

St. Matthew Parish Council Minutes
6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024

Roll Call

In attendance: Jenny Bruce, Betsy Burke, Beth Desalvo, Tom Dempsey, Chris Dobrota, Rick Gale, Christine Gann, Tom Jones, Bob Kowal, Mary Marsh, Nick McCallum, Dan Murphy, Victor Neff, Pat O'Brien, Father Bill Stumpf, Kate Thedwall, Ann Tully.

Absent:

Also in attendance:

David Smock

Opening Prayer

Beth Desalvo

Comments from the President

Pat O'Brien introduced Tom Jones, Dan Murphy and Mary Marsh, our new council members.

Approval of the minutes

The minutes were approved.

New Business

Conflict of interest form.

Pat O'Brien asked everyone to sign the conflict of interest forms and return them.

Operations Manager Role

David Smock spoke about his new role as operations manager. Father and Rick Gale said Smock has already been proactive, color coding the keys in the box of keys he received and cleaning the maintenance room out. Smock said we've hired the part-time assistant maintenance technician, Paul. John Shank has also been helping.

Father said Smock was already doing a lot of operations duties as principal though they didn't fall under his role as principal.

Big items on the to-do list: asphalt, computer recycling, putting preventative maintenance things in place, identifying what every breaker in the building goes to, trying to get everything streamlined and digitized.

Buildings and Grounds.

Kate Thedwall said the new group is trying to be more proactive than reactive. They are working on planning and budgeting for buildings and grounds. They are using Microsoft Teams to organize historical knowledge, quotes for items, minutes, emails, etc. If a group wants to help with buildings and grounds, we'll have a process. They've already worked to get the new community room floor, the Eagle Scout project at the shelter, working with the PFA to help advise on the playgrounds, well and sprinkler repair, AC unit, and gates to keep cars from driving through the playground. Smock worked on a grant to get the gates. They are working on a contract to fix the asphalt and restripe. Thedwall said right now we are putting Band-aids on things as they break. We need to have a plan. We also are putting together a facilities agreement for the shelter and looking at a user agreement for funerals at the church. There are 12 men and Thedwall on the committee.

The council discussed ideas to better accommodate funerals and wakes.

Bob Kowal asked if we have a master preventative maintenance list. Smock said that is the goal.

Jubilee Year.

Father said Pope Francis has declared a worldwide Jubilee Year. The overarching theme is Pilgrims of Hope. We need to think about how we'd like to celebrate that during our church year. He said he was planning to lead a jubilee pilgrimage in fall of 2025.

Old Business.

Pastoral Plan.

We're approaching the one-year mark of the pastoral plan in October. Pat O'Brien suggested inviting Sandi Patel to next month's meeting to help us look ahead to next steps.

After we meet with Patel, Father said it might be good to put something in the bulletin to show what we've accomplished and look to the future.

Dan Murphy said he thinks the plan hasn't really come to life for the average parishioner, and maybe we need to publicize it and the work we've done with it more. Rick Gale pointed out the plan originated with church focus groups. Kate Thedwall agreed most parishioners don't really know what it is yet.

Christian Outreach Commission.

Bob Kowal reviewed the heads of the various outreach missions and what the outreach missions do. We have a wealth of experience among the various people heading those.

Kate Thedwall said St. Vincent DePaul could use more volunteers overall. The food pantry has practically doubled in use. Someone gave \$60,000 to St. Matthew for St. Vincent DePaul outreach. We've now been asked to help again with St. Andrew's. In October, we are having a food drive.

The Haiti twinning project has a significant impact on the lives of the people of Haiti. We partner with Christ the King. The bingo even raised \$8,000. There is a group of high school students organizing a 3K running event "Raise the Roof for Haiti." The run is Oct. 5 and is raising money to help after the school in Haiti lost its roof. Travel and security are now a challenge. We're looking at bringing Pere Max here for a week in December.

Respect Life ministry. Run by Margaret Stempky. October is Respect Life month. They gather supplies for Birth Line. They could use more volunteers. They would like to send three of their team members to the Right for Life dinner. A couple of their members don't have the money for the dinner, and they would like to ask for funds for that.

Blood Drive. Tracy Meckauskas has been running this for a number of years. We have had historically low turnouts recently. There are a lot of other avenues to give blood now. Kowal's recommendation is to dissolve this ministry. Meckauskas was in favor of that, as well.

Kowal suggested a babysitting ministry for events, so if an event needed babysitting, organizers knew whom to go to. Right now, events organize their own babysitting. He said they could potentially use Signup Genius to avoid babysitters sitting there without children to watch.

Cameroon mission. While it's too dangerous for Dr. Ellen Einterz to work in Cameroon, we are still very engaged in supporting Kolofata.

Catholic Prison Ministry. They service the Pendleton Medium Security facility. Our new deacon is active in prison ministry, too, Ann Tully said. The prison ministry meets every Wednesday and celebrates Masses and takes the Eucharist. They could use more volunteers too.

Christmas Giving Tree. They are no longer collecting household goods. It's going to be all gifts for children. They are focusing more on the kids. The ministry at St. Matthew is thriving.

Harvest for the Hungry. Almost 850 volunteer hours and 3,566 pounds of food delivered this year. It goes to St. Vincent DePaul and Shepherd Community Center for their food pantries.

Peace Meal. Since the group went to Signup Genius, this ministry has been running along nicely and filling a great need in the parish.

Prayer Shawl. They are starting up their meetings again. They need help in identifying those they can give a shawl to. Ann Tully said they have a team of volunteers who visit the homebound, and they have taken prayer shawls to them. If someone is added to the prayer list, we can give them a prayer shawl. Father blesses them.

Nick McCallum suggested we do a high-level review once a year showing the numbers for our various ministries.

Father said we could do that when we give our fiscal report each year to show all we have done with our money and our ministries. Tom Dempsey suggested we stagger the groups and present something monthly in the bulletin.

Stewardship Commission.

Jenny Bruce said the Stewardship Commission was talking about doing a ministry of the month to feature that ministry throughout the month.

Publishing Minutes

Rick Gale said he was approached about our minutes being published. The council discussed the idea and whether there would be any reason not to publish them.

Kate Thedwall made a motion to add them to the website after they are approved. Mary Marsh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Remarks.

Father Bill said he thinks we are off to a great start for the new school year.

Parishioners gave \$6,500 for the deaf ministry when that priest spoke recently. Father said he is just so happy with the energy and everything that is happening. He feels like we finally have the dream team as far as the staff. We're bringing in an administrative assistant, which we've never been able to afford. It's a wonderful feeling.

Closing Prayer

Betsy Burke