

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Pastoral Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 10, 2019
pastoralcouncil@stjosephbcs.org.

Present:

Rev. Steven J. Sauser
Father Andrew
Judy Nunez
Lynn Smith
Doug Lyles
Kris Hagel
Lis Soto
Donnie Victorik
John McGuill (Finance Council)

Opening Prayer 6:45pm

Council members prayed the "Adsumus".

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 8th, 2019 meeting were approved by all council members online, prior to this meeting. Judy N. offered a chance for discussion but there was none.

A week or more before the PC meeting, Judy N. had posted the approved minutes and agenda on the church bulletin board and website, publicizing the next meeting dates and location.

Old Business

- a) Father Steve Sauser reported on the **Encountering Christ Capital Campaign**. We are at 94% of our goal, still \$100,000 short. The committee has wrapped up efforts, but contributions are still being accepted.
- b) Father Steve reported that because the St. Anthony's festival grounds price has increased, the St. Joseph festival committee is looking into moving our festival to the Expo Center next year in May 2020. Pros and Cons were discussed. Some details still need to be worked out, like cooking facilities and water games. Any suggestions or concerns can be given to Helen in the church office.
- c) All parish council members will be **EIM (Ethics and Integrity Ministry) compliant** by August 13, 2019.
- d) PC will continue our **adoration hour at 8:00pm on Wednesdays**. Judy N. will email out the updated schedule so at least one PC member will be responsible to attend each week.

Discussion about safety reasons for changing the door combination of the adoration chapel continued. The door code has been the same for 23 years, since beginning our adoration chapel on Sept. 14, 1992. Father Steve recommended that we communicate our concerns with the adoration chapel coordinators and invite them to our next Parish Council meeting for their recommendation about changing the door code and handling safety issues. They could also send a flocknote communication to their scheduled adorers to get feedback.

- e) The **bylaws of the St. Joseph Pastoral Council** have been reviewed, simplified, and presented by a sub committee: Judy N., Kris H., and Doug L. Council members had an opportunity to give feedback with the goal of updating our bylaws to be compliant with Austin Diocese Bylaws. Doug made a motion to coordinate final details by email and present a final draft for vote at our next meeting, September 11th. Lynn S. seconded the motion.

f) Judy N. reported two issues brought up through **PC email activity**: 1) Bible Study Book Clubs (reported in New Business) and 2) New Baptism Policy. Currently, our church does not charge a building use fee or class fee for individual baptism ceremonies, while most other churches do. So, there is a high demand from the community for these services, but 80% or more of those baptized here at St. Joseph are not parishioners. In addition, individual baptisms are mostly scheduled on Saturdays, back to back, taking several hours. Sometimes, baptisms have to be postponed when there is a funeral. Out of necessity to free up priests and space for funerals, our new baptism policy is to have group baptisms at 10am on first and third Saturdays of each month, beginning on July 1st, 2019. Some exceptions may be allowed.

g) The two church office positions have been filled after months of interviews: The new business manager, titled "Director of Operations" is Kelly Cristerna. The new Bookkeeper is Mary Clare.

New Business

a) Doug L. reported on the Finance Committee meeting that he attended in place of Judy N. He shared the agenda topics and his appreciation for getting a better understanding of the organizational duties between committees of church and school. The finance committee has 6 members (plus Father Steve), mostly comprised of bankers and former CFOs, who guide the church in confidential business matters. Our Pastoral Council is an outreach conduit to our faithful parishioners, guiding more in spiritual matters. The Finance Committee is also updating bylaws, manuals, and budgets for the Austin Diocese. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2019 at the PAC. Father Steve wants the chair of each committee (Pastoral Council and Finance Committee) to attend the other's meeting for information exchange and perspective. If the respective chair is unable to attend, a designee may attend in their place. Most business from the parish should come through the Pastoral Council first and then involve the Finance Committee only if money is involved.

b) Father Steve also reported that the buildings at the Athletic Complex are in need of repair. The small house needs the floor leveled, A/C repair, window repair, and flood damage repair. It would cost about the same, \$80,000 to tear it down and rebuild it. The big house, also needs renovating of wood siding and paint which could be another \$80,000+. Tree trimming and fallen tree removal is also necessary throughout the property. Boy Scouts have been asked for help, but no action yet. Bids are being solicited for tree removal.

c) Lis S. reported a need in our parish for more small group fellowship. She recommended starting more Bible Studies or Faith based book studies. She also announced a new ministry, called "The Well", beginning on July 31st, 2019. It is being coordinated by St. Joseph parishioners, through Father Steve and Ablaze Ministries, to invite the fallen away, searching and thirsty, to come learn more about Jesus. All are welcome to attend.

Other

Closing Prayer

Fr. Andrew closed with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

Next Meeting

Wed Sept. 11, 2019 at 6:45pm at the PAC.

Respectfully submitted,
Lis Soto