

St. Francis de Sales Parish
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 7:00 P.M.
SFdS School Cafeteria

Present: John Bruening, John Mitchell, Lee Burroughs, Holly Schwein, Rosemary Byes, Father Mike Nartker, and Bro. Pal Hoffman.

Absent: Scott Gueterman and Mary Kishman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Bro. Paul opened the meeting with prayer.

John Bruening welcomed Rosemary Byes as the newest member of the Council. All appreciated her willingness to serve on the Pastoral Council.

Father Tim Kenny Update

Bro. Paul reported that Father Tim Kenney's visit to the parish and the Marianist Community was very helpful and successful. We are still awaiting his survey questions and Bro. Paul will further inquire about them. Father Tim enjoyed his visit to the parish and presided at our two liturgies the Sunday he was present. He also appreciated meeting parishioners that day and his meeting with the Pastoral Council on Monday evening. He was impressed with the dedication of Pastoral Council and other parishioners. He encouraged Father Mike and Bro. Paul to better promote Marianist spirituality to all in the parish. Members of the Council agreed this should be a priority. The Council too was positive about his visit. Bro. Paul said that his meeting and interactions with the brothers were also positive.

Financial Update

John Mitchell stated that for this fiscal year the parish is slightly behind on the budget but nothing to be too alarmed by. One concern he stated was that the difference between the December 2022 and 2023 collections. In 2022 the parish collected \$12,264 and \$7,500 this past December. The timing of processing December receipts may be a reason for the difference. The projected expense of all capital projects on the parish property was approximately \$2,000,000. In the end, taking into account the insurance policy and updated costs, the parish will spend roughly \$1,700,000 for all of the capital work. Gloria Sweet, our new business manager, continues to grow in the position but can be overwhelmed at times addressing all parish and school financial matters. Ruth Trentman has assisted her and has been very helpful for her as she continues to learn to manage her responsibilities.

Bokenkotter Grants Update

John Mitchell offered an update regarding the Bokenkotter Grants for 2024. All six of our *Service To Others* ministries submitted grant requests. Mary Magdeline House will receive the full amount they requested due to the fact that its request fell below the cap number and the other five will receive an equal share of the rest of the grant pool for this year. The awards will be announced at the masses on Sunday, March 3 with Coffee and Donuts offered to make the event more festive. There is the goal in the future for the parish to have full control of \$500,000 of the Bokenkotter monies to set up an endowment that, through interest, the yearly pool of grant money can gradually increase.

Next Projects Awaiting Proposals And Project Updates

John Bruening reported the current project being address is the roof of the rectory. There are currently two bids in from Imbus Roofing and Eckstein Roofing with Imbus being slightly less expensive. After further review by the parish Finance Council the Pastoral Council will vote on the most appropriate bid at our March meeting. It was agreed upon the "doghouse" windows will need to be replaced.

John said the following projects have been completed and closed: school roof, Purcell Marian High School sewer repair, church interior, electrical work, audio work, church plastering repairs, and scaffolding.

The church tower repair continues but with the upper portion being completed and the scaffolding has been removed. The electrical work in the rectory basement around The HELP Program offices needs to be addressed. The matter of utilizing solar power remains on the table but there are concerns how cost efficient it would be in the long term. More research and proposals need to take place before final decisions can be made regarding this can be seriously considered.

John Bruening was commended for his dedicated efforts on the majority of the above projects and improvements. He was the right person to appropriately address them.

The HELP Program Discussion

Bro. Paul stated he spoke to Wilson Willard on Monday evening regarding the meeting requested by the parish Finance Council and Pastoral Council. Wilson agreed to meet on Friday, March 8. It was decided by the Pastoral Council that this meeting will take place at 1:00 P.M. in the rectory dining room. Bro. Paul will update the letter draft and send it to Wilson and will e-mail the letter to members of the two councils who will be in attendance.

Beacons Of Light, Parish News & Marianist Values

Father Mike mentioned that he and Bro. Paul will be meeting with Ken Cornish this Thursday (February 22) to discuss the current developments regarding *Beacons Of Light* and our parish's participation in the process. It has been some time since a meeting with Ken has taken place. Council is aware of the fact there has been media coverage of school closings resulting from this process. Father Mike and Bro. Paul have attended recent Monday meetings for the Love And Action segment of *Beacons of Light*.

Father Mike wants to begin to move on promoting and offering information/formation of Marianist values/spirituality to the parish. He is thinking of doing so by inviting Marianists in to speak to the parish and perhaps at a "Brunch N' Learn' Sunday event. Bro. Paul plans to put the content in the parish bulletin. This is becoming a new priority for the parish and something many in the parish desire.

Bro. Paul stated that Sunday mass attendance has been consistent over the last few months. However, over the past two years, there has been a definite increase in Sunday attendance.

Regarding other parish developments, the Wednesday afternoon masses at salad dinners at Purcell Marian begin tomorrow with mass at 5:30 P.M.

The Bokenkotter Awards will be awarded on Sunday, March 3, 2024 with that day also being a Donut Sunday. The Christian Burial Planning Session will be this Sunday (February 25) after the 11:00 A.M. Mass. Also, the St. Francis de Sales School Education Commission will have one of their members give a monthly update regarding the activities and functioning of the school. This information will be important to keep parishioners informed and engaged with the school— necessary since no parishioners have children in the school.

Open Discussion/June Grand Opening Event

Pastoral Council made the decision that the parish Grand Opening Event celebrating the completion of all the capital projects will take place on Sunday, June 23, 2024. There is the need to put a committee in place to organize this great celebration and include many local businesses and organizations. This committee needs to be organized quickly in light of the fact that it is already the end of February. Bro. Paul will make an announcement this coming Sunday with sign-up sheets available in the front and back of the church. Some parishioners may be directly asked to participate in this planning. A meeting for interested committee members will take place on Sunday, March 10 at 9:45 A.M.

This meeting of the Pastoral Council was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Bro. Paul Hoffman, S.M. Recorder For This Meeting