

**St. James Parish  
Regular Parish Council Meeting  
October 7, 2015**

**Attendees:**

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

**Guests:** None

**Absent:** Erin Makowski, Virginia Picken, Werner Seyfried

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

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the September 2, 2015 meeting were approved with the following change:

- Dave Samber copied the Archbishop, not Bishop Perry, on an email regarding the land purchase.

**Hall Construction**

Dave Bowman reported that according to Steve Gross from the Archdiocese, the target date for completion of the hall is now November 1.

There was discussion around repainting the walls of the hall that are currently green.

Dave Bowman again noted a decision will need to be made regarding the materials from the old church (pew ends, spire, etc.). Dave will complete an inventory of the materials and report back at a future meeting. Eileen will contact salvage companies to determine if there is an interest in purchasing the materials. It was suggested that the pew ends be offered to parishioners.

Jim Sherman noted that the Hospitality Committee will be developing a list of needs for the parish; the list may include sanding the floors in the remainder of the hall.

**Finances**

Fr. Bob provided a summary of topics discussed at the Clergy Day meeting on September 29. Topics included declining mass attendance, the projected future number of priests serving in the Archdiocese, and the possibility of parishes closing or merging. He emphasized that no decisions have been made but that the Archdiocese is expected to share a proposed strategy with the parishes in the summer of 2016.

The Finance Committee meets again on October 28. Fr. Bob will make a report on finances to the parish on November 15.

**Oktoberfest**

Jim Sherman reported that the Oktoberfest event raised \$859.15 in revenue (\$679.15 from admissions and donations, and \$180.00 from a 50/50 raffle). Food, drinks, and paper goods were all donated by the Hospitality Committee. Approximately 50 to 70 were in attendance. Those council members who attended the event agreed that it was successful, and particularly noteworthy as this year was the first year that admission was charged.

The Hospitality Committee is now making plans for the Christmas season.

**Land Purchase**

Dave Samber reported that he received a voicemail message from Tom Kennedy three weeks prior. His message stated that all relevant agreements had been renewed, and that the proposed project is expected be presented to the zoning board in October. Dave will continue to follow up with Mr. Kennedy.

**New Business**

Eileen Quigley reported that Erin Makowski anticipates she may be unable to fully participate in the Parish Council for the remainder of her term. The Council discussed potential alternatives for Erin's term should she be unable to complete it.

The Council discussed advertising efforts: Jim has requested an ad card from the Gazette, and Fran will also seek ad sheets for a handful of other independent papers. The Council will discuss at next month's meeting.

Sara West noted that the Parish Council meeting minutes should be posted on the website, per the bylaws. Fr. Bob asked that Sara follow up with Michael Maher, who has been managing the website redesign.

**Adjournment**

The next regular meeting of the Steering Committee will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4 in the Rectory.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara West.