

Date: June 2, 2021

Subject: Holy Spirit Church Parish Council

In Attendance: Father Anthony Dill, Kate Reed (Chair), Janet Parks, Jeffrey Pallozzi (Secretary), John Ciardullo, Ron Lay (Vice Chair), Susan Kelly-Dreiss, Pat DiNunzio, Carla Christy-Gallo, Ed Burns, Katie Rohrbach, Rob Shelton, Lisa Haus, Bill Lavage, Barb DiBrito, Brittini Eckert, Becky Messimer

Excused Absence: Marc Frailey (Finance Chair), Renee Amelio

Minutes:

- Opened with a Prayer –PatDiNunzio
- Introduce New Council Members (Kate)
 - Introductions for existing and incoming Council members captured in the attendee list
- Finance Report (Janet)
 - Finalized budget end of April with a balanced budget. Budgeted \$30K for DAC, currently short \$33K but continue to see funds come in
 - There are five Sundays in May; should be at 91% of budget but we are sitting at 96% of Sunday giving via online format, collection basket and US Mail
 - Operating budget only at 74% so we are below budget pending any new expenses that arise prior to fiscal close of year
 - Focus giving ongoing for the Pavilion. Paperwork with the borough waiting approval. Current bills for Light Heigle and Eisenhower to research and prepare variance request in process
 - Installed new windows for \$23,950 which was over \$18,500 budgeted and accounted for in savings, balance came from operating income
 - New sound system for \$9,500 of which \$7,000 was covered by parishioner giving
 - Net income at end of June will be finalized and anticipate moving a portion of funds to saving
 - Father provided a summation of Finance Committee, Parish Manager and how it works from a “checks and balances” perspective
- Review/edit/approve April minutes (Council)
 - **Motion:** One edit submitted and captured. Pat motioned to approve minutes. Ron seconded. Motion passed and minutes approved.

- Welcoming Committee (Father Anthony)
 - Current State: Holly registers new parishioners and sends a packet via mail welcoming the new parishioners
 - Janet indicates we average 2-3 new families a month
 - Father suggesting a welcoming committee to better engage new members and a plan on how to best engage them
 - A variety of ideas were floated including but not limited to:
 - John recommends we have 2-3 committee members engage 2-3 new families at a time and invite them here. Should be well versed on all the committees that parishioner could participate in
 - Pat recommends it be on sight and have a team meet with the families once a month or quarterly. Susan recommends we conduct outreach via phone if there is a lengthy period between orientation meeting and joining parish. Janet supports the call outreach
 - Father indicates it could be a function of Parish Council if the council feels strongly about it
 - Carla recommended a social activity with new and existing parishioners to drive engagement with new members, Barb supported this social approach as well. John supports following that with a tour
 - John and Father would like to finalize approach so we can start building the process.
 - **Motion:** Motion put forward by John to nominate a Parish Council Member to be on the Welcoming Committee to help lead this. Pat seconded. Motion carries
 - **Motion:** Motion put forward by John to create a welcoming committee. Seconded by Pat. Motion carries
 - Lisa indicated she had a very positive experience when she moved here 12 years ago and volunteered to be on the committee
 - **Motion:** Motion put forward by Susan to nominate Lisa to lead the welcoming committee. Jeff seconded. Motion carries
 - John outlined some tasks and Katie Rohrbach recommended we create a checklist
- Live-streaming Masses (Father Anthony)
 - Father wants to know if we should still be recording the 4PM on Saturday as well as the Sunday at 11AM. Pat likes both as does Lisa. Concern is volunteer hours. Based on Council feedback we will continue recording
 - Carla indicated that views between Sat and Sun are comparable
 - Carla recommends we enhance the opening screen to represent and/or scroll relevant Parish news
 - **Motion:** Motion to continue livestream of masses by Pat. Carla seconds, motion carries

- Stained Glass Design (Father Anthony)
 - Two options originally for consideration. The simpler version was enhanced adding more depth to include pillar of cloud & the 2 characters (Moses and Miriam), but need to enhance parting of Red Sea.
 - Questions
 - Is design/concept good to move forward with? Should we look for more edits?
 - Ron has concerns with tornado-like cloud and lady with tambourine and the wind. Carla agrees with majority of feedback and suggests that characters would be happy in this moment. Barb suggested the characters be singing as mentioned in the scripture
 - John recommends we better define the parting of the Red Sea. Rob Shelton indicates that the parting of the Red Sea needs to be prominent as this is the focal point. We are focusing on small details but want to make sure we re-center around the Red Sea before getting into extraneous details
 - Father indicates story includes a cloud of fire and represents the Holy Spirit and we want to incorporate. Additionally, the lady with the tambourine is captured in scripture. Will include scriptural verse with the stained glass
 - Susan suggests it would be prudent to provide the rendering from the artist to the stained-glass artists to make sure these things are possible
 - Becky likes the wind but it could be better represented in the artist's rendering. Kate supports and wants to see more movement within the picture. Ed highlighted that it looks like Moses is holding the wind, and could be better depicted
 - Bill suggested we look at other renderings which we did but nothing stands out as spectacular. Father shared each stain glass is ~\$10K but we have parishioners who already sponsored the first 2 windows
- New Business (Council)
 - Father shared areas of focus or top priorities for the Parish to promote the mission of the Parish. We already do many things well, so these are areas of opportunity to continue to grow and support engagement
 - Communication (as much communication as we can have with the parish and keep members and community)
 - **Between Parishioners and pastor**
 - Between Office Staff and parish
 - Networking about events and groups
 - Between parishioners and parish

- Groups (invest in groups, volunteerism, funding to drive engagement/works with members)
 - Faith sharing
 - Ministries
 - **Youth** – Becky has taken on additional responsibilities. Father wants to set goals before filling the position so we have a plan to engage the Youth of which high school participation is low. Father looking at a mentoring type of approach at a younger age that would continue through high school
 - **30-50 years old** - Once a month (mostly Fridays). Father has reached out to 15 parishioners and is coordinating with potential speakers
 - Intergenerational, inter-ministry – example volleyball activity with older and younger parish members
 - **Grieving** – Have had some recent events that demonstrate a need for a group like this

- Sacraments
 - Baptism Prep – What are good topics to discuss and strengthen prep for Baptism as well as wedding prep
 - Wedding Prep – Enhance checklist and help carry participants the whole way through the process
 - Funeral Prep
 - Facilities Prep

- Benevolence – make opportunities easier for parishioners to easily engage, participate and volunteer.
 - More of everything. Susan to work with Janet Binner to come up with some plans/strategic initiatives
 - Reestablish relationship with Caring Cupboard
 - Establish relationship with Catholic Charities
 - Corporately helping other parishes/charities

- Evangelization – Explore opportunities to spread the word and inclusiveness while not feeling overwhelmed
 - Unchurched
 - Ex-Catholics
 - New parishioners
 - RCIA
 - College Students

- Caring Ministry/Eucharistic Ministers
 - Pat advised there are 20 new eucharistic ministers and many are currently shadowing now which is great parish support

- Family Group/Family Game Night
 - Becky recommended a Family Group or Game Night to support intergenerational engagement with some basis in spirituality. Hard to engage high school students after confirmation. Discussed options to engage or determine what might work.

- Ron provided an update on Online Parish Directory.
 - Email campaign added about 15 more families for a total of 80. Not quite the participation we hoped for
 - Ron suggested Barb and he will bring their laptop and try to engage after mass to increase numbers
 - Katie also suggested this be part of the Welcoming Committee
 - Barb indicated that a portion of parishioners are not technically savvy so offering after church would help engage that group. There is no deadline, so no urgency from parishioners to complete
 - Pat suggested we have a picture booth at the festival to help drive engagement as well
- Select Officers (New Council Members)
 - Carla volunteered for Vice Chair
 - Katie volunteered for Secretary
 - **Motion:** Council unanimously approved motion to proceed with new officers
- **Conclusion:** Meeting adjourned with prayer & blessing by Father
- **Next meeting:** Sept ??, 2021