

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING – May 15, 2024**

The Finance Council of the Divine Grace Parish met for a regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at the Holy Redeemer Campus. The meeting was called to order by Jamie Shearer, with an opening prayer by Father Jim.

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

Those excused: Peter Boyer, Felicia DiNardo

**A. BREIF REPORTS AND UPDATES:**

1. Father Jim gave an update on the progress of changing our banking relationship from WesBanco to NextTier Bank. He advised that we moved \$400,000 to our operating account and hopes to have all accounts in place there by the end of this fiscal year. He further stated the staff is very pleased with our relationship manager from NextTier, Kristy Gales. Both John Greci and Linda McAfee feel the customer service is outstanding. Father thanked Council for their advice/work on effecting this change.
2. The St. Agatha property situation continues to take one step ahead and three steps back. It's still in limbo. The potential buyer "disappeared" when the Diocese asked for a memorandum of understanding for the property. The property continues to cost us money. Jamie Shearer asked if we could shut down all the utilities. Frances Tartal suggested razing the building due to the asbestos issue and selling the 4.5 acres of land. Father mentioned meeting with Charles Goetz from the Diocese who oversees all properties for his advice/suggestions. Kate Maseth-Ready asked if we could seek guidance from people from the Diocese on large projects, i.e., have inspectors with no vested interest give opinions on our various properties, rather than have a contractor who wants to bid the job tell us "The roof is shot".
3. Jamie Shearer gave an update on the Communication staff position. He said they have interviewed great candidates who can certainly raise our media to higher levels with their skills. These people so far would be great for our "secondary" position, but don't have the wherewithal to be the number one person who sees the big picture. We will continue to interview. It is Father Jim's intention to allow the new Marketing Director to hire their own media person.

**B. BIG THINK:**

1. John Greci presented the 2024-2025 budget for Divine Grace Parish. Council was asked to review the budget, "dig down into the weeds" and send any questions to Amy Behun and Andrew Welch, who will in turn, either provide answers, or refer the questions to John Greci. The draft must be into the Diocese by month end, so we have time to tweak it before it is due the end of June and at that point cast into stone. Council was also presented with a list of projects that need attention on all campuses. Kate asked if this should be in the budget as capital expenditures, but Father Jim advised that the Diocese does not require that, just an operating budget. Father said we need to prioritize these ongoing projects, being mindful of costs.

2. Daniel Jenkins presented an update on Rizert Hall. It seems a lot of work needs to be completed on the building as evidenced by the memo by Mark Franz outlining all the issues with the building. It will be very costly to update. The question is, do we spend the money? Father noted we are not in the business of renting halls. Can it be used for our ministries? Father feels he needs to meet with the folks up there who have invested time and money to explain the situation and get input. Father doesn't want Evans City to feel like they are being "abandoned" At the St. Ferdinand's campus, Oldenski Hall needs renovations, but that situation is different in that it is primarily used for ministries, and the secondary purpose is rental. Father is meeting with Peter Boylan, and will also talk to Butler County, regarding interest.

C. ACTION ITEMS:

1. The minutes of the April 17, 2024, finance Council Meeting were reviewed and approved, Motion by Licia Lentz, second by Daniel Jenkins, and passed by a unanimous voice vote.
2. Father Jim and John Greci reviewed the Finance statements through April 2024. The Parish continues to be in sound financial shape.
3. Finance Council Raffle Basket for the Festival. Jennifer Livorse has asked all councils and committees of Divine Parish to provide a basket for the Festival. Licia Lentz has agreed to do this.
4. Father Jim asked that Council members be at the first mass at Holy Redeemer Church on June 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> as a show of support.

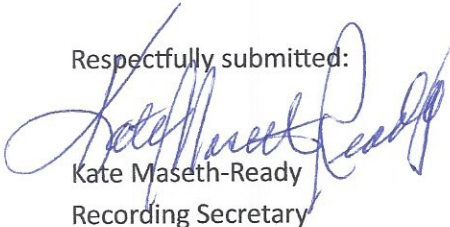
D. MOVING FORWARD:

1. My Catholic will.com will be on the agenda for the June 19, 2024 Finance Council meeting. Father also mentioned that the Diocese has now taken over all the cemeteries in the Diocese and handed out a flyer for the new Mausoleum to be completed the summer, 2025.
2. Development and Stewardship initiatives will be on the August 2024 meeting agenda.

There being no further business, Father Jim offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

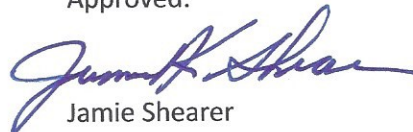
The next regular meeting of the Divine Grace Parish Finance Council will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at the St. Ferdinand's Campus.

Respectfully submitted:



Kate Maseth-Ready  
Recording Secretary

Approved:



Jamie Shearer  
Chair