

St. Joseph Pastoral Parish Council

Meeting Minutes, 19 August 2019

1. The meeting was called to order with prayer at 6:03 p.m. by Fr. Paul Moreau. Present were council Members Dee Elliott, Kevin James, James McGinnis, Jose Perlera, Stephanie Smith, Evelyn Tejada, and Ben Williams; Members-Elect Michael Costello, Pedro Guerra, Sherwin Lopez, John Perno, and Sarah Rodriguez; Principal Theresa Napoli; Director of Religious Education Lynn Langston; and Pastor Fr. Paul Moreau.
2. Minutes from the July meeting were approved with one correction.
3. Homeless project: Fr. Paul said he had talked with an officer/chaplain from the Athens-Clarke County police; he was enthusiastic about our idea of providing shower facilities for the homeless, and possibly fresh clothing or laundry services as well. He may be able to borrow some portable shower trailers that FEMA uses; they would just need a water source. One thing we would need to keep in mind is that many of them are hiding from arrest warrants, or other things. There are some other shelters in town that offer showers, but some of these folks can't or won't get to the location, or don't want to have their ID checked. There was a discussion of concerns about whether we would be seeing dangerous people turn up, and if we would bear responsibility for things they might do. Fr. Paul believes the police might be able to park an officer in a cruiser nearby, which should go a long way to avert trouble.
4. Council Member Notes:
 - a. Dee noted that there were three fans at the charities office that people would be welcome to have, now that air conditioning is in place; she also has some spare firewood. With some people having left recently, Charities is short-staffed; we will put out a call for volunteers.
 - b. Ben relayed a request from parishioners for more frequent updates on the new church; it wouldn't have to be much to make people feel more reassured and informed.
 - c. Lynn distributed information about Religious Education, which will be starting up for the year soon. Four more catechists are needed. Evenings of Reflection have been scheduled for third Mondays; the time conflict with Parish Council was unfortunately unavoidable. The Knights of Columbus will be helping manage traffic on RE nights. Fr. Paul added that we will be putting permanent gates on the school circle.

- d. Theresa has heard complaints about children running around unsupervised during parish meetings; she said that hasn't been a problem on the school side of things. The school has 148 students, including 46 new children, 30 of whom qualify for and are receiving support from the GRACE Scholarship. A drive for the annual fund is upcoming; the school is seeking full participation from staff and parish council and other active groups within the parish.
 - e. Michael reported that he is hearing from people who want to know about the state of the kitchen project. Fr. Paul reported that we've had some problems and delays in getting the equipment in; when it's all finally come in the project will go forward. Most of the equipment that is currently in the parish hall will be moved back to the new kitchen.
 - f. James noted that pictures of parish council members, and ex-officio members (Theresa, Lynn, the Fathers), will be taken at the next meeting, including a group shot. The Council is in need of a representative from Finance Council (which is in the process of some reorganization). The structure of Parish Council meetings was also discussed; Fr. Paul believes the round-the-table format has helped avoid needless repetition, including repeating items covered in other meetings.
5. Pastor's Report: The financial plan for the new church has been finalized, with a project total of \$12 million. \$8.6 million is available in the bank (with the amount growing as it earns interest); the remainder should be a reasonable request for the parish to borrow. We will be reaching out to architect Duncan Stroik first, and also get in touch with some others. The major cost elements are footprint, volume, and materials; it is important to have an architect who is adept at balancing these in a plan for a classic Catholic church building.

Our offertory needs have been going up, and are being calculated more accurately now. (We had been working with some wrong numbers that have finally been straightened out.) We are pulling in around \$18,000 per week, and need about \$5,000 more than that. Fr. Paul will be laying out an explanation, and identify further possibilities for improvement if offertory increases sufficiently; he'll be asking parishioners for an increase in giving along the lines of \$2 per person attending each week. He is also still identifying areas where we can and should save money.

The parish could still use more communication about the green envelopes—people need to know that those funds are not for building the new church or for operating expenses, but for improvement of existing facilities, and that fund is in good shape at this time. A discussion was held about changing the designation of green envelopes going forward. (Simply eliminating them

might not be wise, as that would serve to reduce giving as much as redirecting it, and at some point in future more improvement money will be needed.) Perhaps it would work to simply make the green envelopes something that is redesignated from time to time, as parish needs change; an announcement would be made to the parish that right now, the greatest need is in monthly operating expenses, so for the time being green envelope contributions will be directed to that end, and we appreciate parishioners' faithful contributions to this auxiliary support fund.

6. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:30 p.m. The next PPC meeting will be on Monday, 16 September at 6:00 p.m. in room 255; parish council pictures will be taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin James