

St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council MEETING MINUTES

Nov. 16, 2017

7:00pm

Sr. Fabian Hall

Present: Father, Deacon, Jeremy, Jose, Melissa, Michelle Kaleel Finance Committee Chairperson, Mary, Mike S., Elvira, Suzie, Lydia, Kevin, Michael, Gerard, Jim, Aidaluz Romero, Jan. **Absent:** Edward Lopez let us know he was out of town. Tim Cosgrove.

Opening Prayer – Father

Welcome to Aidaluz Romero, representing the Spanish Ministry. PLEASE NOTE her contact information and welcome her: 801-448-2987, aidaluzholguin@gmail.com.

Open Parishioner Comments: First 15 minutes of every meeting - 2 parishioners present.

Parishioner 1 – 1) concern expressed about the safety of children playing around the scaffolding at the church bell tower. Was advised the scaffolding will be monitored and double checked to ensure it is secure. It is up until the light that has been ordered for the bell tower is received and installed.

2) He also spoke of a water stain on the church ceiling by the skylight and that there may be a leak. Jeremy responded the stain is an old one and reassured all that there is currently no leak.

Parishioner 2 – 1) expressed concern about moving the CCD and Mass start times in January. Melissa, Director of Religious Education advised him his concern was understood and there will be a letter forthcoming from the CCD office soon. 2) He was also concerned that the Lector starts at 9am so the Mass does not begin until approx. 9:06 am. 3) In his opinion the notice read by the Lector about chewing gum and food is unnecessary.

Committee Reports

LITURGY COMMITTEE – Their meeting minutes were emailed to all members and hard copies were shared at the meeting. Two specific items were discussed. Item number 11 – Psalmist to wear robe when also cantoring at the ambo. Number 13 – announcements to be discontinued at the end of Mass.

USHERS- Father has a candidate in mind as head usher. He will contact him soon.

EXPANSION OF PARKING LOT – Michelle, Finance Committee Chairperson reported that their committee had reviewed the idea in 2016 and again several months ago and were considering the need and high cost. Michelle requested documentation of need, instead of just reports that the parking lot was full. A capital campaign would have to be considered for financing. Jan Meigs 1) offered to get parishioners to monitor the parking lot and side street for documented usage. 2) Asked if we could seek information from contractors to ensure we have correct information regarding preparation costs, electrical costs, fees, licenses, etc. We may then want to seek bids. Jan will find contractors to review the site and report to the Parish Council.

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3) The contractors report should also consider doing the expansion in 5-10 year stages. 4) Briefly discussed the south lot and that at one time it was used for overflow parking. We do not own that land but the 'rental' cost, egress in and out, and ground preparation costs should be explored as a temporary solution. 5) It was also briefly discussed that unsupervised children use the playground on the field frequently. Jeremy stated that there is a sign that it is private property both at the playground and on the gate to the field.

NEW BOOK CLUB 2018 – Jan Meigs will coordinate. Two of the four books shared earlier with the Council will be ordered and reviewed. They are on the USCCB approved list. If they have studies guides and are appropriate for group discussion the Book Club may start in February 2018. Further details are still to be worked out, but the plan is: it would be free to participate, participants responsible for their own books (library or purchase), and parishioners may join any time for any book. Group would be discussion style with a facilitator. Guest speakers may be invited to speak about the book. Possibly meet every other month; possibly meet Sunday afternoons in the hall, details still to be decided.

PARKING LOT TRAFFIC CONCERNS - Jose was thanked for painting the curbs red. He was asked to also paint the curb by the shrubs where the stop sign is, since it was observed cars were also illegally parking there. Parking lot suggestions: *Perhaps a crosswalk from the hall to the church? It was noted that may involve removal of a current island, curb, & landscaping. *Perhaps one of those small plastic three foot signs (shape of a child holding a flag, available from hardware stores) be put in the parking lot that says 'Caution Children'? Jeremy will look at purchasing. *Perhaps find a parishioner who would put out the orange cones before the end of the 9am Mass to direct traffic, especially in the new year when the Mass times will be closer together. *Perhaps consider speed bumps to slow the traffic down when coming in. It was noted that they would interfere with snow removal. *Perhaps add two additional stop signs near the first stop sign and make that specific corner a 3-way stop.

PLAN 2018 PARISH EVENTS – A large multi-day festival was put on hold. Discussion was around having smaller parish events first, to involve, introduce and unite parishioners. Start with smaller fun successful events and build into bigger community events. There was agreement that it appears there are no current parishioners willing to volunteer to coordinate projects. New parishioners are unsure. Experienced past volunteers are tired.

Suggestions to build unity: >Quarterly welcome potlucks for new parishioners and their families. > Parish Spaghetti Dinner. > Parish Pancake Breakfast. >Parish Lenten meal. >Parish Founders day new format.

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Lydia reported the WOWs are interested in doing a March 17, 2018 Corned Beef & Cabbage meal. Lydia will report back. NEW idea: have the meal after the morning city parade and invite all the families and children back to the hall for lunch.

Father suggested doing a Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for Parish ministry members (lectors, CCD teachers, EOMinisters, etc.) and groups (WOWs, Knights, Food Bank, Seniors, etc.). Discussion was around criteria on how to choose who is invited? Is it with or without spouses? The number participating could skyrocket and since the parish was going to pay the cost of dinner, it could be more than budgeted. There are 180 liturgy ministers alone; the number could possibly be over 400 with other groups and spouses.

That discussion led to a new discussion about changing the appreciation 'dinner' to a 'social with hors d'oeuvres'. A committee was loosely formed and will be chaired by Suzie to discuss possible options. After the New Year holidays Suzie will email the PC members who said they would be willing to help. More information to come.

There was discussion of a need for a large yearly calendar for the Parish Council to use for 2018 planning. Jeremy strongly encouraged everyone to go to the website and view the yearly parish calendar that is there now, www.stjtwchruch.org. It is wonderful! Very useful and updated regularly! It has every parish event listed. Any available dates can be viewed 24/7. Jan will find large wall calendar we can use for visual purposes.

Father suggested having his Deacon friend come speak to the Parish Council in January, 2018 on how they ran their parish festival. Perhaps a blend of our experience and new suggestions will benefit future events.

FOOD BANK: Jim reported the parish food bank is open one day a week, Tuesdays, and they are still serving over 150 families a week, 600 to 800 families a month. They have 15 volunteers. The Food Bank had requested and did receive a laptop to run their reports on and use for check in – it has helped greatly!

There was brief discussion on how to improve, update, change the food bank operation – have the boxes preloaded from the main food bank and deliver them to the people straight from the back of the semi-truck parked in our parking lot. Reportedly the boxes are loaded by volunteers who go to the Utah Food Bank and prepack them ahead of time. Need someone to contact the Food bank and find out more details.

NOTE: Beginning Dec. 5th the Food Bank will go to new hours 4pm – 6pm every Tuesday.

PARISH RAFFLE: was started in 2017 as a parish fundraiser. The raffle costs \$10 to enter. 5 winners will be chosen twice a year, December 2017 and May 2018. The idea was groups would sell the raffle envelopes to members, friends, neighbors, businesses. It has not worked out like that. There appears to be lack of communication about the raffle, no coordinator, and no promotions. The raffle has been announced at the end of Masses and Jeremy has run the Raffle announcement in the weekly bulletin for the last 8 months. We have only collected \$40 more than we will pay out to the winners in December.

The question is – do we continue the raffle and *hope* to raise what must be paid out in May 2018, or do we discontinue the raffle after the December pay out? By a vote of the PC members present, it was the majority decision to discontinue the raffle after the Dec. 2, 2017 pay out. Jeremy will announce this decision in the bulletin. A lesson for us to learn – great ideas need great support!

HOSPITALITY for Saturday night Masses? It was suggested that we begin hospitality for the Saturday 5pm and 7pm Masses. Perhaps cookies? Discussion was about the timing and cost and volunteers. Food could not be served between the masses, 6pm – 7pm, because of the one hour fast before 7pm Mass. People may not drink coffee at 6pm. Decision was made to not start this ministry at this time. Will consider other options.

CANCEL DECEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Yes, as decided by PC members.

Next Parish Council meeting will be January 18th, 2018. 7:00pm in the Hall.
Parishioners are welcome to speak to the Council the first 15 minutes of every meeting.

Please review and contact Jan Meigs with any corrections or additions to the meeting minutes. Email ejmeigs@yahoo.com. Text or voice message to 702-219-7221. These minutes will be published on the St. Joseph the Worker Parish website, www.stjtwchurch.org.

Meeting minutes submitted by Jan Meigs, President, St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council.