

**St. James Parish
Regular Parish Council Meeting
January 5, 2016**

Attendees:

Parish Council: Eileen Quigley (Chair), Fran Williams (Vice Chair), Sara West (Secretary), Dave Bowman, Eva Leonard, Virginia Picken, Dave Samber, Werner Seyfried, Jim Sherman

Guests: Deacon Alfred Coleman, Cynthia Cooper, Michael Maher, Sherri Seyfried

Absent: Fr. Bob Sprott, Bill Kusek

Eileen Quigley called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and led the group in prayer.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the December 2, 2015 meeting were approved.

Local Advertising Information

Jim Sherman reported that he had received a rate card from The Gazette, and passed it on to Michael Maher. Michael reported that he discussed the possibility of advertising in The Gazette with Fr. Bob, who did not approve the purchase, as he was uncertain about the potential for drawing new parishioners. The cost per ad is approximately \$185.

Fran Williams distributed copies of DNAinfo.com to the Council and summarized a meeting she had recently had with a representative of DNAinfo. The community newspaper is distributed in both electronic and paper format.

Presentation Hall

Eileen noted that the parish had determined some time ago to dedicate the hall to Sr. Barbara Rastatter, and that the intent now is to dedicate the hall during a visit by the Archbishop on April 17. The Council discussed the design and placement of a plaque or plaques to announce the hall and also to honor Sr. Barbara. Eileen offered to research cost estimates for the plaque(s).

Evangelization Update

Sherri Seyfried, Cynthia Cooper, Michael Maher, and Deacon Alfred Coleman attended the meeting to provide an update on the parish's evangelization efforts. Sherri noted that a plan for growing the parish was submitted to Bishop Perry on December 17. The plan includes a first step of increasing the October 2016 count to 200. The Evangelization Board has responsibility for creating an action plan and will present the plan to the Parish Council. Sherri noted that the board has also recently established interim officers and will hold an election in 2016.

The Council discussed the need for recruitment of new parishioners, as well as retention of existing parishioners. Michael shared some demographic statistics that indicated that most Catholics who live near the parish do not attend St. James.

The Council decided that, with Fr. Bob's agreement, an announcement should be made following both masses explaining the need to increase the size of the parish.

Old Business

The Council acknowledged the improved appearance of the parish website and refreshed Facebook page.

New Business

Dave Samber suggested that the public be engaged to raise funds to complete the flooring in the hall basement.

Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the Steering Committee will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3 at the Rectory.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara West.