

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
May 7, 2019

Council Members Present: Jim Chitwood, Mary Oliphant, Tom Cordaro, Brian Pelz, Dave Schwartz, Carrie Tilton, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Joey Rose, Julie Lomax, Anne Lysaught, Peggy Soeldner, Chas Bellock

Guests: Charitable Contributions Committee, Sue Schroeder, Desmond Curran, Chris Lupo

OPENING AND PRAYER: Tonight's meeting was held in the Upper Room. Peggy Soeldner supplied the prayer and Jim Chitwood called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2019 MEETING MINUTES: Julie made motion to approve April minutes, Dave seconded. Minutes approved.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS from Contribution Committee

- Charitable Contributions members present: Ann Schwartz, Pam Cieslak, John McAvoy, John Rossi, Don Cronauer
- Ann Schwartz began the presentation from Charitable Contributions. She presented Council with a handout explaining the purpose and mission of the committee. She then walked through the committee's process to determine which charities they select for donations.
 - Don Cronauer added that actually visiting the charity locations is very eye-opening.
 - Pam Cieslak added that two of the organizations on the list rely on the yearly donations.
- Council members asked various questions to the committee to evaluate the impact and significance of the donations, as well as the prudence of donating outside the parish when the church is facing budget cuts.
- Carrie will follow up with the committee once a decision has been made.

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE PITCH from Don Cronauer

- Don discussed the postcard event held at the church a few weeks ago. The committee delivered the signed postcards personally to each politician, and Don shared the reactions from those politicians.

BUDGET DISCUSSION from Sue Schroeder

- Sue began the discussion mentioning that because of the many changes in religious education, it's difficult to make a budget decision for that program. Because of this Sue requested that, specifically for religious education, PC create an approval process for expenses outside of their approved budget.
 - Mary asked if the Bishop would require a church to get new textbooks for the coming year, and Fr. Paul said no.

- Sue then said the Finance Committee is offering to make presentations to any of the commissions that would like it, especially service and education.
- Sue presented the 2020 financial projections to PC based on the requested budgets from each of the programs/committees. PC asked clarifying questions about the projections and discussed possible solutions for the budget deficit.
 - The Finance Committee's recommendation is to reduce the commission budgets by 10-15%.
- Sue said the budget needs to be in the diocesan system by June 1st, so needs to be approved by PC at this meeting.
- After it was suggested and discussed that to remove all funding, Fr. Paul proposed PC cut the Charitable Contributions budget by \$16,000, which would still give them \$20,000 to spend and would reduce the parish budget deficit to roughly \$20,000 (from \$35,000).
 - None opposed, 2020 budget approved. PC agreed to keep reviewing ways to help reduce budget deficits in the future.
 - Carrie will inform Charitable Contributions.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS from Desmond Curran

- Desmond said that SMMP should have a formal, comprehensive written document outlining the safety procedures in cases of emergency. He said that SMMP is not wholly unprepared for emergencies, but it would be better to have all of the procedures collected in a formal way.
 - He said that the city of Naperville is willing to come do a safety presentation for the parish. They're also willing to review an existing emergency preparedness program.
 - He's also looking into organizing trainings for CPR and defibrillators, but needs to consider costs.
- Julie asked if other surrounding parishes have existing programs, Desmond said that yes, 2 other local parishes have plans.
- Jim asked about the timeline for completing this project, Desmond said that it's to be done as soon as possible.
- Desmond said the next step is to meet with his subcommittee and discuss the finer details for the emergency preparedness document. Then he can present that draft and the other safety procedure plans to PC at the September PC meeting.
 - PC overall voiced the opinion to focus on violence preparedness, but would be open to other types of safety procedures included in the comprehensive document and trainings.

LONG-TERM PLANNING/VISION for SMMP from Dave Schwartz

- Dave had a conversation with the Director of Finance for the diocese of Joliet about the future of the Joliet parishes. Overall, Dave's impression was that nothing is happening on the diocesan level for long-term planning for the parishes.
 - Dave believes it will be up to the individual parishes to collaborate for the future health of each parish.
- Anne and Jim asked about next steps, and Dave said that PC should continue to discuss possibilities for collaboration and community building as a long-term discussion.

- Adding to the June 2019 agenda

LEAKY-ROOF REPAIR from Brian Pelz

- Brian reported that Anne is working with the Admin committee to solve the issue.
- Anne said that the Admin committee has a proposal together to investigate and test the issues with the roof. She said that Joe Egan is preparing a proposal with the diagnosis, 3 solutions, and a recommendation.
 - Added to the June 2019 meeting.

PEACE POLE from Tom Cordaro

- A donor is willing to donate for a vinyl peace pole. Since he first presented this, Tom has researched and discovered that the installation of the peace pole would incur a minor expense (could be covered by the Peace & Justice budget).
 - Jim motioned to approve the vinyl peace pole, Anne seconded. None opposed. Peace Pole will proceed.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE from Chas Bellock

- Weekly contributions are down \$36,000 to date.
 - Christmas was down \$2,500
 - Easter was up \$2,400
- Chas said the stewardship committee is sending out thank you notes to all those who participated in the annual appeal.
- He said that the initiative to address the budget deficit should be more focused on multiple short-term plans to generate revenue. There would be a bigger initiative for the following year.
 - The committee is adjusting the focus to offset the deficit, budget shortfall, and NOT to retire the debt.
 - One such idea: Stay-at-Home Tea Party where parishioners would stay at home for a cup of tea and participate in a donation. Normally, you get invited to an event where we ask you for money, but for this event parishioners would stay home and donate the money to the church.
- Could consider a “retire the debt” campaign come November.
 - This would open the revenue to be used in other ways, rather than having restricted donations specifically for “retiring the debt.”

Refreshments were supplied at 9:14pm, Council continued with the meeting.

MINISTRY REVIEW from Ministry Committee

- Carrie will distribute a report from the ministry committee about a ministry evaluation for the parish. The subcommittee is focusing on certain ministries to try to help them grow in their missions and in the parish.
 - Subcommittee wants to outline the list of committees, provide brief descriptions, and then publish those ministries’ doings in the bulletin and on the website more frequently.
 - Will also invite ministries to come to PC meetings to discuss their missions.

- Dave discussed the issues in staffing for the commissions. Dave proposed that SMMP get a few “headhunters” that get to know the commissions and parishioners in order to “match” parishioners to specific ministries that might be a good fit.
 - Would be a volunteer position, casually report to PC. All about networking.
 - Dave said he would help find the headhunters.
- Anne pointed out that volunteer issues are bigger than just getting the “bodies” to fill the chairs. Dave clarified that this would be more about finding people to replace veteran volunteers (recruiters).
- PC will discuss and review. Moved to the June 2019 meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS (reports attached)

CEC from Julie Lomax

- Reports sent out. No questions.

CWC from Brian Pelz

- Reports sent out. No questions.

CSC from Carrie Tilton

- Reports sent out. No questions.

ADMIN from Anne Lysaught

- Reports sent out. No questions.

NEW MEMBERS from Peggy Soeldner

- Chris Lupo is now assistant to Sr. Madelyn Gould
- Casey Fuller is the new youth member.
- Still trying to find members for the next year. PC discussed the discernment event.

EMAIL REGARDING BULLETIN ARTICLE from Jim Chitwood

- PC discussed a bulletin article from the last month and the email from an anonymous parishioner.
- Jim asked if it might be worth putting something in the bulletin addressing the concern from this article. Fr. Paul said no.
 - Jim asked how to respond to the email. Tom and Fr. Paul said they could talk to Fr. Paul if they would like to continue to discuss.
- Mary pointed out that part of the issue with the article is that it’s unauthored. She suggested that every article in the bulletin should be authored to promote accountability.

COMMISSION SIGN-UPS from Dave Schwartz

- Dave asked about the purpose of the commission sign-ups.
 - Chris said that it would be an opportunity after masses where parishioners can sign up for ministries and commissions. There will be a table and sign-up sheets in the library.
 - Sr. Madelyn would like to propose having a commission fair every other year.

- PC discussed the history of the commission fairs and the benefit of presenting each commission one at a time.
 - Each commission could present their need and see who might respond to that need.
- Brian noted that CWC would like to do a ministry recruiting event in the fall. Carrie said CSC would also like to do that.

POLARIZATION from Julie Lomax

- Julie would like PC to be aware of how our words and actions feed into polarization instead of unity. She also wanted to make sure that PC is not just blindly following what the Bishops say, but making sure we're discerning that it's what Jesus calls us to do.
- Jim updated PC that Tom has been working with Mike about a fruitful dialogue regarding the polarization.
 - Tom said the plan is to do a discussion/event around Catholic Teaching and tax policy. They have an outline for the two of them to run this together, but are working on timing.

WHAT WE ARE HEARING

- Julie = Wet steps in the church because of the leak, during the First Communion practice. Candles by the Saint Margaret Mary statue haven't been lit (Fr. Paul said there's a lot of waste associated with those candles).
- Dave = About 15 guys moving mulch outside this weekend. All are welcome to that.
- Carrie = Men's Club pizza party was awesome!
- Peggy = Adorable first communicants

The Council ended with a closing prayer at 9:57pm.