocesan schedules.) The financial audit directed the change in Athens Catholic Radio's accounting status, as well as a change to the status of St. Joseph Charities due to its long-running surplus. Fr. Paul is working with donors to approve uses of the extra Charities money on projects that honor the original intent. Climate control is to be installed at the new Charities space; the next idea is a much bigger project to start up a food pantry.

- c. Buildings & Grounds: Fr. Tim is working on getting the thermostats linked together via WiFi and controllable via an app—he should be able to get it done for around \$8000, a third or less of the common cost—and on LED lights, which among other things will help with cooling. There will be another retention pond cleanup on October 13th at 7:00. Soap dispensers have been moved in the gym. The grass is now being cut better than before, and at less cost. The Mary Garden project may need to be split into two stages. A parishioner is volunteering to donate plumbing fixtures for the yellow house; the bid for that project has been adjusted to below \$200,000, and approval is pending from the Archdiocese. The Prince Avenue closing has now been moved to October 5th, per what is now the 8th amendment to the agreement. The old property is pretty much cleaned up; there are still some files to remove. Fr. Paul has been working on a master plan for the property; a 25-year plan needs to be set so the size and layout of the church can be determined. Several options could be presented to the parish. The 11 acres on the other side of McNutt Creek have been given to the parish; nearly all of the \$1.3 million valuation of the acreage is in the four buildable acres, which could be sold or built on. A video billboard could be put near the corner of the property, to be rented out during the week, then perhaps displaying parish items on weekends or at least Sundays.
5. Hispanic Community: The recent weekend event was a great success. Jose noted that the community is really happy with Fr. Paul's pastorate and how things are going. Communication in many directions is improving. On the subject of communication—when in doubt, one can ask Fr. Tim; he knows what's going on and can often take the necessary action on the spot.
6. Old Business
 - a. Revised Bylaws: This item was again deferred to the next meeting in the interest of time.
 - b. Officers for 2018-2019: Kevin James was reelected as Secretary. Dee Elliott was elected as 2nd Vice President, a position which includes stepping in for other officers when needed and helping Jane with the ministry contact project. Jose Perlera was elected as 1st Vice President. James McGinnis was elected President. Fr. Paul noted that he sees the President and 1st VP as a unit regularly working together. More broadly, he encouraged members to not be afraid to say what they think and disagree; the Pastoral Parish Council exists to both press and advise the pastor.
7. New Business

- a. Events: There will be a parish picnic on October 20th. Activities have been scheduled for every Friday and Saturday for the next two months; this presents organizational and communication challenges, but a busy parish is a good thing, The annual Christmas party and bazaar is being put together for December 1st; 2nd VP Dee will coordinate with the 1st VP and President. Ben suggested re-evaluating the silent auction; there was discussion of changing both the type of items offered and the timing (since the “Christmas” party is in fact held during Advent). Fr. Paul suggested emphasizing services and experiences/events rather than goods or gift cards. Dee will look into which have been the most successful items in the past. Council members will look into who could be reached out to to provide options (the practice of tapping ministries—i.e. people who are already giving of their time and energies—will not be repeated). An event at Epiphany might be a more fitting time for such things; there was interest in putting together a big parish celebration then. Ben suggested organizing a Mothers Morning Out program in connection with the school; a director would be needed. Perhaps a broader parish pre-preschool/daycare program could raise money for the parish and be a funnel towards the school; Theresa will look into details. An opportunity to bring a guest speaker to the parish on October 12th was discussed; it was concluded that notice was too short for this to be practicable, and as it turned out the speaker’s opening that day disappeared anyhow.
8. Next Meeting: Next month’s meeting will be on Monday, October 22nd at 6:00 pm.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.