

Cathedral of St. Mary  
Parish Council  
October 9, 2018  
Mary, Queen of Peace, Pray for us!

**Attendance:**

**Present:** President – Father August Koeune; Kelsey Kean; Ed Avery; Rosemary Barrett; Brian Greene; Jim Casey; Knights of Columbus - Maynard Richmeier; Mall of St. Vincent DePaul - Diane Gonnely; St. Mary's Cathedral Guild - Flossie Vance; Youth Ministry – Renee Cudney; and Associate Pastor, Father Andrew Kinstetter

**Absent:** Chair - Carey Hartmann; Secretary - John Lynch; Katherine Castaneda; St. Mary's School Board - Patrick Lane; Father Jaimon Dominic

**Guests:** Rick Rothwell and Parish staff, Connie Kassahn

- 1) Kelsey Kean called the meeting to order at 7:37 am. Father August opened with a prayer.
- 2) **Approval of minutes for September 11 meeting** - Brian Greene made amendment request to add his name to the list of those named as members of the Liturgy Committee on page two, section: Parishioner concerns. Kelsey Kean also asked to change the sentence under the Knights report on page two. It should be restated in the past tense by dropping the word “upcoming” so that it reads, “The Knights cooked at the parish picnic.” **MOTION:** Brian Greene made the motion to approve the amended minutes and it was seconded by Ed Avery. Motion carried.
- 3) **Financial update** - Fr. August stated that we're are in the middle of the audit. Hopefully done in the next week. A copy of it should be available in another month or so.
- 4) **Old Business**
- 5) **Parish Mission 2019 – update**
  - a) Rick Rothwell announced that the second 2019 Parish Mission was a lock for **Oct. 1, 2019**. It will start with a 6 pm soup/bread light dinner followed by 7 pm Mission lead by [Scott Elmer](#), Executive Director of Evangelization and Family Life Ministries for the Archdiocese of Denver.
  - b) Rick then asked for volunteers to look into small group ministry as it is done in four parishes of the Archdiocese of Denver. Elmer recommended the parishes and provided contact information for them. Rick will facilitate four phone conversations with these parishes and provide a conference line for those who volunteer. The call will focus on what's working and what's not working. They will also provide tips and suggestions for us to consider if we go down this path. The calls will be less than an hour. **Volunteers:** Rosemary Barrett, Jim Casey, Renee Cudney, Diane Gonnely and Brian Greene. Calls will start the week of October 22nd.
  - c) **MOTION:** Rosemary made the motion to make Oct. 1, 2019, the date of the follow up mission Maynard seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Change to by-laws in section III. D.** – Parish Council and Social Concerns Committee Representative
  - a) Katherine Castaneda was unable to attend this meeting. In an email the previous evening, she announced that she would not be able to attend due to her work schedule.

She further stated, "Last month I offered to revise the bylaws and added in the section that Carey requested and shared it back with her." The following discussion had input from Rosemary who is on the Social Concerns Committee too. This committee's reporting to the Council is necessitating the bylaws change. This also raised the need for Amazing Parish team to also report on a regular basis to the Council. Fr. August said that Amazing Parish is a subcommittee of this Parish Council and therefore should be on the agenda under Reports. While Carey and Rosemary could respectively report for these entities, the **consensus was** to follow Council practice of letting each group decide who will do the reporting. Further action was tabled until the next meeting with the proviso that the bylaws change include the addition of Amazing Parish to the groups reporting.

## 7) New Business

### a) Parishioner concerns

- i) Brian read an email forwarded by John Lynch wherein a parishioner raised the following concern. The person states, "The ushers at some masses prop open all the doors to let people out at the end of mass. The doors stay open long after the crowd has left. Why is there a need to prop open the doors at all? This must cost us an arm and a leg in heating costs, and it freezes out those who stay inside for a prayer experience or to be friendly with others."
- ii) Discussion noted that while open doors can be a sign of welcome and hospitality, there was **consensus** that an effort is to be made to keep doors closed.
- iii) A second concern was brought forward by Rosemary on the behalf of a parishioner who wants to sing while in the Cry Room. The Breaking Bread manuals are readily available there. When music is used from the Spirit and Song music book there is not a single copy of that book in the Cry Room. **Action:** Fr. August said he would make sure there was at least one or two in there.
- iv) At this time, Ed brought forward a resolution to express appreciation and commend the Bishop for his parish meeting or listening session on the Church's sexual abuse issues, September 27. Ed drafted it the evening before this meeting and copies were not available for Council's review. The recorder was given the original copy before meeting's end for inclusion here. It states:

"St. Mary's Parish Council would like to introduce a resolution commending the Most Reverend Steven R. Biegler, Bishop of Cheyenne Diocese for the introduction of a public program in a diocesan facility for the purpose of discussing incidents involving clerics and victims relative to sexual abuse within the Wyoming Diocese. All attendees were allowed to speak should they so desire at these programs."
- v) Fr. August asked Ed for the resolution copy and immediately began to revise the draft for re-introduction later in the meeting. This is the draft that Fr. August read to the Council:

SMC Parish Council Resolution  
October 9, 2018  
"St. Mary's Parish Council would like to introduce a resolution commending the Most Reverend Steven R. Biegler, Bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne for the listening

session on sexual abuse within the Wyoming diocese. We want to affirm the Bishop with these listening sessions to continue throughout the state.”

vi) There was a quick acceptance by some of the Council members. **Fr. August made motion and Ed seconded it.** The recorder does not remember a call for the vote. Fr. August then asked Brian as recorder to send this to the Bishop and the Wyoming Catholic Register.

vii) Another parishioner concern arose late in the meeting under **7. h. Parish Survey Committee**

**b) What statistics should the Parish Council be seeing regularly?**

i) This was tabled since no one had clear idea about the intention of this agenda item. Jim Casey, a new member of the Council asked Fr. August about the financial state of the parish. Jim is aware that there is a Finance Council but thought it would be helpful for this Council to have updates. Fr. August agreed. He excused himself and soon returned with copies of a document, Church of St. Mary Investments, August 2018 which he distributed to those present. He quickly ran through the information. Jim Casey said it is helpful to have this financial information in case we need to be called upon to help with fundraising. It was noted that we are really dependent on our equities and the dividends deriving from them. These have to be protected said Fr. August. It takes about \$2 million to run the school but we usually are about \$500,000 or so short. This deficit is made up from our investments. A Donor Wall will soon be available at the school. This will also help. Our keeping the school running limits the Cathedral in what it can do with ministries and staff, etc. We have a record number of kids this year. Fr. August said it would take about \$30 million to sustain the school on its own, i.e., “make the school sufficient”.

**c) Remembrance Service in November (can't be on November 2<sup>nd</sup> due to Winefest)**

i) Flossie Vance stated it has been scheduled on November 8, a Thursday night. It is not a Mass. Deacon Carroll will lead the 7:00 pm service. The prayer service includes psalms, readings, and music honoring those who have died especially this past year. A reception in Hartmann Hall will follow the service.

**d) Election of officers – nominations.** No nominations were sought at this meeting for

- (1) Chair
- (2) Vice Chair
- (3) Secretary

Nominations and voting to fill these three positions will be done at our next meeting.

## **8) Reports**

a) **Cathedral Guild – Flossie** - Flossie gave highlights on what they do and the three major meetings they have or attend every year. For instance the Wyoming Council of Catholic Women (WCCW) met in Buffalo this year. They also assist with funeral receptions in Hartmann Hall.

b) **Knights of Columbus – Maynard** - K of C did fellowship time recently after Sunday Masses in Hartmann Hall. He said it was not worth staying for fellowship after the Noon Mass since there was hardly a soul coming to the Hall. We were all reminded that we do not need to stay through the end of the Sunday Noon Mass.

- c) **Mall of St. Vincent De Paul – Diane** - A donation was made to Little Theatre and they put us in the program. The Mall gave a lot of fabric for costume needs and found some shoes for some men. One lady needed a suit for a job which they had and Diane was pleased to announce that this lady got the job.
  - d) **St. Mary's School - Pat was not present.** Fr. August reminded us that the Winefest is November 2nd. Money raised will be for security needs at the school such as having a security guard.
  - e) **Security – John** - Report was submitted by John before the meeting by email. There was no further comment.
  - f) **Volunteer Recognition – Kelsey** - Chad Cox was nominated by Ed Avery to be the recipient of the 2018 3rd Quarter Volunteer Award. Chad serves as a welcoming minister at the former 5:15 Saturday Vigil Mass and now at the 4:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass. Fr. August made a motion and Ed seconded. **Motion carried.** Chad Cox is our 3rd Qtr winner.
  - g) **Youth Ministry – Renee** - Confirmation will be on October 19. Don't forget to use the Catholic <http://formed.org> . Formed provides all sort of helpful information about the Catholic Faith when one needs it. It includes thousands of movies, video programs, audiobooks and ebooks. Ride for the Brand deadline for high schoolers is Oct, 31. It will be in Thermopolis. Kara is doing a wonderful job especially with having parents provide sponsor forms and certificates.
  - h) **Parish Survey Committee** – Father Andrew, Neill O'Donnell and Katherine Castaneda. Waiting on feedback from Deacon Carroll. A parishioner concern given to Kelsey was a request that Parish Council minutes be put online. **Fr. August supports this idea** and will ask Neill about providing access to the minutes and dates for future meetings. **Fr. August also supports** the suggestion to add a “form link” to all parishioner comments to go the Chair or the general email address for the Parish Council.
- 9) **Parish events to note**
- a) Healing Mass October 10<sup>th</sup> 10:30am, lunch to follow in Hartmann Hall
  - b) Fundraiser for St. Joseph's Food Pantry, October 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm -Knights of Columbus Hall
  - c) Rosary for America, October 13, Noon-1pm in Lions Park
  - d) Confirmation October 19, 7pm-8pm in the Cathedral
  - e) 18th Annual Holiday Wine Fest, November 2, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, Little America

#### 10) Banners

- a) Guest and Parish staff member Connie Kassahn was asked by Fr. August to provide an update on banners that were being considered for the bare space in the apse over the Cathedral sanctuary. This is visible in the background photo for the parish Facebook page. Connie was recommendation two banners that reflect the patronage of the Mother of God for our parish. These two were titled, Assumption of Mary and Our Lady of Grace. They will cost about \$2,000. Due to loss of quorum and the rush to finish the meeting there was no motion made for approval but there was consensus to go with Connie's recommendation by those remaining.

#### 11) Next meetings

- a) November 13, 2018
- b) December 11, 2018

**12) Closing prayer and adjournment**

- a) The Parish Council adjourned at 8:52 AM

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.