

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

CHURCH of the HOLY SPIRIT, EAST GREENBUSH, NY

April 16, 2015

Presiding: Fr Joe O'Brien

In Attendance: Rocco Acquilano, Nick Bruno, Deacon Bill Dringus, Karen La Frank, Kevin Haggerty, Brian Murphy, and Fr. Joe O'Brien. *Absent:* Mike Piatek, Cathy Bellisario, Paul Wos and trustees Cathy Bruno and Rick Hannmann.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm. Fr. Joe began with an opening prayer. Minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting were reviewed. There were several typographical corrections noted in meeting minutes (post meeting note Father Joe corrected the errors and the minutes of the 3/25/15 meeting were reissued the next day). A motion was made by Bill Dringus and seconded by Rocco Acquilano to accept the amended minutes. The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

We had a brief conversation about hosting a visit from Bishop Scharfenberger. It was thought that we should wait until better weather to host a parish visit. A visit on a Sunday would be best, making it possible for the Bishop to meet/interact with our parishioners. A weekday school visit could be held at a different time, perhaps on a weekday.

Item from last month repeated so we could check on status of claim: In March, the school experienced a burst pipe in the boiler room which necessitated closure of the school for a day and closure of three pre-K classrooms for three days. The water damage was largely confined to some equipment/items on the floor in the boiler room, two school offices, and three pre-K rooms. The gym floor was not damaged. The pipe which failed had been serviced three times in the preceding month by Crisafulli Bros. plumbing; this was not related to the library/technology room heating/air conditioning unit repaired in February. The matter is being addressed by our diocesan insurance office. At this time the school's loss is estimated at approximately \$8,000. Not included in this loss total is the \$12,000 cleaning and environmental air testing expenses which diocesan insurance covered from the outset.

NEW BUSINESS

- School Report
 - Mike Piatek was unable to attend and no report was available.
 - School finances: no report this month.

Open Positions

- Coordinator-Parish Life position. There are three candidates for this position. Two men and one woman who all live in the area. The search committee has scheduled interviews for two of the candidates for Sunday evening 4/19/15 and are trying to work out a date for the third interview. Our Search Committee (Maria Collins, Kevin Haggerty, Tracey Penk-Masucci, Kathy Rosenbaum, Darlene Walzer and our two Parish Trustees, Cathy Bruno and Rick Hannmann) seeks to interview candidates soon.
- Mike Piatek announced that he would retire at the end of this academic year. He made his intentions known to the pastor and to the superintendent. He wishes to be a resource to the School Board to help them select a successor. Father Joe is in the process of selecting a search committee and will work the committee and the dioceses office to develop a process for selecting candidates for interviews. An ad has been placed in the Times Union and The Evangelist.
- Paul Weidman. Paul was cleared by his doctor to return to work; his first day back was April 14th. Initially, Paul will work on a half time basis. Father Joe and Paul have started a conversation on Paul's future plans (retirement) and will start looking for someone who can help Paul with his work with the intention that this person will be able to take over the position when Paul retires.
- Facilities Planning/Master Plan update
 - The fund raising committee reports that, to date, we have received 188 pledges and gifts, raising \$325,000. The full FPC Facilities Planning Committee met on Tuesday March 31st to discuss the result of the fund raising campaign and start discussion on how to proceed. The FPC decided that the plan, as originally put forward, is unachievable. The number of pledges received works out to about 18% of total registered parish households. This number is much less than anticipated when we started the campaign. It is expected that as everything comes in, we may raise \$340-350,000. This, along with parish and school savings, we may have around \$610-650,000 for our project. The FPC has requested that Paul Mays office look into alternatives options that will met the needs of the parish and fall within the new budget. The committee noted that anyone who has made a gift or pledge will be given the opportunity to request refund if the final plan does not meet with their expectations. *Post note: meeting with architect is scheduled for Tuesday May 26, 2015 at 6:30 pm*
- Local Catholic Community
 - Family promise will start on May 10th. Volunteers from the four parishes will support families at St John the Evangelist/St Joseph's McManus Center in the evening and overnight.
 - Financial Report for Holy Spirit Church. No reports available this month.

- The Bishop's Appeal for 2015 will start in a few weeks. The Bishop's Appeal raised about \$58,000 for year 2014. The assessment was \$62,700. Father believes with our fund raising program the diocese will not ask us to make up the difference. The assessment for the 2015 Appeal is the same as last year: \$62,700.
 - Father to meet with the Finance Committee with the Council's recommendation that we follow the advice Dave Wojeski offers and see how they would like to proceed.
- LIFT
 - Planning is underway for our daylong Stewardship Day on Saturday, May 30, 2015.
 - Plans are being developed for next year's LIFT curriculum which will be centered on the sacraments.
 - At the Easter Vigil, one catechumen received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist; a second, a candidate, received Confirmation and Eucharist. A third person, a candidate, is scheduled to receive Confirmation and Eucharist two Sundays later.
 - The diocese is working on a website program that will expand on our faith formation and LIFT program offerings and be linked to the Holy Spirit website. Archiving opportunities are being made available to enhance a parish program's depth of offerings on line.
- Closing
 - Father Joe closed with a prayer at 8:00PM.
 - Our next meeting is Thursday, May 28th at 6:45 pm.