

**Church of St Patrick  
Parish Council  
SUMMARY MINUTES: November 14, 2024**

**Member Present:** Terry Kapsen, Roseanne Strand, Lisa Romain, Andy Piazza, Ivan Pittaluga, Cappy Moore, Bernadette Daly; **Members Present via Zoom:** Bill Schnobrich, Jim Swanke, Mike Weibel, Grace Hanson, Allison Schmidt; **Members Not Present:** Fr. Kuss, Zach Neuman, Daniel Farris;

**Call to Order – Terry K**

**Opening Prayer**

**September 11th Meeting Minutes – Approved  
(October meeting was canceled for lack of a quorum))**

**Parish Council Members**

- Terry K met with Fr. Kuss on Oct. 2 to discuss the list of names of potential new members of the council. Some new names considered are Augustine and Shannon Dann, Clara Gay, Ben and Alex Sitek, David Langefels and Cathy Koehler.
- Fr. Kuss asked Terry to look into the Constitution and By Laws of the Archdiocese regarding guidelines and rules for the Council. Terry laid out several items that we need to investigate further.
- Interviews for future potential members will begin soon after Fr. Kuss returns from his trip.

**New Ministry Sign Up- Roseanne S**

- For three weeks, a member of the Liturgy Committee spoke at weekend Masses to encourage parishioners to sign up for Ministry roles.
- So far 34 parishioners have volunteered.

**Year 1 Strategic Plan Implementation- Terry K**

- Objective 1: Grow the Parishioner Base- 50 Net New Households
- Objective 2: 10% Increase in Contributing & Sustaining Parishioners
  - Terry is working on ways to track parishioners/members who leave the Parish.
- Objective 3: Target Middle and High School Programs- Allison S.
  - Allison and John Gendreau are teaching the Confirmation class on Wednesday nights. There are 8 students, very engaged. 16 are at OLG.
  - Cinthia has been very supportive and helpful. The leader at OLG has also been very easy to work with.
  - They had a sponsor/candidate dinner with OLG students last Wednesday.
  - There are 25 K-2nd graders in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program and 13 2nd graders preparing for their first Reconciliation and Eucharist. Cinthia is happy with the numbers. There has been a growth of new young families.
  - Not many of the Confirmation students attend Mass here regularly. Allison will be having them volunteer here, and hopes to draw them in.
  - When Fr. Kuss returns, we need to work on other ways to reach out to students at the High School. Allison suggested maybe he could also do something like attend a hockey game as well.

- Objective 4: Succession Planning Process- Garage Sale Leader(s)
  - We need to recruit new leadership for the Garage Sale. In past years, work on the garage sale started many months before the sale, so we're running a bit behind.
  - Ivan P. shared concerns about how the Garage Sale is run and brought up areas that could be improved. The sales are growing on a large scale, and we expect many hours of commitment from Garage Sale volunteers. We also need to address safety issues for our volunteers that pick-up items and move large furniture and heavy items from homes to the Mahon Center and out, once they are sold. Another problem is that many of the donated items are of poor quality, in disrepair, or conditions such that require disposal at the parish's cost.

### **New Business and Key Updates**

- **Women's Club- Cappy M**
  - Fr. Kuss has asked for help with the Diorama from both the Women's and Men's Clubs. At least 10 people have agreed to be docents. Training is upcoming with Don Keller. They will also help with hospitality and scheduling of tours of our Church.
  - Things are coming together well for the Lenten Retreat. DeAnne has been very helpful in promotion and set up. Deacon Art Miller heads retreats all over the country. We will cover his costs through donations.
  - The Women's Club holds their Tuesday meetings, every other month, with a potluck dinner.
  - They will begin having Happy Hour every month. That has been well attended.
- **Men's Club- Andy P**
  - The Men's Club is holding an all-parish Pasta Dinner on Feb.1 after 5 pm Mass. The Men's Club will pay for the liquor license and the required Police Officer. Attendees are welcome to bring their own wine.
  - They will have a Lenten Fish Fry on March 21st.
  - Members of the Men's Club are also helping move the Diorama up to the Celtic Center.
  - There was a great turnout for the recent dinner gathering at Tom Ries' house.
- **Update from Bill S**
  - The Garage Sale generated a net profit of over \$100,000. This included some very large cash donations. We don't have an easy way to accurately track the actual Garage Sale profits from the cash donations.
  - Fr. Kuss purchased a new tabernacle which should hopefully arrive by mid-March.
  - LCD ceiling lights are being added to replace the incandescent bulbs in the Church.
  - ABC Preschool classrooms will be painted in early December during a school break. The work will be done by contractors as there is a brief window of time to get it finished.
  - We lost \$1,800 in the Fall Fest as attendance was not great.
- **Parish Finances- Jim S**
  - We are down by less than \$10,000 from where our budget is, but we're not in a bad spot. We should be able to make that deficit up.
  - Our liquidity balance continues to hover above 6 months.
  - There is concern about inflation. Annual operating expenses are up 10%.

### **18-Month Calendar Review**

- The Women's Retreat in October went very well. About 75 people attended.
- The New Members Brunch is to be rescheduled.
- Davanni's Fundraising Night drew \$400+.
- We are still in need of more volunteers for the Winter Dazzle Benefit. We also could use more business donors. Registration is off to a very slow start so far.
- Fr. Kuss will host Council members at the Rectory on Jan. 10th.
- Parish Bingo will be held in January.
- The Pasta Dinner will take place in February.
- A Valentine's Day Potluck Dinner is in the works for February 14th.
- A St Patrick's Day Breakfast fundraiser will take place on March 16th.
- Stations and Soup Dinners will return on Fridays during Lent.
- The Retreat with Deacon Art Miller is April 5-9.
- Steak and Cigar Dinner is on April 24th.
- Multiple "Music on the Plaza" events will be starting next spring. Sponsorships help pay for them.

### **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

**Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain**