

ST. MARY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

- I. Attendance:  
**Present:** Fr. Brian McGrath,, Charles Houff, Richard Lacey, Erin Pollard (Secretary), Bill Fiske, Chad Klapes (Chair), Zeke Chichester, Cara Mariano-Culver (ex officio), Lori Koperek, Carol Lombardo, Chris Bzduch, T.J. Ryan (ex officio), Holly Cusack (ex officio)  
**Absent:**
- II. Fr. Brian led an opening prayer and the group read the Mission Statement together. We welcomed new member Zeke Chichester, and Cara and Holly.
- III. The calendar was reviewed with a review of important dates and events. T.J. mentioned that the Faith Formation calendar on the website needs to be updated.
- IV. The proposed minutes from the meeting on September 16, 2024 were reviewed and approved as written.
- V. OLD BUSINESS:  
Council membership: Zeke Chichester is a new member. Need one to two more members. T.J. will reach out to Connie's husband to ask if he is interested in joining.  
St. Joseph's Cemetery Arch: Fr. Brian updated that the study is finished. They will get a second opinion before moving forward as the first estimate was very large.  
Clothing shed: Jane Bloom has taken on shed duty. She has been servicing the shed for about a month. The donations have been very successful. .
- .VI. NEW BUSINESS:  
WEBSITE: Chad updated that he and Erin met on Zoom to discuss website updates. Erin updated the Parish Council members on the website, as well as loaded all of the approved minutes from the Council's 2024 meetings. Previously, there were links to all members emails next to their names. Chad and I removed emails and wished to discuss with group. We discussed making a new gmail just for Parish Council to prevent spamming to our private emails. Chris offered to help set up the new email.  
COMMISSIONS AND MINISTRIES: We need to make sure we have point people for each of the Ministries with updated contact information. Chad and Chris will help with this.  
Youth and Young Family outreach: :Chris has been talking with Parishoners who would like to help with this commission. They will set up meetings outside of PC meetings. Fr. Brian would like to see more Facebook posts and maybe link to Instagram. Cara mentioned the school is looking into one app for Facebook and the school website. Fr. Brian discussed getting the book "Three Ordinary Voices of God" for Parish and School families for Christmas gifts. Chad looked into getting bookmarks from Formed and they charge money for them. We could print them out ourselves from a PDF. off WE can order business sized cards from Formed for \$20.00. We also can approach our

printer as well . Chris has been promoting Formed to baptism families as well.

Health and Peace: Fr. Brian mentioned that the Congregational Church is reading a book on Palestinian and Jewish families. We discussed posting AA/NA meetings in the area as well as Bereavement groups. Fr. Brian would like to have Christian referral lists (ie mental health support, substance abuse help, etc...) Chad will place something in the Bulletin for people interested in joining this Commission.

Latinx Outreach: Cara mentioned that the School Superintendent is Latinx and can be a resource for ideas/execution of ideas. Fr. Brian is going to get some bilingual Missalettes and would like to have an event to promote Latinx ministry.

System for Ministry involvement: Fr. Brian would like to ask Rita Dupras if she could take on some duties for coordinating Ministry contacts and packets for paperwork for joining Ministries. There could be a checklist to get involved or start a Ministry or host an event.

Fr. Brian would like to have a short update/report for Faith Formation, School, and Finance every meeting and place these on the agenda for every meeting.

STM Renovation Committee meeting went well. Fr. Brian to follow up on PDF of design by Evergreen Studios. Evergreen renovates old buildings. The color Palette looks good. They might replace the tapestry with an arch. They are still in the conceptual phase.

Finance: Holly is taking on more hours for work. We had an audit by the Diocese and it went well. It is very difficult to match up with Diocesan budget program with our own, working on reconciling this. Fr. Brian said all areas of finances are solid right now.

SMS: Cara states the current enrollment is at 101 students. There are 23 total middle schoolers. The open house is coming up.

Faith Formation: T.J. we have four children for First Communion this year. Confirmation students had a conference with the Bishop yesterday at St. Joseph's. The Adult Bible study group is holding steady at about 12 people. TJ would like a flyer to advertise this at the Shrine.

-Fr. Brian said a closing prayer.

-The next meeting will be on November 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Erin Pollard