Mary of the Visitation

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mary of the Visitation Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at the East Campus (Big Lake). The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer. Members present: Rich Hubbard, Geary Keppel, Theresa Slominski, Tracy Johnson, Jeff Howell, and Melissa Dumonceaux. Also present were Chris Prudhomme, standing in for Brenda Prudhomme, Fr. Mike Kellogg, Pastor, and Trustees, Clay Wilfahrt and Eric Krause. The Agenda was amended to correct the meeting location to Big Lake and the next meeting to be held in Becker. No Parishioners were present to address issues, questions or concerns. No Youth Council Representatives were present.

**AGENDA**

**Welcome New Members:** Introductions and a welcome was extended to our new Council members, Jeff Howell and Melissa Dumonceaux.

**Council Leadership Positions:** Jeff Howell accepted the position of Vice-Chairperson. Theresa Slominski agreed to continue as Secretary for another year.

**May Minutes:** The minutes from the May 22nd Parish Council Meeting were reviewed and approved.

**“REBUILT” Status:** The Parish Council voted to discontinue reading “REBUILT” after today’s discussion. New councilmembers will be given the opportunity to read the book as it does contain a lot of good information.

**Legal Issues:** Re-organization should be completed in January. Bishop Kettler states that all names of accused priests are out and asks for our prayers for all parties.

**Land/Direction of Campuses:** There will be listening sessions after Masses this fall or early winter to gain insight as to the strategy for our Parish. This will include handouts and suggestion cards distributed in the pews. Melissa and Geary have agreed to assist.

**Calendar Raffle Update:** The $15,000 net profit is up from the $7500 received last year.

**Bus Update:** The bus has been paid off! The Knights of Columbus are donating $10,000 for re-painting. Because of the age of the bus, it is expected to last the Parish for ten to twelve years. The lesson learned is that if there is a need, share the story with the community! (Another example of our disciples’ generosity was in the approximate $6000 raised for classrooms in Jamaica.)

**September Fest:** Meetings and planning is underway. We are looking for all hands on deck!

**Stewardship:** The Diocese of St. Cloud has a new program with ELCO, a Lutheran organization. Father Mike attended the August 2nd meeting and received ideas on effective preaching. Two more meetings are scheduled in Alexandria on September 22nd and November 3rd. The training is done through video conferencing. As shown in the Strategic Planning, we need to define who we are and prioritize what we do really well. Getting Parishioners to have skin in the game is a must. Time and Talents are the first priority. The more involvement, the more willingness to help out. Stewardship is more than money, it is about people. Being involved helps build relationships, making Time and Talent really valuable. Long range Strategic Planning is a great resource for Stewardship. Our building debt is currently $127,000 and should be paid off in four years at our current pace. This could be another crowd source for ministries.

**Ministry Team Liaisons:** All Council members serve on Ministry Teams to keep communication open between the teams and the Parish Council. Theresa will join Liturgy/Environment and Music, and Melissa will continue serving on the Faith Formation Ministry Team. Jeff will join Strategic Planning. As of this meeting, a leader is still needed for the Strategic Planning Ministry Team.

**MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

**Adult Education and Youth Ministry:** An email went out to all Parishioners to tell their story of faith at Adult Faith Formation Sessions. Meeting discussions have been centered on the start of this year’s Journey of Faith and the Confirmation retreat.

**Youth and Children’s Ministry:** There will be an increase in the number of Big Lake campus Kids for Christ sessions scheduled to begin at the end of September. High School youth are volunteering to help out. The Kick-Off BBQ for the Youth for Truth is at the youth Center in Becker. An advisory meeting is coming up and Kids for Christ will be promoted at this meeting.

**Building and Grounds:** The general maintenance list was updated. In Big Lake, the birch stump is to be removed and the playground slide repaired. The Youth Group painted the playground. At the Becker campus, messages have been left for the Fire Chief regarding the lockboxes. The floor waxing and a small repair to the sidewalk is to be done. Completed are the cemetery fence repair, and the skylight repair. The dining room will be painted in the fall and the water meter replacement is scheduled. On hold are the chimney leak and windows at Big Lake and the landscaping in Becker. An estimate of $6500 was received for the landscaping, and the beeping has stopped on the fire suspension system pots.

**Outreach:** Soles for Souls is ongoing and has received hundreds of new shoes. Supplies from the School Supply Drive will be delivered next Tuesday to Big Lake and Becker schools. Sign-up for Great River Family Promise will be held the next two weekends for the week of September 16th. Women’s Bible Studies has requested prayers for vocations at Masses, possibly at the end of announcements. The prayer needs to be re-written to include all vocations and put in all the books.

**Finance:** A new Finance Chairperson is needed. The final numbers for last year’s fiscal year show we ended the year in the black.

**Liturgy:** No report.

***REBUILT* Resources:** Chapter 13, “Fall in Love”

The chapter addresses staffing and personnel. We are always going to have a staff and we wouldn’t be good stewards without paying them a fair wage. There are advantages to having a personnel /Human Resource team. We are currently seeking a Communications/Volunteer Coordinator. An ad for a part-time position was placed in the Visitor. At some point, the Parish would benefit from an administrator. There used to be a Council retreat. It is helpful to step away for a weekend to gain a spiritual focus and learn more about each other.

**ACTION ITEMS**

* Clay will decide what to assemble for the Listening Sessions and prepare a handout and pew cards.
* Father will meet with Clay to obtain the liquor license for September Fest.
* Father will email the Time and Talent card to Council members.
* All Council members will make it a goal to ask one or two people after mass where they feel they have spiritual gifts and where they can use them to serve. Comments will be shared at the next meeting.
* Brenda will ask the Liturgy Ministry Team about praying for vocations.
* Kathy Loeffler will arrange getting the Strategic Planning notes to date to Jeff.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Strategic Planning Committee – Needs Action. How are we going to work together?

The meeting was closed with prayer. The next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at 7:00 PM at the West Campus in Becker.

**All parishioners are welcome to attend!**

Submitted by Kathy Loeffler, Recording Secretary