**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting**

**St. John Paul II Catholic Church**

**Wednesday, May 27, 2020 Conducted via ZOOM**

**Present: Staff – Fr. Peter Do (Pastor); Mary Ann Wheatley (Bookkeeper); Frances Seaton (Youth/Formation Director). Voting Members – Timothy Buckley (Chair); Bob Goens (Vice-Chair); Chris Clements (Young Adults); Chris Finzer (Formation); Laura Tallent (Academy); Faye Johnson (Worship); Erin McGuire-Osting (At Large). Other – Steve Gagel (Finance Council Representative). Quorum of Voting Members Present.**

**Not Present: Betty French, Kristi Short; Kirstie Thorpe; Youth Representative (Vacant).**

Fr. Peter opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tim noted that the Council voted by email on May 8, 2020 to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2020 meeting. Council agreed that we will follow this process in the future.

On Committee Reports, Laura reported that the Academy finished the school year and is holding its awards ceremony tomorrow (May 28). The Academy started the online registration process, but there have been some snags and she doesn’t have any numbers yet. Chris F. reported that the Formation Committee plans to meet in June.

Fr. Peter reported that we resumed our public Sunday Masses on May 23-24. There were about 45 in attendance at each of the two Masses. Some people watched the live stream in the parking lot and received communion after Mass. Distribution of communion went smoothly, although it was suggested that the communion ministers receive communion after the rest of the congregation, rather than before. There was a concern that not everyone was wearing masks during the entire Mass. Fr. Peter mentioned that we can encourage people to wear them, but we cannot exclude anyone who doesn’t want to wear one.

Tim reported that the Building Team met with the VBNA Architects last week. The architects have provided a cost estimate for the new parish life center which is significantly over budget. They are going back to see how costs can be reduced and if any fixtures can be replaced with what we have on hand at the Hikes Lane campus. However, the primary cost driver for the building is the need to elevate the entire structure above the flood plain. The Team feels, and the Council agreed that reducing the overall size of the building would not be productive, since it would not be sufficient to meet the parish’s needs. We may need to look into some fundraising to cover the additional cost. The Archdiocese has indicated that it is not in a hurry to move forward with this project. In addition, the CoVid-19 has made it difficult to schedule the necessary public hearings to get Metro approval for construction.

Fr. Peter also mentioned that the rectory construction is proceeding well, and the entire building is under roof as of today. The plumber will be coming later this week, and the electrician next week. Ken Theineman told Fr. Peter that the building should be ready for occupancy around September. Fr. Peter will ask Archbishop Kurtz to bless the new rectory. And the Council discussed planning for an open house and housewarming party when it is ready.

Mary Ann reported that the Archdiocese has asked us to start clearing out the Hikes Lane campus as soon as possible. Any fixtures should not be removed unless we obtain permission. Bob G. is setting up a team to start sorting items to keep, sell, or pitch. However, it is unlikely that we will be able to hold a yard sale due to the pandemic. Frances suggested that we set up a Facebook Marketplace sale for any items we wish to sell.

Chris C. reported that the Fundraising Committee has met several times to brainstorm ideas for events this fall. Ideas include a capital prize raffle, split the pot, cornhole tournament, volleyball tournament, and carry-out fish-fry Fridays. Mary Ann reported that we still have gaming license dates for 9/19 and 10/17, but those dates can be adjusted. The Committee plans to coordinate any dates with the Academy to not conflict with their fundraising.

Tim reported that the nomination forms for parish council will be going in the bulletin this coming weekend. Nominations will be open as of June 6-7 and must be returned no later than June 21. Selection Sunday is set for June 28. If there are more than three nominations, the Council agreed that Tim will conduct the Selection ceremony at the Sunday morning Mass.

Frances reported that she has approached Bella Fichetola to serve as youth representative to the Council, and Bella has stated that she is willing to serve. Laura reported that she has provided a list of names for Fr. Peter and Mrs. Conliffe to consider as the Academy representative. Fr. Peter will follow up with Mrs. Conliffe on the candidates for the position. The Council will defer nomination and voting for officers until the July meeting, after the new members are on board.

Fr. Peter asked the Council to approve two amendments to the Bylaws and Constitution. First, he suggested that the bylaws should consistently refer to the community as *St. John Paul II Parish*. Second, he asked to delete the phrase in the Preamble referring to St. John Paul II Parish as “continuing in the rich traditions of St. Barnabas and St. Pius X,”. He feels that this merely accentuates the differences among groups within the parish. Several Council members were concerned that this could be interpreted as rejecting our past. However, the Council agreed that it was appropriate to remove the reference in the bylaws so long as our published history and other forward-facing documents reflect our history. Chris F. moved to approve the amendments; Faye seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to approve the amendments as proposed.

Next meeting will be scheduled for July, once the new members have been selected or appointed. Fr. Peter also wants to plan a get-together for the incoming, outgoing and continuing members.

Tim closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

APPROVED: June 8, 2020