

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FEB. 11, 2020
SAINT MATTHEW ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Attendance:

Bob Morano, Susan Morano, Meredythe Hutchinson, Sharon Smith, Bertie Ninichuck, Jennie Guida, Tonya Adams, Remo Ottone, and Rosa Isela Lopez

Council Members Absent: Stephany Cristanos, Oscar Andrade, and Norma Lanfray

Non-Council members present: Fr. Arturo Querijero, Mirella Hickman, Kelly Querijero, Mother Esther Diane Smith, Mother Martha Rogers, Justin Viega, John Deane, Deacon Tony Russo, and Paul Schumaker

Bob Morano called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks:

Bob pointed out that everyone is working hard and under stress. We need to be kind to each other. The council does not have a budget of its own. If something needs money, we authorize the expenditure through a council motion and vote. If it is not in the budget, the finance committee will discuss how to do proceed with Kathryn.

Last minute requests for the council agenda cannot be accepted. All agenda items should be submitted at least one week prior to the meeting in writing. If and when the request is presented to the council, Bob will oversee it and will be diligent in following through on it. Reminder: any event needs to be correlated with Meredythe so there are no conflicts on the calendar. Jennie made a form to use for requesting events, fundraisers, or speakers. Form will be distributed to the council.

Decisions and Votes:

Moved that 5,000 copies of the brochure be published in English and 5,000 in Spanish using light green gloss cardstock. Also 5,000 copies of the insert in English and 5,000 in Spanish using the heavier green gloss cardstock. The cost of printing the English brochure and insert is \$400. The cost of printing the Spanish brochure and insert is \$400. Motion was seconded. **Passed unanimously. None opposed.**

Old Business:

Financial Report from the Finance Committee: End of January the expenses exceeded the revenue by \$5,562.02. However, this loss included the extraordinary items of "Property taxes" and "accounting services". Therefore a more normal deficit would be about \$3,000.

1. Brochure: Sharon reported the brochure is almost press ready. Justin Viega brought colored mock-up for viewing and expects to have it done by end of week. Fr. Arturo will see to translation into Spanish for Spanish copies. Justin circulated book of paper weights and a pricing sheet. Expected to print the brochure next week.

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Decided to use the light weight stock for the brochure and the heavier weight stock for the insert because it could also be a bookmark. Justin indicated there could be an additional cost for the insert to be put into the brochure. After discussion it was decided to order 5,000 copies of the brochure and 5,000 copies of the insert in both English and Spanish. From the price sheet the rounded-up cost for brochure and insert copies would be \$400 for English and \$400 for Spanish. Kelly offered the Spanish community would pay the \$400 for the Spanish copies. Paul Schumaker offered to pay \$400 for the English copies. A motion was made to proceed as stated here and it was seconded. **Passed unanimously. None opposed.**

2. Mirella reported on the signage for the front identifying the offices and sanctuary are on the other side. Lydia Russo has a contact to do this and the estimated cost is \$25.
3. The question of changing Mass times was referred to the Clergy Council for their disposition.
4. Update on Script fundraiser: Kathryn went to the Bank to inquire about a separate account to accept money from the fundraiser. A fee would be charged for the separate account. A question arose whether the money coming in would cover the fee. Jennie Guida has accounts there and will contact the bank with Kathryn to see if an arrangement can be worked out.

New Business:

1. **The first Unity will be Sunday March 29:** A bilingual Mass, a first in several years. A person who is part of the Orange Philharmonic could possibly come and needs to confer with Mirella. Spanish community is excited about it. Make it an agape meal with Fr. Ron and others bringing soups and bread. Suggestion: change the time of the Mass to 9:30 AM. We plan to have the brochure finished for the event. Suggested to have a handout of the accomplishments of the parish council since Jan. instead of a presentation the final decision on this has not been made. Youth group can do face painting for children. May 31st next Unity Sunday. Suggested it be an international potluck.
2. Banner: It was discussed in Building Committee. Recommended the size be large enough to see from the street, 12 ft. at least. Question of a banner for a table at the Great American Write-In. A table cloth could be used with silk screening. It could also be adapted for carrying with hems on sides and top for a casing to insert PVC. Sign on the banner could change for events or Mass times by using velcro. Jennie will follow up with estimates for the banner and table cloth. Meredythe will secure estimate for table cloth printing.
3. Alternative sources of funds: The Go Fund Me Page on that site charges 2.9% of proceeds secured. A Fund solicitation page on our website charges 2.2% of proceeds. Therefore, Bob proposed three different pages: one for Bishop Peter's health needs using the Go Fund Me Page site. The other web pages, one for donations for the mortgage, and a second for operations support, will be done on our website.

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- a. Remo Ottone moved that a Go Fund Me page be established on the Go Fund Me site for Bishop Peter's health needs. He also proposed that Justin will build for us a "Funds solicitation" page on the Saint Matthew website to solicit funds for the mortgage, and that another for the operations costs of the church. Meredythe seconded the motion. **Passed unanimously. None opposed.**

Added discussion: Peter has friends, relatives and people who have moved away, but keep in touch. Using the Go Fund Me site offers them an opportunity to donate. There is no prepayment penalty on the mortgage and it is beneficial to start paying down the principal. After the brochure is finished, Justin will address building a new web page for all ministry groups, and a new web page for divorced Catholics identifying Saint Matthew as welcoming them for full participation in Catholicism.

Kelly requested that the telephone number for Spanish speakers on website needs to be changed to (714) 647-1773. Susan will see that it is changed.

Mother Martha advised that on Facebook a private group for a given ministry can be created. Only those in the group can have access.

4. Parish Council Retreat recap: First half was spiritual led by Bishop Peter. Second half focused on developing a mission statement for the parish council. From group discussion Susan crafted a mission statement for approval. Several wanted more reflection on it. It was revised and circulated to the council. The revised mission statement is as follows:

Our mission is to work together (engage) with Pastor representatives (Bishop Peter and Father Arturo), Clergy Council and each other to assist with operation and business aspects of Saint Matthews with a commitment to inclusivity, transparency, discernment and our role as representatives of laity. We strive to build youth membership and activities, build membership (twenty new members by 2020 yearend) and maintain membership through in-reach actions (such as, follow-thru contact, personal welcome at Parish entrance), and build alternative sources of funding.

If this mission statement cannot be revised and agreed upon through email revisions and voting, it will be added to the next council's agenda.

5. Each ministry committee was reminded to develop 2020 objectives using the S.M.A.R.T. guidelines. Susan asked each ministry council liaison to furnish a listing of all members whether they are lay or clergy. The council needs to know who is the backup person to the council liaison in the event of the absence of the council liaison.
6. Education needs more members as does Fundraising. Tonya needs more help for the Education Ministry. She will leave the 10:30 Mass at 11:15 to set up for the youth group. Tonya wants an outside meeting with Mother Martha. Deacon Tony is getting help for

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Adult Education. Suggested to change the adult education class from between the Masses. Bertie will be the back-up for Tonya. Age ranges for youth education are 3-7; 8-12; 13-18. Good idea for the 8-12 age range to meet after Mass. Tonya does the middle age group now.

Jennie made a form for volunteers for ministries.

Paul Schumaker suggested there be a formal installation of the parish council at the Unity Mass.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.