

**St. James Parish  
Regular Parish Council Meeting  
September 2, 2015**

**Attendees:**

**Parish Council:** Fr. Bob Sprott, Eileen Quigley (Chair), Sara West (Secretary), Dave Bowman, Eva Leonard, Virginia Picken, Dave Samber, Werner Seyfried, Jim Sherman

**Guests:** Peter Wawire

**Absent:** Erin Makowski, Fran Williams (Vice Chair)

Eileen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Bob led the prayer.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the August 5, 2015 meeting were approved with the following change:

- During New Business, Jim Sherman requested job descriptions and an organizational chart for St. James staff.

**Hall Construction**

Dave Bowman reported that according to Steve Gross from the Archdiocese, the general contractor indicated that the construction on the hall will be substantially complete within 30 days. Fr. Bob further reported that additional meetings with the general contractor and Archdiocese are to be expected and that the parish should not expect to resume full use of the hall until January 1.

Dave Bowman noted that material from the old church (pew ends, spire, etc.) occupies space in the hall and the rectory basement. A decision regarding the future home of that material will need to be made. Dave indicated that the materials have salvage value only.

Fr. Bob reported that the school is expected to sign a two-year lease agreement for the continued use of the school building.

**Finances**

The Finance Committee met the week of August 24 (members include Dave Samber, Werner Seyfried, and Eileen Quigley). Fr. Bob reported that net income for fiscal year 2015 (ending June 30, 2015) was virtually \$0. Importantly, the parish owes no arrearage to the Archdiocese as had been expected.

Parish Operations staff of the Archdiocese had projected a \$50,000 net loss for FY15 and are projecting a \$100,000 net loss for FY16. Fr. Bob plans to clarify with Parish Operations the projected losses in comparison to actual results.

Fr. Bob emphasized that systemic problems with St. James finances still exist and must be addressed. A contingency in the budget is necessary.

The Parish Council reviewed financial results for FY15 and discussed some line items specifically. Discussion topics included:

- Total Ground Services was \$33,193 in FY15. Fr. Bob plans to identify other potential vendors for snow removal. Jim Sherman will propose potential vendors for grass cutting.

- Professional Service Fees was about \$20,000 greater in FY15 than FY14, owing primarily to a full-time volunteer from Amate House and Galabid services for Jazzin' to Feed.
- No full-time volunteer was hired in FY16. This decision may need to be reevaluated in FY17. Peter may need to hire part-time assistance to recruit and manage volunteers for Jazzin' to Feed this year.
- Fr. Bob reported that the Mother Salome Scholars program has ended, due to a lack of qualified applicants.
- The Council discussed the worship aid produced each week, with inquiries focused on the cost of the worship aid, and viable alternatives, such as hymnals.

### **Oktoberfest**

Werner and Jim reported that Oktoberfest will be held on Sunday, October 4 from approximately 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attendees will be charged \$10.00 each. Entry will include bratwurst and sides, beer, and a live music performance. The Hospitality Committee will ensure publicity of the event within the parish.

Fr. Bob emphasized that all parish fundraising efforts need to be coordinated. Should the Hospitality Committee wish to obtain sponsors for next year's Oktoberfest, the Committee should consult with Peter Wawire.

### **Land Purchase**

Dave Samber reported that Tom Kennedy from the Archdiocese has not responded to his email inquiries. He further reported that he had blind copied the Archbishop on his most recent email to Mr. Kennedy.

Eva reported that a notice had been posted at South Commons indicating that that closing would likely occur in May 2016, and that the Archdiocese was working through zoning matters.

### **New Business**

Fr. Bob reported that Archbishop Cupich will be volunteering at the St. James Food Pantry on Saturday, January 9.

### **Adjournment**

The next regular meeting of the Steering Committee will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7 in the Rectory.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara West.