

Saint Thomas Parish Council Meeting Minutes

18 August 2016

Members Present:

John Cissell

John Giardina

Bill Coomes

Not in Attendance: Jay Schmidt

Krista Foster

Eileen Jancarz

Laura Merritt

Glen Stone

Roy Sunderland

Joe Walker, Jr

Exofficio Members Present:

Father Jason Harris, Parish Administrator

Deacon Sam Filiatreau

Linda Lewis, Formation Direction

Not in Attendance: Michael Turner, Campus Maintenance

The meeting was opened at 7pm with prayer by Father Jason, followed by introduction of all members present.

All members present were provided a handout which included the meeting agenda, a list of Parish Council Members, meeting dates of Parish Council, information about the Mardi Gras/Winter Fest, Holy Land Youth Assembly, the Farmhouse Project (Estimates and Funding) and Parent Power Sessions.

Ideas and Concerns:

- Laura asked questions about the plans for housing the homeless men regarding washing of bed linens and the need to develop a plan for this including addressing infection control issues. Will further explore this. Also asked about collecting clothing to be provided to men. Father Jason explained that clothing needs are addressed through the St. Vincent DePaul Society in Bardstown.
- Bill C. voiced concerns about the ability to hear what other members are saying. Bill suggested that name cards be placed at the seat of other members so they can easily be identified. Laura will make name cards.
- Laura asked if there was a process in place for family requesting sacramental records or other information for genealogical purposes. Father Jason explained that records are not provided for genealogical purposes. Bill C. explained that there are records at the Nelson County Library; Betty Sue Donahue is contact for these records.

- John C. suggested that for major issues involving our parish, all parish members be allowed to vote on issue.
- John C.: The current microphone for lectors does not function correctly and it is difficult to hear lectors. Father Jason will work on having the microphone replaced.
- Joe Walker voiced concerns over the cemetery rules not being followed regarding the placement of artificial flowers. There is also a lot of trash at cemetery.
 - Perhaps service hours could be earned by students who assist with clean-up.
 - Post rules.
 - Issues will be discussed with Cemetery Committee.
- Father Jason discussed the 11am mass being over-crowded. The air conditioning is not effective with crowding and there is not enough seating for everyone. He anticipates the 11am mass becoming more crowded when the religious education classes begin. Questioned the need to move 11am mass to the church hall to address these issues.
 - If 11am mass is moved, the Chapel would continue to be utilized for daily masses and at other times.
 - Father again stated that he will work on getting the lector microphone replaced.
 - Bill C. offered ideas for changes to accommodate more people at 11am mass. Father Jason reminded all that the historical integrity/structure of the chapel cannot be changed.
 - Eileen J. shared information regarding her past experience as a member of a parish building committee.
- John C: Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, ushers, etc., need to arrive in time to prepare for mass.
 - Letter to be sent to all detailing time frame in which to arrive in order to adequately prepare for mass.
- At the 11am mass, ushers should direct visitors to our parish to overflow areas and move overflow to sacristy area.
- Some Eucharistic Ministers are reporting that they have been trained, but have not been scheduled to serve as Eucharistic Minister.
 - Patsy Coomes oversees lectors and will be made aware of issue.

- Father Jason discussed Parish Council roles/responsibilities and explained the roles/responsibilities of other Parish Committees as detailed in the handout he provided and which is attached to these meeting minutes.
- Mardi Gras/Winter Fest: Friday February 24, 2017. Colleen Yates is in charge of this. This year there will not be a Silent Auction; instead, efforts will be focused on the \$10,000 Mardi Gras Raffle. Raffle tickets will be \$5, and 6,000 tickets must be sold.
 - Family Trivia Game Night—suggestion was made to define what constitutes a team so that everyone is included regardless of family size or status. Suggested a more-inclusive name.
 - Other events as defined on attached handout.
- Picnic Review: Father Jason reports that there are still outstanding bills that Walmart has not yet provided; therefore, total profit is unknown at this time.
- Father Jason explained the Holy Land Youth Assembly to be held on Sunday October 16th, 2016. This will bring together all the youth groups in the area which has not been done before. (Further details on attached handout.)
- Farmhouse Update: The water line has been installed. Windows have been funded by a donation in memory of Rita Vittitow, by Rita V. Miller. Father Jason has obtained small plaques to place at each window detailing this.
- Parent Power Sessions
 - Will be held on Sundays when there are religious education classes. Along with Father Jason, Mary Jones will instruct. Projected session outline and topics were provided on handout and are attached to these minutes.
 - Krista F. asked about the availability of childcare for parents who attend these sessions.
 - Childcare options will be further explored.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm following the closing prayer by Father Jason.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura A. Merritt
Parish Council Secretary

Attachments:

6 page handout provided by Father Jason
Signature sheet of members in attendance