

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2019
Selinger Hospitality Center

Attendees: Kyle Shimmens, TJ Ralston, Terri Haake, Jeff Luebbert, Diane Struempf, Lesha Neidert, Brad Shimmens, Andy Rackers, Gayle Trachsel, Michelle Truesdale, Fr. Jeremy Secrist

Absent: Doug Otto

Guest: Enrique, Diocese of Jefferson City/St. Peter Parish Hispanic Ministry

Opening Prayer: Fr. Secrist opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:30 pm.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Secrist discussed the need for stability in our parish with all the changes over the years, and that we needed united vision of how to move our parish forward. He asked 3 questions:

- 1) What are our greatest strengths of our parish?
- 2) Where do we want to see ourselves in 5-10 years?
- 3) Who do we, as a committee/parish, need to attend to?

A list of St. Peter Committees was provided to the parish council members in attendance. Fr. Secrist confirmed that the Liturgy Committee and the Spiritual Life & Worship Committees will be combining members, creating a new committee name, and their first meeting is scheduled in August.

Old Business:

- Full Circle Youth organization: a program to provide a safe place for troubled youth in our community. All youth are welcome from the local community, they do not have to be Catholic. St. Peter has volunteered the space for youth and counselor(s) to meet and hold get togethers/fun events. Financing is still being worked out for this and a rep from Council for Drug Free Youth is working with the parish to secure a counselor in our community. This program started in Tucson, AZ and has been started in Kansas City and St. Louis to address troubled/addicted youth who fall through the cracks.
- El Puente community: Enrique Castro, a member of the parish and the Hispanic Ministry coordinator from the Diocese spoke to the committee about the need to develop a closer connection to our Hispanic parishioners in hopes that they become parishioners and we, as a parish, welcome them to our masses/parish. El Puente has been a program in our diocese almost 20 years old. St. Peter is the only Catholic church in the local community that offers a Spanish mass on Sundays. Enrique and his family moved to Jefferson City from Columbia so that their children could attend Catholic school. He explained that our parish was the most diverse as was the school which is why they chose to send become members of our parish. Enrique agrees that it is time for the Hispanic community to integrate into the community and into our parish. He stated that Cole County has about 2,500 Hispanics and most are Catholic; however, some have been going to the Protestant churches. The diocese and our parish need more volunteers to help welcome and more bilingual members for communication purposes. Fr. Secrist and Enrique have recently acquired office space in the parish office for El Puente

employees to meet with Hispanic members and help with registration forms and sacramental preparations (i.e., baptismal, marriage, etc.) of the Hispanic members of our community.

- Council assistance with Parish Directory: Parish Directory photos will be scheduled for September and October this year. Signups will be in August and Parishioners will be able to sign up online or they can contact or stop by the parish office to sign up for a time. The last time a directory was done was 2011. They have chosen to do a traditional book with parish activities/photos in the front of the book and pictorial directory in the back. Michelle is working with the company who will be doing the photos to start some more publicity via email blasts to parishioners as well as social media. Several parishioners have volunteered to assist, and photos will be taken in the Selinger Center.

Commission and Committee Reports: None

New Business:

- Council members were given a copy of the parish balance sheet as of 6/30/2019 to review.
- Council members were given a list of parish council meeting dates for August 2019 through June 2020, as well as a copy of the Parish Council bylaws from 2011 to review.
- Discussion of envelopes for giving at Mass. Michelle noted that a note was put in the bulletin this past weekend explaining electronic versus envelope giving to parishioners. Discussion for future ACH allowances to various parish accounts for those who wish to give electronically as many people don't carry cash nowadays. Currently, electronic tithes to the parish all go the general fund. Any other special accounts (such as St. Vincent De Paul, Samaritan Center, building fund, etc.), parishioners need to use the envelopes.
- Summer Daycare/Totus Tuus/Art Camp: council president was asked why St. Peters does not offer a summer daycare and why Totus Tuus and Art Camp were not held at St. Peters. Michelle explained that Totus Tuus was held at St. Joseph Cathedral this year and Art Camp was held off site. Gayle Trachsel offered that they do not offer summer daycare because they've never been asked, and it may be cost prohibitive.
- Election of new officer roles for council: Four council members completed their three-year stent on parish council and four new members joined. New members are Diane Struemph, Andy Rackers, Brad Shimmens and Lesha Neidert. Kyle Shimmens will remain President, TJ Ralston will remain Vice President, Terri Haake will be the Secretary, and Lesha Neidert will be the young adult representative.

Comments for the Good of the Parish: next week, a new clock and bell control system will be installed in the bell tower. In about 3 weeks, the St. Peter marquee will be replaced with an LED digital marquee in hopes to be another tool for evangelization.

Next meeting date: August 29, 2019

Fr. Secrist led the council in the closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.