

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
SAINT MATTHEW ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The zoom meeting was called to order by Moderator Tonya Adams at 7:32 pm.

Opening Prayer was given by Bishop Peter Hickman.

Moderator Comments:

Tonya looks forward to having agenda items. Some which are presented may be moved to a ministry that covers that item.

Roll & Quorum Determination:

Parish Council Members Present: Tonya Adams, Mariah Doyle-Sandoval, Stephany Crisantos, Jennie Guida, Sharon Smith, Lydia Russo, Doris Hand, Polly Touhey, Anitha Madanu, and Ana Diaz.

Council Members Absent: Joshua Cruz and Rosa Isela Lopez.

Non-council members present: Bishop Peter Hickman, Fr. Toting Tronco, Mother Esther Diane Smith, Mother Martha Rogers, Mother Jetty van den Berghe, Deacon Tony Russo, Deacon Tammy Fuqua, Paul Schumaker, Rebecca Stevens, Kathy Wenzel, Mirella Hickman, and John Deane.

A quorum is present for the meeting.

Decisions and Votes:

Lydia Russo moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Jennie Guida seconded the motion. **Passed unanimously. None opposed.**

Old Business:

Finance Report by Deacon Tony Russo:

During the month of August tithing was a little over \$15,000. There were no extra ordinary expenses, but the month ended \$1,800 in the negative. No fund raiser during the month. Jennie Guida informed that Dinner with the Clergy and the drawing raised \$784.20. Deacon Tony looks to increase tithing with the stewardship campaign. The stewardship campaign is handled through the Finance Committee. The finance committee needs a chair person. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Formatted Constitution – Going Forward:

Tonya reported on Sunday, September 12, the first all community meeting was held about the Constitution. The formatted copy is up on the website. A small error in numbering of pages shows on the website. It will be changed. Some changes were sent in. They need to be discussed with the Finance Committee and reflected on. All changes submitted will be kept to be given to the new parish council.

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New Business:

2022 Parish Council Nominations and Election:

Tonya and Mariah talked about having 2 or 3 alternates to step in if a member needed to leave. Mariah has called parish council members regarding their term. Joshua Cruz, Rosa Isela Lopez, Stephany Crisantos, and Doris Hand are leaving. In November a new vice chairperson needs to be elected from the members in their 2nd year. People need to realize the vice chair will become chairperson in their 3rd year.

At the community meeting after the Unity Mass on November 14, 2021, the new parish council members will be elected by all Saint Matthew members. The Unity Mass will be November 14. The election will be held in person and via zoom. Parish members need to notify chairperson in writing of desire to run for membership in the parish council by October 17. The notification should include a bio. Names will be reviewed by Bishop Peter for qualifications and for any impediments. Written requests can be emailed to parishcouncil@saint-matthew.org. In the voting the top 4 will be the new parish council members. If there are more than 4, they will be the alternates. Spouses of paid clergy are not allowed to be parish council members.

Because of the voting on November 14, the next parish council meeting is moved to Nov. 16.

Script Fund Raiser:

Kath Wenzel spoke last year about Shop With Script, now called Raise Right, as a fund raiser. The cost is 15 cents a transaction. Gift cards can be purchased which you fund ahead of time and refill as you continue to use them. Last year Kath raised \$760. Kath will be happy to be the administrator of this. Last year Bob Morano suggested a separate bank account owned by the church for this fund raiser. Last year Kathryn Tuma advised that to keep the account free a balance of \$1500 needed to be in the account. Mariah stated that her credit union has free checking. A list of the participating stores is needed. Certain months have bonuses. The drawback is you are paying money in advance.

Jennie would like a discussion to understand how script could be bought once a month. Purchases can be made by check, but every check has to be approved by the coordinator. Buying can be done online. It was suggested that parish members try it out to understand how it works. It would be good to get the procedure in place before the holiday season. Mirella was asked to check with Chase Bank on how to link a new account with the present one. Jennie, Kath, and Fr. Arturo will meet next Sunday at 9 am at church to discuss and understand the procedure. Kath needs Saint Matthew nonprofit and account information.

Filipino Orphanage:

Fr. Toting Tronco received a request from the orphanage in the Philippines. We helped this orphanage in the past three years. Mining interest and investors want to control the area. Help and support is needed for these orphans and Mother Martha and Mother Jetty want to raise money for them. A plan

is to connect our children with those in the Philippines. This project needs parish council approval. We would like to start this immediately to respond to the need. Tonya advised this request is covered by two ministries, Social Justice and Fundraising. Jennie suggested the request be put on our website under “donate” as a specific need.

Fr. Arturo advised that there is a strong need for building our community. We are asking the same people for needs that arise. Pastors have been asked to have an ongoing campaign to build community and bring in other social justice issues. In the Social Justice Ministry, we “think globally, and act locally.” The request for the orphanage needs to be added to the website under donating. The next Social Justice Ministry meeting will be October 21, in person.

John Deane brought up a concern about not having clauses in the formatted Constitution relating to restrictions on how money is given beyond Saint Matthew community. He wants a clause concerning this added to the Constitution and not tabled. Tonya replied that all clauses relating to changes she has kept and will hand them over to the new parish council. And also reiterated that John’s concerns should be discussed at the finance meeting.

Report from the Parish Pastor Father Arturo Querijero:

I want to congratulate the enthusiasm of the community in reaching out to all the ethnic cultures in the community at the Unity Mass. Our community is an interesting bunch of Christians in how we relate to one another. We need to reach out to others and build more relationships. Our priority is to build Saint Matthew and keep our bishop. Our community practices “All are welcome” in how we relate to one another. In the Spanish community people love their church and bring others in. I would like to see more Filipinos and more from the English community. How can we inspire people to attract them?

Report from Community Life:

Jennie Guida announced two important events: St. Matt’s After Dark, October 23rd doors open at 6:30 pm, performances at 7 pm.

February 12, 2022: St. Matt’s After Dark, Valentine Day Beatles Tribute. This event was cancelled in August and reschedule for 2022.

Fr. Arturo gave the closing prayer and Bishop Peter gave a blessing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Doris Hand
On September 20, 2021