

**St. James Parish
Regular Parish Council Meeting
July 1, 2015**

Attendees:

Parish Council: Fr. Bob Sprott, Eileen Quigley (Chair), Fran Williams (Vice Chair), Sara West (Secretary), Dave Bowman, Eva Leonard, Erin Makowski, Ginny Picken, Dave Samber, Jim Sherman

Guests: Liz Bowman, Brother Kevin Fitzgerald, Deacon Alfred Coleman II

Absent: Werner Seyfried

Eileen called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Fr. Bob led the prayer.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the June 3, 2015 meeting were approved with the following changes:

- Fr. Bob called the meeting to order (not Eileen Quigley)
- Eileen Quigley was not present at the meeting

Hall Construction

Fr. Bob will attend a meeting on July 2 with Steve Gross from the Archdiocese, as well as the architect and contractor. The project is being driven by the Archdiocese, and the expected completion date is August 1. The city must complete a final inspection.

Land Purchase

Eileen has asked Dave Samber to serve as the point person for obtaining updates from the Archdiocese related to the purchase of the parcel on Michigan Avenue. Fr. Bob emphasized that Dave would need to call Tom Kennedy directly and request an update, rather than expect that Mr. Kennedy would contact Dave. Dave will provide an update at the August meeting.

There was discussion of contacting the alderman regarding land zoning, but it was agreed that the Archdiocese should lead those conversations.

Finances

Fr. Bob reported that the expected deficit for the 2015 fiscal year is about \$15,000 to \$20,000. The deficit consists of funds owed to the Archdiocese for expenses such as the required share of parish revenues, insurance, and energy costs. St. James will be expected to repay the deficit and will be charged interest by the Archdiocese.

A new representative from the Archdiocese, Renee Beemsterboer, will be assisting St. James with budgeting for the 2016 fiscal year. The Finance Committee will be engaged in planning.

Fr. Bob reported that expectations for St. James regarding the To Teach Who Christ Is campaign (an Archdiocesan capital campaign) would likely be provided in August or September.

Social Care Concerns

Liz Bowman and Brother Kevin of the St. James Social Care Board addressed the group. Fr. Bob had earlier asked the Social Care Board to develop a contingency plan in the event that St. James

had closed. In lieu of a contingency plan, the Social Care Board asked that the Parish Council identify ways to increase parish membership.

Parish Membership

Discussion ensued about possible opportunities to increase the membership of the parish. Eileen suggested that the parish should become more engaged with the Archdiocese, and that a grand reopening event for the hall should be organized. Eva suggested contacting previous parishioners to invite them back to St. James. Fr. Bob agreed to speak with Brother Chris about preparing a list of previous parishioners, and the Council agreed that members would identify those individuals they would be willing to contact from the list.

An enhanced website and social media presence were also recommended; Fr. Bob will place an announcement in the bulletin requesting volunteers from the parish.

Oktoberfest

Jim Sherman reported that the Hospitality Committee, of which he and Werner Seyfried are members, would like to expand upon the Oktoberfest event that is held annually at St. James. He noted that the committee would take responsibility for planning the event and believes it could be a fundraiser for the parish. The Council enthusiastically endorsed the idea.

Old Business

Ginny Picken reported that she is trying to contact Sr. Carlotta, who may be able to assist with long-range planning.

New Business

Fr. Bob welcomed Deacon Alfred to the parish. He will begin attending mass the weekend of July 5.

Fr. Bob also noted that Eucharistic Adoration will be held in the hall, on the first Friday of each month, from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. The adoration will begin in September, on September 4.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5 at 7:00 in the Rectory.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara West.