

St Joseph Parish Council Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 in the Parish Center
2. The opening prayer was provided by John Quallen
3. Roll Call – Absent were Joe Bourquard, Andrew Canata, Jack Laviolette, Donald Rochelo, Francis Spina, Jason Street, Peggy Taylor, Andy Wells, John Arasimowicz, Deacon Pat and Jeff Vincent
4. Minutes from Oct 19, 2014 were approved
5. Religious Ed Report – Betty Kirby provided the report – The Pius X Award winner this year is Theresa Monterosso who has been assisting with CCD for many years. The award will be given Tuesday Nov 18 at St Agnes at 7 p.m. Msgr Mike encouraged any past recipients of the award to attend also in support.
 - New CCD students are still enrolling every week, numbers are increasing
 - First Communion activities will be starting soon and activities and classes for the next Confirmation class have started
 - Dec 7 is the Holiday Party for the children
 - We are looking for substitute teachers and will need a new middle school teacher for next year
 - All is going well
 - Ray showed pictures that are on the website of the Confirmation
 - Fr Mike mentioned the program change for confirmation this year and it was well received.
6. Activity Updates
 - a. Pastoral Ministry - Pat Momnie
 - 5 people are in the RCIA
 - Working on the Healing mass for May 17
 - b. St. Anne's Society – Peggy Dunlop

- Spaghetti Supper -\$1400 was given to the church as the profit from the supper
 - Hosted the Confirmation reception
 - Soup and bread coming up; guests will be Bishop McDonnell and Fr Mike
 - Thurs Nov 20 – Cookies will be made for the Bazaar and on Fri Nov 21 pies will be made. Help is needed for both
 - Dec 13 last meeting of the season
- c. Maintenance Committee Report – Ray Costello provided the report for Jack Laviolette
- Oct 25th Fall cleanup included side walk repairs, cleaning gutters, cleaning parking lot, weather stripping, and repairing the front fence (Berkshire Fence donated the supplies)
 - Oct 29th first meeting of the committee- develop a plan for what needs to be accomplished in one and in five years; the focus is on security of the buildings including researching security cameras
 - Oct 31st the worst potholes were patched in the parking lot (Century Acquisitions donated the black top and J.H. Maxymillian donated the compactor; combined a \$300 donation)
 - Nov 15 Bob Bouquet repaired the front grills of the church
 - 2nd meeting of the committee will be Tues Nov 18

7. Pastor's Report

- a. Oct 21 – mayor and others wanted access to St Mary's Fr Mike called Colebrook and they will take care of it

The closed church buildings are costing us; we have paid over \$20,000 in taxes and the security need is high. The Brien Center and Berkshire Place have turned out to be good uses for our former churches.

- b. Finance meeting – 2nd quote for the organ was received which was much better than the first; the cost would not to exceed \$8000 and that was approved by the finance committee

- c. Jack identified 50 pews that need to be tightened in the church. They have been tagged.

8. Other Business

- a. Food Bank - Jim Armstrong said we applied for a grant and received \$3500 toward cost of new freezer and the remaining \$500 came from the food bank so we have a new freezer and Ron Rousseau has been doing wiring
 - St. Joe has met its turkey goal for Thanksgiving
 - The number of people coming to the Food Pantry is still growing -140 people last week
 - Last Fri day 51 preschoolers came over from the Boy's club and each carried an item over and grocery carts with the rest
- b. Parishioner asked Jim to bring to council– there is a fire lane in front of center and people should not be parking in it.
- c. Food Bags in the back of the church for the Food Pantry– no action has been taken yet – move the location for drop off into the body of the church Mark Brennan suggested the ushers bring it in – bring a cart into the body of the church – placement of signs to indicate the location
- d. Finance Report – provided by Ray Costello
 - \$350,000 in revenue was the plan for 2014 but the actual was \$330,000, a significant shortfall. The 2015 budget is based on \$340,000 in revenue. A major reason for the shortfall was lack of bequests.
 - Incremental costs with Bishop are being billed to Springfield so that has helped; payroll was a little higher due to cook being hired.
 - We cannot plan on people donating from bequests. Historically we have done well with nearly \$25,000 annually, but this did not happen in 2014 and we cannot count on it anymore.
 - We are facing a deficit of \$18,000 this year given what we planned in the budget; last year it was \$16,000.
 - The solution would be to increase collections, decrease expenses or a combination of the two.
 - The summary sheet will be in the bulletin.

- e. John Quallen – mentioned that a church in Burlington Vt had a list of handy men in the parish who could help out parishioners with work at their home – something to think about for future meetings
 - f. Gerry Dahrouge – Dec 5 at 7pm the Sweet Adelines will do a concert at the church there is no cost
9. Closing prayer provided by Fr. Mike
10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55