

St. John's Parish Council
Meeting Minutes of the January 21, 2014 Meeting

Present: Rick Bellino, Michele King, Jane O'Brien, Sean Malloy, Andrew Smith, Laraine Conway, Sharon Hansen, Fr. Pat Malone, Linda Daly, Julia Fleming, Martha Lemar, Dick Super

Laraine Conway called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer.

Minutes from the December, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

Kathleen Denne, parish secretary, was introduced to the group. Council members expressed their deep appreciation to her for her help and support to the parish council and St. John's parish.

Pastor's Report:

1. The elevator will be a reality soon. Construction will begin when the ground thaws in the spring. There will be impacts to the use of St. John's while the construction takes place. The Conagra parking lot will be completely closed. Notifications and efforts are taking place to minimize the disruptions.
2. Dick Super asked for a clarification of the second collections for the building fund. Discussion was held and the three purposes of the building fund are capital improvements, major construction (like the bell tower), and general maintenance of the building. The finance council will re-evaluate the second collection.

Old Business:

1. Jane O'Brien had lots of good help with the Sisters' luncheon and it was a success.
2. Laraine indicated we would cover Parishioner Relationship at the February meeting.
3. Reflection about the Parish Council Retreat:
 - a. Food for Francis: Discussion was held regarding what this would look like, who needs to be contacted, who would administer it; There was a consensus that there needs to be further discernment about this program before diving into it. Sean Malloy suggested that we do something during Lent that would involve the students; Dick will research the needs of St. Vincent de Paul Society; Laraine volunteered to assist Dick with the research; Ash Wednesday is March 5 this year.
 - b. Discussion took place on what we could do to minimize disruptions when the elevator construction project starts; various ideas were presented.
 - c. The Culture/Ethnicity of the parish is on hold for now.

New Business:

1. Paypal seems to be a better solution for electronic payments; there is a fee, however; Andrew Smith presented helpful research that verifies that Paypal is the right choice.
2. Sean Malloy discussed a recognition of new parishioners; the hospitality committee is planning an event after the 5:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. masses during the weekend of February 8 and 9; Damien Torres-Botello, nSJ will be invited. The plan is to try and hold recognition of new parishioners on perhaps a quarterly basis and use the parish newsletter rather than letters to announce the events.
3. Dick Super gently asked Fr. Pat whether he has scheduled his summer vacation yet.

Other:

1. It's time to start thinking about getting coordinators to plan the parish picnic that is usually held the last Saturday in July.
2. Sean asked for a status of the liturgy "team" which was explained by Fr. Pat and the possibility of having informational sessions regarding human trafficking. Sean will contact Rita who conducts many different topics and programs.

Closing:

1. Intentions were offered by those in attendance.
Fr. Pat gave a closing prayer.