

Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2017
Parish Council Meeting

St. Kenneth Vision Statement: “To become an increasingly welcoming and inclusive parish centered in the Gospel of justice, love and compassion.”

Members Present: Fr. Tom, Deacon Denny, Ray Smock, Jeff Kessen, Judy Torosian, Bob “Maz” Mazarowski, Kim Rize, Sarah Fish, Brian Owens, Matt Burke, Andy Wasiniak, Rich Noelke, Tom Okress, Peggy Darrah, Brad Neilson, Art Belloli

Others Present: Jim Snider (Christian Service representative), Bart Gregoroff, Carol Parker, Tracey Emmanuel, Dennis Tochman, Joe Henderson

Opening Prayer: Kim Rize

Approval of the Minutes

Art Belloli made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2017 Regular Parish Council meeting. Rich Noelke seconded. Motion carried with unanimous approval.

Introduction for Parish Council Nominees

Andy Wasiniak and Fr. Tom welcomed the Parish Council nominees who attended the meeting and provided them with further information about the role of the council within the parish. Nominees who attended the meeting included: Bart Gregoroff, Carol Parker, Tracey Emmanuel, Dennis Tochman and Joe Henderson.

Administrative Updates

- Vicariate Representative: No report.
- Website: No report. Jeff Kessen asked how many people completed the Time and Talent survey online, but Fr. Tom said he did not yet have the data.

Parishioner Feedback

Fr. Tom said that he heard a lot of very positive feedback regarding the mission that took place at the parish from October 22-25. He said there was about 400 people in attendance every night, and that it was well received by those who were there. Fr. Eugene O’Reilly, of the Redemptorists, hosted the mission and received significant financial support for his missionary work from the parish.

Deacon Denny reported that the collaborative prayer service with nearby Lutheran churches and Catholic parishes that took place on October 29 was a success. There was about 120 people in attendance and it was well received. He said that there may be a possibility to do more interfaith functions in the future, and they are considering planning another similar event during Christian Unity Week in January. Fr. Tom said that events like these would encourage us to focus on our similarities with our Christian neighbors rather than our differences.

Parish Master Plan

Fr. Tom provided the Parish Council with the October 2017 Mass counts. The data showed a slight increase in attendance from October 2016 to October 2017. Andy Wasiniak said the updated Mass counts will be incorporated into the Master Plan, which is still being revised. He said he will have more information about the updated Master Plan at the November 27 Parish Council meeting.

Andy Wasiniak also said that the pastoral letter written by Archbishop Allen Vigneron is being used as a guide for the Master Plan. Fr. Tom provided the Parish Council with a document highlighting the main points of the pastoral letter, so that Parish Council members could use it as a resource while drafting the Master Plan. The goal is to align the Master Plan with the intent and vision of the pastoral letter, and to use the pastoral letter to identify opportunities for programs, events and other evangelization efforts.

Commission Updates

- **Christian Service Commission:** Jim Snider provided the Parish Council with an update about recent activity within the commission. He noted that the commission increased the number of homeless meals for the month, that the Giving Tree planning is on schedule and there will be about 1,350 tags this year, and that blueprints have been submitted for the Cass Corridor Tiny Home that is being sponsored by St. Kenneth. He also said that the commission is picking up food from local businesses to be distributed to charitable organizations as well as the homeless in Detroit, that planning has begun for the Cookie Walk in December, and that the senior club recently hosted another successful pot luck dinner.
- **Education Commission:** Brian Owens reported that the Education Commission spoke with Catholic speaker Ron Ward at its most recent meeting. He said that Ron Ward emphasized the need for the Parish Council to be the driving force behind evangelization, and that he would like to meet with the most involved members of the parish community to help them remember why they do what they do.
- **Worship Commission:** Art Belloli reported that the Worship Commission would be decorating the worship space for Halloween for the children's Mass and then would be using the Fall decorations until the beginning of Advent. He said that the commission is creating plans for Advent and Christmas. He said that the lector training is being held the first weekend of November. He also noted that the Worship Commission meets the least regularly of all the commissions, but that it has a significant number of people actively involved on a daily basis. He said that in total, there are about 380 members of the Worship Commission doing work behind-the-scenes within the parish.
- **Evangelization Committee:** Matt Burke was present as the new representative of the Evangelization Committee, and Fr. Tom thanked him for his willingness to move the committee forward. There was no additional report.

2016-2017 Fiscal Year Report

Rich Noelke said that weekend collections continue to increase month-to-month, and Andy Wasiniak said that this blessing has allowed the parish to operate with a net excess. He said that the savings generated from that net excess is assisting with the funding of the building renovation project.

Stewardship Commission Report

Jeff Kessen said that the rate of pledges has declined, and that the parish is receiving a handful of new pledges on a weekly basis. He reported that there was the same number of pledge participants in the Let Us Rejoice! Capital Campaign as there was for the 2016 CSA collection. However, about 200 of those participants had not participated in the 2016 CSA collection or were new parishioners. He said that there is reason to believe that there are more active parishioners who may still pledge a contribution.

He said that at the time of the meeting, there was about \$1.67 million in net proceeds from the campaign. He said that he projects a net income of \$1.7 to \$1.8 million from the campaign. He noted that combined with the \$2.2 million in savings, there should be about \$4 million for the project. He said that he believes the Parish Council and Building Committee can move forward with the plan, but he feels the north expansion should still be listed as a contingency.

Fr. Tom said that the campaign is on target, but he would still like to see more participation from parishioners. He said that he will continue to market the campaign to new parishioners and to those who have not yet participated.

Andy Wasiniak encouraged the Finance Council to begin exploring interim loan options, and Fr. Tom said that the parish is taking the first steps in pursuing those. Rich Noelke said he would follow up on the process as well.

Andy Wasiniak also asked Brad Neilson to send out an updated schedule, including dates, for the requirements established by the Archdiocese of Detroit Board of Consultants for the project.

Building Committee Update

Brad Neilson said the project is on track and is in the design development phase. Currently, the schematic drawings are being refined. He said there is a lot of activity going on behind-the-scenes.

Brad Neilson said he recently sent an online survey asking for feedback regarding specific details of the building project. He said that they are trying to get as much input as possible from as many people as possible throughout the process.

He reported that the building committee, Fr. Tom and the architect meet every two weeks regarding the project. The committee is accepting bids for fees from construction managers until 5 p.m. on Nov. 1. He said that there are six contractors who are submitting bids, and after the committee evaluates the bids, the list will likely be narrowed down to four contractors. From there, the committee will do individual interviews with the construction managers. He said they are looking for a well-qualified construction manager who is going to deliver results. Once the construction manager has been chosen, this individual also will be included in the regular meetings.

Andy Wasiniak said that he would like Art Belloli to head an advisory group that will provide additional feedback and input into the project. He said that this gives people an important opportunity to be heard and to be involved in the project.

2017-2018 Parish Council Leadership

Andy Wasiniak said that the Parish Council lottery will take place at the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, November 12. The first meeting for new Parish Council members to attend will take place on November 27. He reminded the Parish Council that they will need to submit nominations for leadership positions at the next meeting.

Fr. Tom asked the nominees in attendance to please consider the opportunity and pray about the opportunity to serve on the Parish Council. He encouraged them to keep their names in contention for the lottery, and said that they could provide their intentions to remain in the lottery or to remove themselves from the lottery to Paula Steele at communications@stkenneth.org.

Closing Prayer: Judy Torosian

Next Meeting: 7:00 p.m. on November 27

Opening Prayer: Brian Owens

Closing Prayer: Judy Torosian