

ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting- November 3, 2015

Those attending: Craig Angle, Steve Thoman, Debbie Banks, Elbert Gordon, Don Yager, Paul Barada, Bruce Fenimore, Steve Ariens and Father Gries.

The meeting opened at 7:10pm in the St Mary School music room with a prayer lead by Father Gries. It was noted that the minutes from the September 2015 meeting had been approved by email review. No meeting was held in October.

New Business:

Pastoral Planning

Questions for November: What does the A) Parish and B) Parish Council do?

The Parish serves as an extended family that provides support for members in both good times and times of struggle. It is the vehicle to receive sacraments, develop a deeper prayer life, and learn scripture. The parish is a constant resource that is always available when needed.

The Parish Council reviews the ongoing business and operations of the parish and the school. The board is made of a cross section of individuals that bring a diverse set of skills and business experience for the parish to leverage as it conducts its daily activities. The council provides feedback with regard to expense and capital budgets, projects, and outreach activities. It also provides input on parish ministry programs including Religious Ed, Adult Ed, and youth activities. The council also brings parishioner concerns to the attention of parish leadership for discussion and resolution.

Parish Planning Meeting

A parish-planning meeting for 2016 will be held on Saturday, January 9. Topics of discussion will include review of the updated school tuition policy for cohort and neighboring non-school parishes as well as review of Holy Spirit and pastoral planning question responses (Appendix 1 and 2). Additional discussion will focus on post confirmation activities for high school students and alternative formats for the Religious Education program. Parish council members will provide refreshments.

Committee Reports

School Commission-

Mrs. Kirschner and Father Gries attended a meeting with the Archdiocesan School Commission on October 7. The Commission has recommended no changes in the school operation plan for 3 years under the current budget and student population. The parish subsidy will be adjusted over time to align with the level recommended by the Archdiocese.

The St. Mary School Commission attended a training session at Greensburg in October.

The school has received 18 upgraded computers for the computer lab and each student now has an Ipad available for their use. The school has also submitted a proposal for grant funding of the STEM innovation lab. The lab is located in the former 2nd floor west lavatory that was decommissioned during the recent restroom upgrade project.

Cemetery- No update

Liturgy- No Meeting was held in October.

Finance- No Meeting was held in October

Maintenance- A structural engineer has reviewed the condition of the school 5th street entrance. A formal engineering report and cost estimate to stabilize the structure is being prepared.

ADA issues with the new basement level restroom have been addressed. Additional punch items relating to a malfunctioning sensor in the sink and radiator issues are still outstanding. The parish is holding retainage funds until these items are resolved.

Outreach and Social Concerns-

Food Pantry Thanksgiving baskets will be available Friday November 20th. Collections for hygiene baskets will begin after Thanksgiving through mid December.

The school will have a giving tree that will provide items for 10 families

5 youth group members and two adult chaperones will attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis on November 19th, 20th and 21st. A pancake breakfast to help cover registration fees will be held on Sunday November 15.

4 individuals from the Men's discussion group attended the Indiana Catholic Men's Conference in Indianapolis on October 31. The group is open to all men of the parish that would like to join the conversation about the role of catholic men in their families, parish and society. Interested individuals should contact Steve Thoman for information.

Old Business

Connected in the Spirit- Archbishop Tobin has received the recommendations of the cohort and the Archdiocesan Planning Commission and has taken them under review. A decision is expected in January with implementation activities in spring of 2016. The new alignment will take effect in July 2016.

Parish Mission is scheduled from January 30 to February 3, 2016. The Fathers of Mercy will conduct the mission with the principle speaker announced at a later date.

No Parish Council meeting is scheduled for December. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 5th, 2016.

Meeting closed with prayer at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Steve Thoman, Parish Council Secretary