



*St. John the Evangelist
Parish Council Minutes
Monday, February 10, 2020 7:00 PM*

Quorum – Two-thirds of the Parish Council Voting Membership was present.

Roll Call (Checked = Present):

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Msgr. Michael Becker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deacon Gene Neral | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debbie Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Ann Mirobelli |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Fye | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Greslick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Ringkamp | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Schurr |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claudia Anderson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Bevin | <input type="checkbox"/> Betty Dennis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Andrews |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Campbell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristina Hoyne | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sue Podoletz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Yasolsky |

1. Prayer & Opening

The meeting opened at 7:06 PM with our traditional opening prayer.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Dave Andrews made a motion to approve minutes from our previous meeting, Heather Yasolsky seconded that motion. The minutes were passed unanimously by all present.

3. Old Business:

a) Actions from January

We had talked about a shared youth ministry with the Hollidaysburg parishes. In talking with the pastor from those churches, he thought it would be a good idea to have a sort of social gathering for all parish councils in order to get these churches connected.

The bishop is also considering the possibility of “deanery councils” in order to better connect the local parishes in the deaneries of the diocese. There is a meeting coming up this week where Monsignor will be attended and then will report back to council about the preliminary plans.

b) Divine Renovation

After reading through the book thoroughly, we aren’t exactly sure what the next steps may be. Some of the questions that we need to consider are: What is the 5-year plan? What is the purpose of the parish council moving forward? What are we doing right? What are we not doing right or what can we do better?

4. New Business:

a) Welcome Committee

We currently do not have a sort of “welcoming” committee to reach out to new parishioners. Our outreach to new parishioners coming into the church is lacking. As a parish council, it is essential that we have in place a structure that



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reaches out to all new members. Making an initial connection with new parishioners, teaching them about the parish (including committees and how to get involved) are critical steps to welcoming them to our congregation. Once a new member expresses interest in the joining us, Monsignor will reach out to them to get a feel for who they are and what their background is (older/younger, married/widowed, etc.) and will then connect them with the members of parish council who will then decide amongst themselves to take them under their wing, so to speak.

b) Online Offertory

Rather than encouraging an increase in offertory, Monsignor has expressed an interest in encouraging parishioners to use the online giving function. More will be following on this subject in the fall and after the finance committee gets a chance to discuss it as well.

c) Parish Council Re-visioning

Rather than meeting every month, the idea has been proposed to meet every other month, rather than monthly. Many committees, boards, and councils are moving towards this type of meeting schedule; this allows for more effective meeting.

Dave Andrews made a motion that parish council only meets every other month. Monsignor seconded that motion; all those present approved. Therefore, the modified schedule for the rest of this parish council sessions will be a meeting on April 13th and June 8th.

d) Service Dogs

Heather Yasolsky had brought to the attention of Parish Council the topics of service animals and our church. Religious organizations have no obligations under current ADA law, which means that churches are technically allowed to deny entry to service animals. However, as a group, it was decided that we do not see any case where a service animal would not be permitted to be on the property. As the church is open to anyone, having a service animal is not a reason that the church would turn someone away. Service animals, for the proper reasons, will always be allowed at Saint John's.

e) One Faith Youth Group



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There is a youth group that has formed at Saint Patrick's in Newry that has included members from many different churches from the area. This group has expressed interest in using our grounds for one meeting a month (one meeting will still be held at St. Patrick's). Sue has asked council if it would be okay to allow this group to meet at our church; our youth would be certainly welcomed (and encouraged) to attend and there will be an announcement in the bulletin.

5. Date for next meeting – April 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m