**Parish Council Minutes Date: 5/21/2024**

Anne Marie Gavel, Chair

Beth Coleman

Alma Dominguez

Maureen Mahowald

Casey Martin

Angela Piram

Roma Lee Rasmussen

John Rimstad

“The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community.”

― **Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium**

Parish Council

**In Attendance:** Fr. Liekhus, Beth Schorle, Anne Marie Gavel, John Rimstad, Alma Dominguez, Maureen Mahowald, Roma Lee Rasmussen, Angela Piram, Casey Martin.

**Absent:** Fr. David Shaw, Beth Coleman

**6:30 p.m.: Opening prayer**

**6:35 p.m.: Housekeeping**

* The council approved the March and April 2024 council meeting minutes.
* The council reviewed the Parish council Chair and Vice Chair roles and responsibilities.
* The council agreed that a future council meeting agenda item will be succession planning. The current council members’ term ends in two years.

**6:40 p.m.: Parish Council recommendation for two new members**

* The council implemented a recruitment process in April 2024 to fill the vacancy of two council members.
* The information about the council openings was communicated in two April bulletins and from the pulpit. Council members met with interested individuals after all weekend Masses. (4/20 & 4/21; 4/27 & 4/28).
* The Council held two informational and interview sessions with interested nominees. (5/7/24 & 5/14/24)
* The council selected and recommended the top two nominees to Fr. Liekhus. Fr. Liekhus approved the council recommendation.
* Fr. Liekhus will notify all nominees. Nominees that were not selected will be encouraged to join a commission.
* The new council members will be introduced to the Parish community in the bulletin and video introduction. (6/2/2024)
* The new council members’ first council meeting will be June 2024.
* The council discussed the council member recruitment process and where it could be even more effective.
  + This recruitment process may become an annual process.
  + The council needs to consider a longer time frame to recruit new council

members.

* + There was only one nomination submitted online.
  + The nomination card needs more room for the names and contact

information of nominators and nominees

* + It was suggested that the Council conduct a virtual information session

that might encourage more people to come and learn more without

feeling like they have to commit to be a nominee.

**7 p.m.: Commission formation discussion**

* The council discussed the SMART goal for Commissions. Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Relevant, Timebound
* The council shared that outlining the commission SMART goal was important because it helps the council to:
* Outline achievable goals. Specifically, what exactly do we want to

achieve?

* Measure results of the activities so that we know where we are in the process, are we where we want to be? Is the framework of activities/structure helping to achieve the goal? Show we are

accomplishing something.

* Develop a framework of required activities/structure to achieve the specific goal, have bumpers/guardrails on what we do and do not do, align our activities to the right priorities.
* The council discussed that the SMART specific goal is to have a fully functioning commission structure. The Council shared their perspective on how to *specifically define* **what a fully functioning commission structure means/looks like**.
* Commissions would be experts on all the ministries aligned to the commission, their goals and understand what part of the mission the ministry is accomplishing.
* Commissions are not doing the work of the ministries.
* Commissions build unity and relationships between ministries and commissions promoting collaboration.
* Commissions would identify opportunities/possibilities for new ministries where there is a gap.
* Commissions identify where there are opportunities and understand why we do what we do.
* Commissions help ministries understand and plan activities that are aligned to the mission and our Catholic faith.
* Commissions help the ministries to connect and collaborate across the ministries.
* Commissions know the activities/timelines of ministry activity within and outside their commission. Commissions help ministries coordinate activity so that there is not overlap or conflicting activities in the parish.
* A fully functioning commission structure will bring attention to all the good work in the parish community so that we are adding people to ministries and/or a commission.
* The Council reviewed short-term activities/actions required to advance the commission formation.
  + John Rimstad will hold a Microsoft TEAMS training session. TEAMS is a tool for commissions. It is a central place where commissions and the parish council can post/share information. (June 2024)
  + The council will hold a Commission session Wednesday Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. at Assumption. The agenda TBD
  + The council will send an email to all participants of past commission meetings. The communication will include:
* An invitation to the Aug. 7 commission session, encouraging them to bring a guest.
* Highlight the July 13 th Volunteer event as an opportunity to meet and learn from volunteers who participate in ministries and invite someone new to the August commission meeting.
* An invitation to the TEAMS training session (June)
* Ask the commissions to post on TEAMS or send any documents to JRimstad@hotmail.com. Documents may include their final commission definition, Ministry data gathering forms, collaboration opportunities across ministries/commissions/parish community.
* Pray for the parish council and the commissions.
* The council will review the DRAFT commission guidebook and provide edits to Maureen by June 18
* The council discussed that the Worship and Education commission lack membership and confirmed the parish council liaisons.
* The parish council commission formation SMART goal discussion will continue at the June 2024 parish council meeting. The discussion will include identifying the specific actions required to achieve the goal of a fully functioning commission structure and identifying the measurements of success.

**8 p.m.: Fellowship & Outreach Commission recommendations**

* The council reviewed recommendations on the definitions of the Outreach and Fellowship Commissions and Fellowship recommendation for parish collaboration. The parish council commission liaisons will contact the commissions with the Council suggestions.

**8:30 Closing Prayer**