

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING - March 20, 2024**

The Finance Council of Divine Grace Parish met for the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at St. Ferdinand campus in McAndrew/Biller Hall. Jamie Shearer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with an opening prayer from Father Jim Wehner.

Those in attendance: Amy Behun, Jay Cortez, Felicia DiNardo, Chelsea Knapton (via phone), Licia Lentz, Frank Lordi (via phone), Michael Powell, Jamie Shearer, Frances Tartal, Fr. Jim Wehner, Andrew Welch

Absent / Excused : Peter Boyer, Joe Ennis, Daniel Jenkins, Kate Maseth-Ready

**SUMMARY OF REPORTS AND UPDATES:**

Regarding the St. Agatha property, Fr. Jim reported that the offer we thought we would receive has fallen through. As an aside, the council viewed pictures of the property in question, as several members had never seen the property.

Jennifer Livorse is the new Facilitator of Parish Ministries and is onboard. Michael Assaf will begin his position as Coordinator of Youth Ministry on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Jason Gawaldo will begin as Director of Faith Formation on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Fr. Jim will be announcing a new communication position upon finalizing a position description.

Frances Fotia, the music director at Holy Redeemer will retire on Easter Sunday. She has been a valued member of our church community as she has served in the music ministry for 70 years. Congratulations to Frances and wishes for a happy retirement ahead.

Jamie offered that the Parish Appeal for 2024 is going very well. We're in year two, of a three-year cycle and we contribute approximately 17% of our offerings to the diocese. We are grateful to those parishioners who sustain our parish.

We have three fish fry events remaining. So far, we have taken in \$85K with expenses of \$30K.

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed. Mike Powell motioned for approval; Amy Behun offered a second. As there were no corrections, a vote was taken, and the minutes were approved as read and submitted.

The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed. Andrew Welch motioned for approval; Jay Cortez offered a second. As there were no corrections, a vote was taken, and the minutes were approved as read and submitted.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Form B for the Holy Redeemer Rooftop HVAC project was discussed at length. Several questions were posed to Mark Franz (via phone) and he answered and clarified for council. Funds are available as a part of the Church Alive campaign. Frances Tartal offered the motion to approve, and Mike Powell offered the second. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved. The council members signed Form B for submission to the diocese.

The Bank Research Task Force completed their research and made their recommendation regarding moving our bank accounts to another entity. Andrew said that Kate did an extremely thorough and excellent job in completing this research. Andrew further explained the differences between what we receive from our current bank versus the proposal from NexTier Bank. After much discussion about their levels of service, training, credit card possibilities, check scanners, interest rates, locked deposit bags, geographic locations, etc., the finance council members recommended that Divine Grace Parish switch banking activities to NexTier Bank. Fr. Jim thanked the Bank Research Task Force for their efforts and the Parish Finance Council for their recommendation.

Fr. Jim provided the March 2024 financial statements. This information will be shared in the bulletin for all parishioners to be made aware of our financial position. There was discussion among the council regarding budget formulation for the upcoming year. It was the council's opinion that formulation should attempt to reflect our budget more accurately versus expenses rather than straight line these amounts for the year. Fr. Jim is asking that the budget team of Amy Behun and Andrew Welch along with the Finance Director, John Greci, develop their draft by May 15<sup>th</sup> with approval at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Finance Council meeting. As we have a total of nine months of actual income and expenses, the process should be easier than in the past two years.

As Daniel Jenkins was not in attendance, discussion about Ritzer Hall was tabled.

As Peter Boyer was not in attendance, discussion about "My Catholic Will" was tabled.

**BIG THINK:**

We will defer until May discussion regarding development and stewardship, with an expectation that someone from the diocese could be involved in these topics.

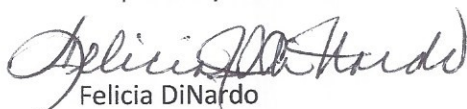
Among items to be considered :

- Revenue
- Stewardship
- Influx of new families
- Evangelization Marketing

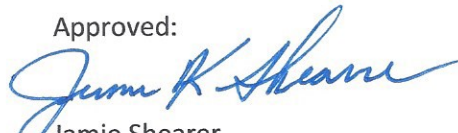
Church Alive funds for both St. Gregory and St. Ferdinand are still pending.

There being no further business, Fr. Jim offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted:

  
Felicia DiNardo  
Council Member

Approved:

  
Jamie Shearer  
Council Chair

Date: 04/17/2024