

The Catholic Community of Sumter Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting November 15, 2016

Members present: Fr. Frank Palmieri-Pastor, Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary, Valerie Williams, Andrew Williams, David Marcella, Dr. Jan Neuner, Joey Duggan, Paul Dunlap, Dee Reiter, Dr. Mark Crabbe, Harvin Bullock

Members missing: Colleen Yates, Chris Hilditch

Additional attendees: Sonia Taylor, Claude Esperson, Irene Dunlap

Fr. Frank opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

The Minutes from September were reviewed and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sonia Taylor – The Knights of St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary gave donations to 2 families in need for Thanksgiving. December 17th will be the KPCLA Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon.

Irene Dunlap – The Hispanic Community is planning the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and celebration. Beginning with a Rosary at 3:00pm at St Jude. There will be a procession to St. Anne for the Mass in the Church and celebration in the Parish Hall. The Hispanic Community want to raise funds to contribute to the cost of the Mariachi Band. Joey Duggan will work with Irene to get the necessary parade permit through the city office.

Claude Esperson – Discussed the Scholarship for St. Francis Xavier High School from the St Jude Alumni Association

Chris Hilditch (Report submitted by email) –

“Parish Picnic—I think it was a huge success. I would like to thank all of the Parish Council members that supported and assisted in making it a great event. Hopefully, we can continue having this annually.”

“Knights of Columbus— December 10th at 8:00 AM the Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring Breakfast with Santa at the St. Anne Hall with pancakes and sausage. Santa Claus (a real looking one) will be on hand for pictures.”

“Confirmation—Classes are going strong with steady attendance and participation.”

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Margaret J. Lafoon Trust- College Scholarships-** Fr. Frank stated that he spoke to Michael Aquillano and indicated that he wants the funds for the Scholarship to be allocated from the interest. The money will be placed into an Endowment Fund the amount of the principal will not be changed. Nicole discussed the next step is to form a scholarship committee and finalize the application rules and paperwork. A preliminary draft of the paperwork was briefly discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Parish Signs** – Fr. Frank presented a preliminary design of new signs to go outside of both parish locations. Fr. Frank feels it is of the utmost importance to have the mass times for both location on the sign. Not only as a show of our unity, but so people reading it can see information on both locations. The design was passed around for input from PC members. Fr. Frank also discussed zoning issues. We are limited in the size of the sign so; the letters can't be as big as Fr. Frank would like. We will also need to move the placement of the sign at saint Jude farther away from the street.

***Defibrillators** – Dr. Mark Crabbe discussed the importance of having AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator). Dee Reiter and Dr. Jan Neuner agreed. We should have an AED in The Churches and Parish Halls. Located in sight so everyone has access if need. Fr. Frank agreed and asked Dr. Crabbe and Dr. Neuner to do some research. Fr. Frank also discussed asking for donations to pay for them. The current AED unit at Saint Jude is placed where it cannot be seen by all. This should be changed. Parishioners willing to help, will be offered training in the use of the AEDs.

***Finance Council** – Valerie Williams requested that a member of the Finance Council be present to give a finance report at every Parish Council meeting. Valerie feels that if the Parish Council is being asked to give opinions/council on parish purchases, we need to have a finance report to base decisions on. Dr. Jan Neuner agrees that “It is helpful to know where we are with money when we are making decisions”. Dr. Mark Crabbe also agreed that the Parish Council and Finance Council should have should have a health relationship of information sharing. Dr. Crabbe also feels that an independent financial audit should be completed. Fr. Frank said “No”. The finance council is working well, they are looking at the income versus the out go and advising what can be done financially based on what Fr. Frank wants. There is no need for an audit. Fr. Frank clarified that currently, the weekly collections are not meeting expenses, but the Parish is not in the RED. Dee Reiter asked if it would be possible to get a copy of the Finance Council minutes.

***Resent Purchases** – Paul Dunlap requested that before major purchases are made, like the “Hearing Aids” in the church Fr. Frank consult a focus group of parishioners. This would help identify services that will work for more people. Fr. Frank stated that the current hearing system was included in the sound system. It was not an outside purchase. Fr. Frank stated that the only recent purchase has been dehumidifiers for Saint Anne. These were purchased after Hurricane Matthew.

***Parking lot at Saint Jude** – Paul Dunlap, at the request of a parishioner, asked why the parking lot to the right side of the church wasn’t painted at an angle? Nicole stated that the lines were painted for straight in parking (in part of the lot) at the recommendation of the contacted company. That parking lot is too narrow for larger vehicles such as extended cab trucks. It is better suited for smaller cars. A sign will be posted indicating that it is for smaller vehicles.

*** Wheelchairs in the Church** – Fr. Frank asked about getting wheelchairs in the church to help elderly parishioners when needed. Nicole stated that there is already a wheelchair available at Saint Jude, but the ramp is steep and makes it difficult to use. Harvin Bullock stated that he would provide a wheelchair for Saint Anne.

***Happy Birthday** – Andrew Williams asked, at the request of a parishioner, if Fr. Noly could close mass like Fr. Frank does. Asking for visitors and singing to the parishioners with Birthdays. It is felt that this is a good way of keeping parishioners engaged with each other after the mass has ended. Fr. Frank said to ask Fr. Noly.

Closing Comments: Fr. Frank thanked Parish Council for their service closed the meeting with a Hail Mary.

Parish Council was dismissed until January.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary