

**St. James Parish
Regular Parish Council Meeting
April 6, 2016**

Attendees:

Parish Council: Fr. John Edmunds, Eileen Quigley (Chair), Fran Williams (Vice Chair), Sara West (Secretary), Dave Bowman, Bill Kusek, Eva Leonard, Virginia Picken, Dave Samber, Werner Seyfried

Guests: None

Absent: None

Eileen Quigley called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Fr. John led the group in a discussion of the gospel reading for this upcoming Sunday.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting were approved.

Land Acquisition

Fr. John announced that he had met with Bishop Perry recently, who shared with him the news that the Archbishop had decided to not move forward with acquiring the parcel of land on Michigan Avenue. The Archbishop noted that he is anxious to see the continued growth of St. James, and looks forward to doing great things together with the parish.

The Council agreed that the news should be shared with the parish at the dedication of the hall, scheduled for April 17. It was noted that the closing for the land purchase was to take place on April 16.

Parish Hall Update

Dave Bowman stated that the hall's basement floor had been cleaned and sealed, and a future sweeping had been scheduled; the hall basement is now a usable space. Dave also noted that heat has been restored to the hall, and the recent heating outage was due to a short in the thermostat wiring. He observed that he now has a much better understanding of the heating system in both the hall and the school.

Dave also reported that the main control panel of the elevator in the hall had failed and had been subsequently red tagged by the City. Steve Gross of the AOC has become involved in the elevator review and Dave is now awaiting further information on a meeting of the phone company, elevator repair firm, and the City.

Dave stated that Bishop Perry had instructed Steve Gross that certain repairs to the third floor of the rectory should be included in the scope of work for the contract, including repairs to the heating and hot water systems, tuckpointing, and roof repairs.

Advertising Leader Discussion

Eileen reported that Barb Sutton will be unable to lead St. James's advertising initiative. Virginia Picken, who has experience in publishing, offered to assist in this regard.

Finance Committee

Fr. John reported that he had recently conferred with Finance Committee members Werner Seyfried and Fran Williams, and that he would be meeting with the AOC accountant shortly. Budget preparation will follow.

Mass to be Celebrated by Archbishop Cupich

Fr. John reported that the liturgy for April 17 has been worked out with the Archbishop's secretary; both the staff and the Parish Council will be called up during the mass for recognition. The Hospitality Committee is arranging a potluck meal to follow the mass.

It was agreed that a more elaborate ceremony in recognition of Sister Barbara will be held during St. James Day in July.

Presentation Hall Plaque

Eva distributed proposed wording for the plaque to honor Sister Barbara, along with three proposals and cost estimates. Fran described the placement and proposed materials. Eileen suggested that Fr. John review the wording with the staff to confirm their agreement. The Council agreed that a plaque with dimensions 11" x 17" would be best; the cost is estimated at \$1,410, with additional charges for electronic photos or line drawings. A framed photograph may be included to accompany the finished plaque.

Parish Council Elections

The Council agreed that elections for open seats will take place on May 22. Sara West is coordinating announcements in the bulletin, at mass, and on the website with parish staff. Fr. John noted that he would like to see representation from the university community on the Council.

Fran pointed out that also on May 22, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. Peter Claver will be hosting a turnout at the 9:30 mass in recognition of its 60 years of service.

Old Business

Fr. John reported that he had told Bishop Perry that the current condition of the lot adjacent to the rectory is not acceptable.

New Business

Dave Bowman reported that the To Teach Who Christ Is campaign has raised \$271,000. The initial goal was \$260,000, and only a small percentage of parishioners have been approached to make gifts to date. Werner Seyfried is the co-chair of the campaign. The entire parish will be approached over the next two weeks. Dave noted that the funds will be allocated for new windows in the hall (\$60,000), an upgrade of the hall's heating system (\$100,000), and roof repairs for the hall (\$50,000).

Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4 at the Rectory.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara West.