

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 17, 2024

The Finance Council of the Divine Grace Parish met for a regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at St. Gregory's School Library. Jamie Shearer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with an opening prayer.

Those in attendance: Father James Wehner, Jamie Shearer, Amy Behun, Jay Cortez, Felicia DiNardo, Joe Ennis, Daniel Jenkins (phone), Chelsey Knapton, Licia Lentz, Frank Lordi (phone), Kate Maseth-Ready, Michael Powell, Frances Tartal, Andrew Welch

Excused: Peter Boyer

SUMMARY OF REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

1. The St. Agatha Property needs to be disposed of. This property has been costing \$8,277.96 a year to maintain. There is an offer on the table for \$125,000.00....far off from what we were asking...\$395,00.00, but other "offers" never came to fruition. We should accept this contract when presented.
2. HVAC Controls (St. Gregory's School) They have been installed in two separate installations: The school \$46,710.00, and the church \$6,120.00., programmed and loaded on Deacon Don and Chris' laptops. The school will provide \$25,000.00 of the cost.
3. Car Raffle Update...The gross revenue was \$86,820.00...\$2,000.00 overhead, for a net of \$84,942.00. If the winner selects a vehicle for \$45,000 + the \$3,000 for tax relief, we should net at least \$36,000.00. We received no "deal" from the Ron Lewis dealership. McElwain, who advertises in our bulletin, has offered to give us a deal on the car for next year's raffle. It was agreed that we should make that switch dependent on what is offered. It was noted that the dealership received a great deal of "free" advertising of the raffle in our bulletin and on the grounds during raffle time.
4. The Catholic Elementary Schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh are being regionalized; which has the benefit of pooling resources. Parents will see no change in day-to-day operations when we are regionalized on July 1st. The Principal of St. Gregory's will report directly to the Regional Superintendent. The Regional Superintendents all report directly to Michelle Peduto, Superintendent of Elementary, High Schools, and Private Academies.
5. Father Jim said we have hired a Facilitator of Parish Ministries, Jennifer Livorse. She will start this position on February 1, 2024. This is a new position, was not in the budget, but was needed to unify the parish and how we "speak to each other". Father Jim further noted that Dr. Thom Brozich, will be retiring as of May 1, 2024. We have hired a replacement that will be named in the future.
6. The minutes of the meetings held November 15th, and special Zoom Meeting held January 9, were read and approved. The November meeting notes were approved by a voice vote with a motion by Amy Behun, and second by Frances Tartal. The January 9th meeting notes were approved by a voice vote with a motion by Frances Tartal, and second by Chelsey Knapton.

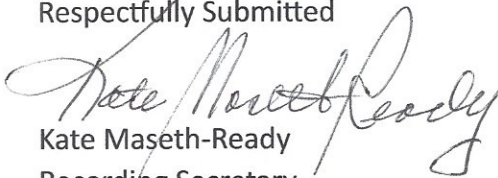
7. Father Jim and Jamie went over the December, 2023 Financial Statements. We continue to be in excellent financial shape. Line items such as the Festival and Raffle are getting close to where they should be. The car raffle gets complicated as it straddles fiscal years. Next year, this won't be an issue.
8. We discussed the Budget preparation for the 2024-2025 year with respect to deadlines, approval, and submission to the Diocese. Father Jim asked that Amy Behun and Andrew Welch meet with John Greci around April to assist him with the Budget preparation. Father noted the need to budget for more robust youth/adult ministries.
9. The Church Alive designated funds will speak to new Lighting at St. Gregory's, and needs at the St. Ferdinand's Campus. There is nothing we need to do now.
10. We discussed the MyCatholicwill.com situation briefly, and Jamie said he will follow up with John Greci.
11. Regarding Ritzer Hall Research/Analysis, Daniel said he will have something next month.
12. Revisiting the Bank research task force progress. This was put forth in June with Seminarian Erik as the point person. He was unable to get to it, so Jamie asked Kate and Andrew to take over. They will be in the process of contacting/meeting with banks in the area to see if there is an advantage to switching from WesBanco.
13. We discussed the Annual Parish Appeal, action steps, calendar, and presentations. Jamie once again will prepare the script. The Council members were assigned presentation dates/times at the churches and masses February 10, and 11, 2024.
14. As Jamie canvassed members to see if there were any other questions/issues, Kate Maseth Ready suggested that we put forth a motion before the Finance Council such that there MUST be competitive bids before we sign off on Form B in the future. Joe Ennis and Jay Cortez prepared a form months ago that should be utilized going forward. The motion was approved by a voice vote with a motion by Felicia DiNardo, and second by Kate Maseth-Ready. All were in favor.

NOTABLE COMMENTS OR ASSIGNMENTS FOR FOLOW-UP

There being no further business, Jamie Shearer offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the Finance Council will be a joint meeting with the Pastoral Council at St. Gregory's School Library on Wednesday, February 21, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted


Kate Maseth-Ready
Recording Secretary

Approved


Jamie Shearer
Chair