

St. Matthew Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Oct. 23, 2024

6:45 p.m.

Roll call

Council members in attendance: Jenny Bruce, Betsy Burke, Tom Dempsey, Rick Gale, Christine Gann, Tom Jones, Bob Kowal, Phyllis Mahoney, Nick McCallum, Victor Neff, Pat O'Brien, David Smock, Father Bill Stumpf, Ann Tully, Peter West.

Also in attendance: Sandi Patel, Stephen Sulka

Absent: Beth Desalvo, Mary Marsh, Dan Murphy, Kate Thedwall, Chris Dobrota.

Opening prayer

Pat O'Brien

Minutes

The minutes were approved.

Parish plan

Sandi Patel suggested we talk collectively about where we are with the parish plan and where we want to go.

Council members pointed to some of the successes we've seen:

- Lots of church registrations and an increase in school families.
- Successful events: the Haiti run, Oktoberfest.
- The peace meal committee has really stepped up, and the online signup works well.
- An innovation culture that St. Matthew's has encouraged.
- Improved communication.
- Review of our committees that led to retiring one committee and reinvigorating another.
- Better financial footing that has allowed us to care for our home.
- An A team as far as parish staffing.

Things that we have learned:

- We need to keep the plan in front of us.
- We need to find a way to keep the younger generation involved.
- The Parish Council's role has changed dramatically. Now this body is now very engaged in planning for the future and making it happen.
- Many people at St. Matthew are involved.

Challenges:

- Make the pastoral vision plan more visible to the parish.

- Show where the dollars go to help people know their money is going to good use.
- Have a champion to lead each of the things we want to do.
- Remove the barriers that might exist to getting things started.

Review of our goals:

Create a welcoming environment for registered and new parishioners.

Active – On track

Create opportunities to foster relationships across generations.

Active – On track

Communication goal

Active – On track

Closing Prayer

Phyllis Mahoney