

Parish Council Meeting

October 21, 2020

6pm Basement East, Zoom

Council members present: Eric Brooks (Zoom), Msgr. John Cody, Karen Cook (Zoom), Mike Ford, Sr., David Frea (Zoom), Mary Jean Girard, Andy Johns, Deacon Michael Kopczewski, Kevin Radwanski, Melissa Zuk, Theresa Bayes (zoom), Mark Sigrist (zoom)

Council members missing:, Fr. Jim Colopy, Julie Freeman, Bev Killian, Chris Killian, Mark O'Loughlin, Tate Taylor, Mark Tucci

Guests: Diana Pulsinelli, Sidni L. Padamada, Dawn Neihmier, Sherry Bokus, Emily and John Gale (zoom), Rob Wahl, Geno Pulsinelli, John Matera (zoom) Mandy Athey (zoom),

Meeting Minutes:

- Introductions of parish council members and guests
- Everyone wore masks

Role of council (Monsignor Cody)

- 1960s, Vatican II, importance of consultation in the life of the Church
- Role of the laity changed, to be more involved.
- 1983 revised Code of Canon Law
- Finance Council is mandated, parish council is recommended but NOT mandated.
- 1 choice maker for....
 - Church = Pope
 - Diocese = Bishop
 - Parish = Pastor
 - HOWEVER, they should never make a choice in isolation! It is important to consult.
- Also important to be ready to explain why you didn't take people's advice if you make a choice contrary to what they recommend.
- Msgr shared a story of renovating St. Francis re. Giving feedback to architect.
- Whole point of a parish council is to sit with pastor (or administrator pro tem)
 - Point is to keep in touch with the parishioners and keep a pulse on the parish.
 - Msgr. Believes very much in parish councils.
- Difference between pastor and administrator pro tem is simply permanence.
 - If msgr had been appointed pastor, he would have had to be here for 6 years.
 - Bishop knew that Msgr was willing to come to OLPH. Fr. Lumpe was just stretched too thin, so asked Msgr to come instead.

- Msgr told Bishop that if he has someone within the next few months who is ready to come, he is willing to step aside whenever needed. Bishop says that Msgr may be here until next June.
- Fr. Mike Watson is coming as Assistant Administrator Pro Tem to help Monsignor.
 - Msgr and Deacon met with him yesterday to get him up to speed on OLPH.
 - He is very bright. Trivia Master, very good with names.
- Msgr. Cody's impressions of OLPH have always been very good.
- Monsignor has relied heavily on Fr Jim and Deacon Michael since they know the history of the parish.
- Andy Johns: Reinforced that council is a consultative body and NOT a decision making body by any means.
 - The pandemic has impacted the work of the council and plans to communicate out to the parish.
 - We apologize for lack of transparency to the rest of the parish.

ACTION: Addition to "What's Happening" section of bulletin to inform parishioners of meeting times and how to "Request to Speak"

Guest Speaker #1, Sherry Bockus, West Deanery liaison

- Overview of West Deanery. Meet every 2 months.
- Took over as liaison from Andrea Adler
- SB brought copies of Deanery Meeting minutes, will be appended to these notes.
- Primary purpose of Deanery Meetings is to report what we're doing, share ideas,
 - Bishops have encouraged parishes to collaborate together
 - Point is to get to know each other as parishes
 - And share information and resources
- Corpus Christi Celebration - St Stephens will handle it in June.
- St. Cecilia has had drive-through Fish Frys. Successful.
- Pre-cana vision for 2021
 - Done on Deanery level
 - Planned as a 1-Day retreat
 - Looking for volunteer couples to be trained.
 - Msgr told diocese that we would be willing to host
- Deacon Michael:
 - It's invaluable that Sherry attends these meetings!
 - Probably also got perspective on where other parishes are in regards to opening up

ACTION: Sherry will send monthly deanery minutes to council chairs monthly. Minutes will be sent electronically in advance to all council members. MJ Girard will include Sherry when sending out meeting reminders and updates.

Guest Speaker #2, Rob Wahl: Mission Statement

- Rob shared his thoughts regarding the current mission statement “To Form and Send Intentional Disciples.” He expressed concerns that the laser focus on the mission has led to a sacrifice to gathering and coming together as a parish family.
 - Biblically, the passover meal. You had to find a family and join one to eat the meal. You couldn’t eat alone.
- RW’s observations of things that were changed or done away with: (These are focused on pre-COVID era)
 - Coffee & Donuts
 - Parish Council
 - Vacation Bible School
 - First Communion changes from large class groups to individual.
 - Eric Brooks response: Has 4th grade twins. He is very happy with the changes because the emphasis is now on the individual children, not on the group.
 - RW: sees it differently. He thinks they eroded a sense of community.
 - Children’s liturgy
 - It was the only time all kids of the parish (homeschool, PSR, school) could come together
 - Retreats (Disciples for Life)
 - Festival
 - Appreciation dinner
 - Food trucks replacing us cooking
- Msgr.
 - Very concerned (as lots of priests are) that we’re going to lose a lot of people
 - Karen Cook is in charge of the New Evangelization.
 - Primarily focused to the Catholic Church Community
 - Purpose is to reach out to them and help to incorporate them back into the parish community.
 - A lot are taking advantage of the dispensation because they’re scared of COVID.
- Jason Gale:
 - Been parishioners since 2018
 - He thinks parish has done a fabulous job of reaching out and being intentional
 - Youth Group
 - Parish Outreach (Twice) during COVID
 - One of the few constants in life is change.
 - In times like this we tend to question things. He thinks we just need to highlight what we’re doing right.
 - We’re so welcoming and beautiful as a parish

Organizational Update

- DMK
 - Been a restructuring of Staff roles. Revised org chart available. Really flattened out reporting structure.
 - Still ebbing and flowing. Can't guarantee org chart won't change; still very much a WIP.
 - Working on keeping people engaged, and welcoming people back
 - We are all family, and we are all in the same foxhole!
 - Thank you for your suggestions! We will follow up.
 - We are building. We are not tearing down and replacing. We are building on top of what has been done before.
 - We are encouraging volunteers to take on tasks and be more involved!

Future Points for Discussion

- Msgr.
 - Concern: in past councils would tend to focus on maintenance issues.
 - What are we doing well, what are we doing that we don't have to do anymore, and what are we not doing that we should be?
 - It is important to keep people together. Give them a common purpose.
 - Agenda Items, there's a lot going on!
 - Staff meetings are now happening twice a month to keep a handle on what's going on. We don't want things to slip by us.
 - We had a leadership team. We now call it the consultative team, which is heads of staff departments.
 - Consulting slows things down, but produces better results.
 - Lots of events coming up
 - One of Monsignor's brother priests thinks that our bulletin is the best in the diocese.
- AJ:
 - This council meeting was a little different with the new open format.
 - Future meetings might have a lot more business items, may get boring. But you're still welcome to come.
- Msgr
 - Soliciting future thoughts/ideas
 - Christmas: how do we do Mass? What do we do?
 - Evaluation of current Mass schedule
- MJG
 - Before COVID, we had almost a "brand" at every Mass.
 - Options to Live stream a different Mass each weekend and not just the 8:30 am Sunday.
- Msgr closed in prayer