

Date: 4.25.23

Title: Finance Council Meeting

All Present: Fr. Biju, Pete Benzing, Rachel Persson, Louisa Peterson, Mark Nicolai, Brandon Flock, Gary Flock and Melissa Schaub. Mike Hundt joined shortly after calling to order. Leo Leis not present.

Notes recorded by Rachel Persson

1. Called to order at 6:33pm with Opening Prayer
Did brief introductions of all present for new member, Louisa Peterson.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2023, and the amended minutes from January 16, 2023.
 - a. No questions were raised, motioned for approval by Mike, seconded by Brandon and approved by all.
3. Additions to Agenda- none raised.
4. Review of February and March finances handed out by Melissa and all given time to review.
 - a. Melissa noted that we have a small rebate at Menards we can use for purchase of lightbulbs or similar as needed.
 - b. Mike asked about the rate of pay for propane as it seemed higher than usual. Melissa said the cost is the same but the payment was for two fills, so that was why it might seem higher than usual.
 - c. Mike asked about the calendars, and was told we get about 60 of them for \$150-ish. He asked about finding a sponsor for the calendar so that we don't have to pay for those yearly and Melissa said she would look into it with the calendar company and relay back.
 - d. Louisa inquired what the acronym CFF meant and was told Cabin Fever Fest.
 - e. Brandon asked about the Priest Fund that we pay to St. Joseph's and was informed that is a bi-annual payment and goes toward supporting priests in retirement.
 - f. Other light discussion took place with nothing significant raised.
 - g. Mark motioned for approval of financials as presented. Pete seconded and approved by all.
5. Updates from Father
 - a. Capital campaign progress
 - I. Meetings are going well. The Saturday night one was better attended than the Sunday morning one. Of the initial group who was invited, 10 out of 11 showed up, so that is encouraging.
 - II. We are at 12.9% of our goal, and that was all raised from the initial 10 people invited. That is less than St. Joseph who are at 29% of their goal.
 - b. Committee members
 - I. More detailed introductions were done.
 - II. Pete raised a question if we might have a list put together of small projects that people might be able to do on their own. All agreed this was a good idea. **No mention of who should prepare the list or by when it should be prepared.**

- III. Mike asked what happens if we do not hit our goals for the Annual Appeal and Inspired by the Spirit campaigns.
 - ii. If we do not hit the Annual Appeal, we are billed the difference from the Diocese.
 - iii. If we do not make the Inspired by the Spirit campaign, there are no financial consequences, except the loss of the income for the parish and then parish would be unable to perform much-needed repairs.

c. Other – none.

6. Updates on Action Items

- a. Sacristy repair – there is no firm start date, as we are waiting on the diocese. We have had some issue getting firm documentation (in the format the diocese wants) from Poellinger and Pete is hoping the Diocese will lend a hand in that process.
- b. Lot line – We are waiting on the surveyor. After surveyed, they will be able to update deeds, but that is pending Bishop’s approval.
- c. Church staff responsibilities: office, maintenance, etc.
 - I. Question about lawncare in the summer, and Melissa will check on that to see if the Schaub boys are still planning to do it. If not, we will pursue other avenues.
- d. Building projects/repair
 - I. **East** door – Rachel will get a quote from her woodworking contact on restoring the doors.
 - II. Bell tower – Discussion about who might be able to do this work. Johnny Miller from Rising Sun Furniture suggested, but since he is Amish we have no means of contact. Gary will pass his name along to Janzen Construction in case they can use it anyway.
 - III. Rectory porch windows – lead casings are failing. Repairs need to be made before damage is done.
 - IV. Insurance write ups (Insurance Inspection thing) – Melissa said they approved everything now and we are up to date through the next inspection.
 - V. NEW: Pete added that we now have a bat problem in the church attic with enough of them to leave droppings all over. We already have DeBoer spray for beetles bi-annually, so Melissa will get a quote to see if they can handle the bats as well. If not, we will pursue other avenues.

7. Secretarial items: church calendars and holiday pay.

- a. Melissa will check on advertising on the church calendars to see if that is allowed so that we can get sponsors to take on that expense.
- b. Melissa checked about her holiday pay and inquired if the committee would vote in Good Friday as an approved holiday, since that is up to each parish per Diocesan Norms and Policies manual. Will go into closed session to discuss and vote later on.

8. Pastoral Committee report – 3/6 people attended the last meeting, per Pete.
 - a. Fr. Biju updated them all on the fundraising progress.
 - b. Discussion about how they can welcome new members, but nothing decided.
 - c. Communion rails/kneelers were put in place prior to Easter Triduum.
 - d. On May 21, 2023 there will be a graduation and confirmation Mass.
 - e. Fr. Biju also applied for a Catholic School Subsidy Grant to defray those costs to the parish and will update the committee if we get it.
9. Cemetery Committee report not done; Leo Leis not present.
10. **New Business:**
 - a. Mike Hundt returned to a previous discussion about a welcome to visitors envelope for donations to be left in church pews. All in favor of trying it out. Brandon volunteered to get a quote from Minute Man Press in Tomah and place the order.
 - b. Mike also asked about a mega-fan for the center of our ceiling like St. Joseph's. Fr. Biju says that it does save on AC costs but can be costly when repairs are needed.
Mark will check on pricing and report back to the group next meeting.
11. Schedule next meeting – Set for 6:30pm on June 13, 2023.
12. Council moved into closed session at 8:10pm.