

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

St Vincent de Paul Church

April 18th, 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 7:37pm by the Council President, Joe Yingling, with a prayer from *Laudatio Si* by Pope Francis. In attendance: Fr. Ray Chase (Pastor), Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), Laureen Brunelli (Parish Administrator), Joe Yingling (Council President), Graham Yearley (Council Secretary and Co-Corporator), Anne Freeburger (Co-Corporator), Mike Jacko (9:30 Mass Rep.), Lee Krempel (9:30 Mass Rep.), Eve Prietz (7:15 Mass Rep.), Janice Bonner (Chair, Liturgy Committee), Peggy Meyer (Co-Chair, Social Action Committee), and Liz Hasan representing Education and Enrichment Committee).

Pastor's Report

Fr Ray reported that Holy Week was "exhausting and fun".

Pastorate Process: We are officially declared a single parish pastorate. We are now in Phase One with the focus on evangelization. The Archdiocese will provide materials and support to assist us in this phase. Fr. Ray said he had received the Mission Readiness Statement generated by the Ad Hoc Committee data last year, but he has not had time to study it.

"Homeless Jesus": Fr. Ray was asked if he knew when the "Homeless Jesus" statue was going to be delivered. Laureen Brunelli said the delivery date is still uncertain as the statue is being toured. Our hope is to have it by the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul in late September.

Old Business

Liturgy Issues: Mike Jacko brought up the issue of saying the Creed. It is Fr. Ray's wish that we say it at mass. However, there are two forms of it being used by parishoners to say it causing confusion and most parishoners are not familiar with it. One suggestion was to project it on the screen if it could be lowered. Fr. Ray will offer commentary to open "the deeper meaning" of saying the Creed. The staff said they would look into how to present one version of The Creed to the parish. There had been discussion of purchasing new hymnals; there is a question about whether any progress had made on that issue. Janice Bonner commented that having various papers for different parts of the mass was "unforgiving for visitors". There was some discussion about whether to continue with one announcer or return to having multiple announcers. Janice Bonner said opinion on this issue is evenly divided.

Parish Council Elections: Joe Yingling brought up the Parish Council Elections. There are three vacancies open: two 9:30 Mass Representatives and one 11:45 Mass Representative. The schedule for the elections will be in this week's bulletin and the first round of nominations will be taken the last week of April and the second round will be the first weekend of May. Colleen commented that getting nominations from the 11:45 Mass can be difficult. She added that Denise Hamilton has said she is willing to continue to serve, but that her official terms have ended.

New Business

Planning for evangelizing: Joe Yingling asked the Council if they had any new ideas about how to approach Phase One. How do we see evangelizing within the parish? What does the idea of evangelizing mean to us personally? It was brought up that a good deal of work had been done recently on this issue. The people on that project are still here, do we want to ask them to continue? Can we add new people? Laureen is the Director of Evangelism. Fr. Ray will together a packet of materials on evangelization. "The Joy of the Gospel" is Fr. Ray's 'jumping off place' for discussing church evangelization.

Pastoral Associate's Report (the report was given out of order as Colleen was detained when her car ran out of gas)

Easter: "We had Easter". Colleen added she was impressed by how well Fr. Ray dealt on the onslaught of the week. There were a couple of glitches: a) the screen in the church was stuck and unable to descend during the Easter Vigil Saturday. b) the lamps in the undercroft kitchen burst and fell to the floor. Fortunately, no one was in the kitchen at the time. Jim Dimmer cleaned up the kitchen; repairs were completed this morning.

Things that Need to Happen: items a through c were Colleen's suggestions, items e and f were brought up by the people identified.

- a) Cut back ivy on outside walls
- b) Gutter outside on the southside of the church needs repair
- c) Front Steps: a small fence will be put in around the south door of the church for the safety of those using the ramp to enter the church
- d) In the next fiscal year, the roof of the church will be coated (painted with special roofing paint).
- e) Janice Bonner added that the rooms beside the stage in the undercroft need to be cleared out.
- f) Joe Yingling will bring a camera to the next Council Meeting and take photographs of the Council members. He would like to have the pictures of the staff and council members that once hung in the church be updated. He added that it would be helpful if committees send a report before Parish Council Meeting, even if they have not met.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Graham Yearley, secretary to the Parish Council

Committee Reports

Jonestown Planning Council

General Membership Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2017

In Attendance: Peggy Meyer, Joe Cronyn, Chuck Frascati, Jack Schmidt, Mary Laukaitis (St. V's); Lindsay Thompson, Kelvin Barton, Ayanna Bass, Mark Palmer, Carlton and Roxanne Epps, Jeff Rogers, Dominic DiCocco (Jonestown residents); Amy Schmaljohn, Eric Thompson, Dwight Warren (McKim Center); Bernard Smith, Chuck Buettner (Baltimore Rescue Mission); Marvin Pinkert (Jewish Museum); Sandy Pagnotti (Ronald McDonald House); Bob Gehman, Jacob Brooks (Helping Up Mission); Anthony Jones (Health Care for the Homeless); Celeste Scott (Women's Civic League); Travis Street (Living Classrooms); Marshella Wallace (Planning Dept.); Sherman Ragland, Marissa Gentry (921/923 E. Baltimore); Annette Porter, Tim Wolfer (Nylon Films); Catherine Benton-Jones (Change 4 Real); Stasha Cruz (1840's Ballroom); Carol Gould.

Meeting began shortly after 7:00 p.m.

Tong Le Montessori School The membership congratulated Mr. Man Fai Lau on the 1-year anniversary of the Tong Le Montessori School's relocation to Jonestown!

Ronald McDonald House Sandy Pagnotti announced that construction has begun for Ronald McDonald House, with the official groundbreaking to take place on May 2nd. She noted that Ronald McDonald House and the new McKim Park will open at the same date.

Jonestown Urban Renewal Plan Marshella Wallace, our community planner, explained how the new TransForm Baltimore zoning will be in place in June and its implications for Jonestown. She summarized the provisions of the existing Jonestown Urban Renewal Plan. After discussion, the group concluded that the URP had largely achieved its purpose and that the new zoning (combined with the official adoption of our Vision Plan by the Planning Department and additional protections in the Historic District) would provide sufficient protection to the neighborhood. The group recommended elimination of the URP in order to take away impediments to development in Jonestown.

City Orphan Parcels Joe Cronyn reported that Baltimore Housing continues to make progress in its negotiations with Urban Atlantic to free up the City's "orphan parcels" in the neighborhood. Moving those parcels to market is critical to Jonestown renewal.

Support for Jewish Museum and Synagogues It was noted that signage for the Jewish Museum was defaced recently. The membership unanimously voiced support for Page 2

our Jewish neighbors and institutions, stating that Jonestown is an open and accepting community for all persons.

921-923 E. Baltimore Street Sherman Ragland reported that his 21-unit development is back on-track. Construction is planned to begin in March 2018 at the latest, taking 14-16 months.

Documentary Film Annette Porter (Nylon Films) and Tim Wolfer recruited community members to participate in a documentary film process. This is a small grant project focused on authentic stories of people in Jonestown. You are invited to sign up for the FREE documentary film making workshops. Contact Annette Porter at (410) 952-5920 or Annette@nylon-films.com.

Hendler Creamery Commercial Development is requesting changes to plans previously approved by CHAP for renovating the Hendler Creamery building. The changes include insertion of four glass windows/doors at ground level, the removal of stairs and insertion of glass into the arched entrance at the east side of the original building and the addition of a "penthouse" level of apartments above the existing roof level. The membership found, in particular, that the extra accessibility offered by the ground level entrances will significantly improve the building's pedestrian-friendliness in a "walking neighborhood"—thereby also improving economic viability for retail tenants. Letters of support for the 4/11/17 CHAP meeting were authorized.

Public Restrooms There are no public restrooms available to homeless persons at the south end of the Fallsway Corridor or downtown—creating an inhumane situation and a public health nuisance in Shot Tower Park (which is supposed to be a tourist attraction!) and other public areas. St. Vincent de Paul church proposes making bathrooms available to the homeless, and is seeking help in working with the City, service agencies and foundations to find capital and operational funding. The group supported the church's efforts.

Oldtown/Somerset Redevelopment We note that the Oldtown/Somerset Redevelopment effort (explained by Dana Henson at our February meeting) did not receive awards for Low Income Housing Tax Credits, as they had hoped. We will receive updates on their progress in coming months.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

**NEXT JPC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH AT 7:00 P.M.**

Any comments/questions on the JPC minutes:

Contact Joe Cronyn at (410) 299-5679 or joecronyn@comcast.net

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2017

Present: Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Charlotte Grahe, Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore and Jack Schmidt. Also present were Louise Gregg, Bethany Gregg and Rita McMullin. Dennis facilitated and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm June 20, 2017. Jack will facilitate.

DISCUSSION

Social Ministry Convocation - The Convocation was held on March 4, 2017. Audrey Rogers

and Chuck led a workshop with Candra Healy and the Justice and Peace Committee of St. Ignatius entitled "Amplifying Our Voices: Legislative Advocacy." The workshop educated participants on how to go about speaking to elected officials. Audrey and Chuck received an honorarium of \$125 for their work which was donated to The Resource Exchange. Giuliana Valencia-Banks of St. Vincent's but representing the Esperanza Center, co-chaired a morning

workshop entitled "Conozca Sus Derechos" dealing with immigration issues. The committee congratulated Jack Schmidt who received an award for his actions in numerous Social Action ministries for St. Vincent's.

Habitat for Humanity - Kathy Ault has not received information on the next build project of the Christian Build churches.

BRIDGE Maryland - Dennis and Maureen Daly attended the last general meeting. The committee had previously voted to cease participation in BRIDGE, at least temporarily. The future commitment to BRIDGE is unclear at this time pending either Maureen's and/or Dennis's possibly acting as St. Vincent's representatives and pending discussion of BRIDGE's objectives with Father Chase.

Beyond the Boundaries:

• **Inclusionary Housing Bill** - Work is being done to rewrite the bill. The new chair of the Housing and Urban Affairs Committee is John Bullock who is said to favor the bill and the Deputy is Bill Henry, who originally proposed the bill. Developers have previously suggested that there be a study to determine how other cities have successfully implemented such a law.

• **Home Act of 2017 (Statewide)** - HB172 and SB0728 (both entitled Home Act of 2017). HB172 was passed by a veto-proof majority. However, the Senate did not vote on SB0728. Therefore, legislation not enacted.

Racial Justice Issues - "Cracking the Code", a movie about race relations, was shown on February 15 to an audience of more than 30 parishioners. Diaedre of St. Vincent's is going to head up a reshowing of the movie and an in-depth discussion of the issues. The date is May 13.

Interfaith Activities - On March 26, Chuck and more than a dozen of St. Vincent's parishioners took part in an interfaith nature walk in Druid Hill park. The walk provided both scientific and spiritual guidance. The next walk is scheduled for April 30.

Pax Christi Events - Chuck attended the Pax Christi Metro DC Baltimore Region's annual spring conference "Walking into the Future with Jesus, Martin and Francis" held on April 1 at the Friends Meeting House in Dupont Circle in DC. Chuck stated that those at the conference emphasized the importance of our bishops' dinner and the need to continue it every year. The annual Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be held in downtown Baltimore on April 14. Mary Catherine has arranged for a new lighter-weight cross for the stations. Regional Pax Christi needs a new board member. Anyone interested is asked to talk to Chuck.

Limay - Mary Catherine stated that the Limay sale generated \$205. The farming project is going well but the beehive one is not as successful.

South Africa Higher Education Fund - No recent news to report.

SOCIAL ACTION

• **TRE** - There continue to be at least 2 moves a week. The next furniture pick up at

the Broadmead Retirement Community is scheduled for April 8. Lorna Patterson has become an excellent contact for available furniture at the Mercy Ridge complex. Audrey is now handling the TRE call-in phone service which uses Google Voice.

- **Jonestown Planning Council** – The next meeting will be on April 4. Highlights of the next meeting will be distributed separately.

- **Emergency Services** – The Men’s Clothing Program provides clothing to about 60 men on the second Thursday of each month. Jane Seipp has retired from the Food Pantry Program and Hurlie Waldman has taken her place.

- **Breaking Bread with the Hungry** (Friday meals) – We continue to serve approximately 175-325 guests each Friday evening.

Bishop Madden’s Prayer Walk – The next prayer walk is scheduled for April 27 at St. Benedict’s Church on Wilkens Avenue. The evening begins with a light meal at 5:30 p.m. and ends before 7:30 p.m. During the walk, the group prays at specific locations that have been affected by violence, for all those individuals who have been so terribly affected by violence, and for a change of heart in those given to violence.

The 20/20 Vision – This is an effort by the Baltimore Housing Roundtable to call on city leaders to implement an extensive plan to create permanently affordable housing, establish a Land Bank to dispose of or reform vacant properties, employ those returning from detention or homelessness, strengthen Baltimore neighborhoods, and restore trust. They are seeking endorsements from individuals and organizations. Peggy checked with Colleen and the recommendation is that the Committee sign for the parish. Peggy is still waiting for their rep to return her call. Go to the following website for details: <http://www.publicjustice.org/news/press/1475>

Social Justice Corner in the Bulletin – The Committee continues the Social Justice Corner

in the Sunday bulletin. Its purpose is to raise social justice issues and actions on our initiative or at the suggestion of parishioners. It is important that the issues be updated and changed weekly to keep parishioners engaged. Mary Laukaitis continues to be the coordinator/screener for this item.

“The Samaritan Women” has a local chapter in Catonsville and provides residential, direct intervention for women suffering from human trafficking. This provides more than advocacy by changing lives. The organization is always looking for volunteers. Barbara intends to get additional information.

One Water Partnership involves 14 other religious communities in the Jones Falls Watershed. The Committee will continue to follow-up on developments since environmental issues have often been initiated by our Committee.

Law dealing with mandatory outpatient treatment care for mental illness. A parishioner suggested that the Committee consider this law. Based on Dennis’s research, the law was not acted upon by any state committee during the current session.

NEW BUSINESS

Sanctuary Coalition of Central Maryland – Louise Gregg, Bethany Gregg and Rita McMullin

presented detailed information about this new sanctuary group which is organizing to help immigrants (including current and new U.S. immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers etc.). CASA Baltimore, the Esperanza Center and St. Matthew’s parish have been to date very active

in supporting immigrants in every phase of their struggles. The new sanctuary group is still in

the development stage. Louise, Bethany, Rita and Barbara have been attending meetings and

working with some of the members and they petitioned the Parish Council to consider the work of these groups and the new sanctuary group and the Council referred the issue to our

Committee. The Committee asked Louise, Bethany, Rita and Barbara to continue to gather information about these groups and immigration issues and to report back to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Schmidt

St. Vincent de Paul Church Social Action Committee

Meeting minutes for March 21, 2017. Attending: Peggy Meyer, Peggy Cronyn, Joe Cronyn, Jack Schmidt, Ray Heil, Marcia Metzler, Chuck and Pat Frascati, Mary Laukaitis

Next SAC regular meeting will be Wednesday, May 10, 2017. (Fr. Ray and Colleen scheduled to attend.)

Peggy opened the meeting with a prayer from Pope Francis.

Green Team- Ray reported on the St. V's stormwater management project: engineer is being hired; charrette may be held to build community/parish ownership of project.

One Water Partnership Nature Walk: The first walk is Sunday and information will be in the bulletin. The next is 4/30. This is an interfaith activity with 14 other religious communities in the Jones Falls Watershed.

Clean Drain Campaign- parishioners can sign up promising not to introduce pollutants to the storm drain system. This is for Baltimore city residents and you can select St. Vincent's Emergency Services who will then receive funds.

Occasional Conversation- Diaedre's email 3/19: committee members invited to participate voluntarily in a directed dialogue on race relations and racism.

Friday Dinner Program-Mary would like to have St. V's parishioners contribute additional food (casseroles), and recruit more volunteers to assure that we have enough each week. She will get something in the bulletin.

Last 2 Fridays in Jan.: 228, 319

February: 180, 225, 240, 211

March: 159, 226, 210

Jonestown Planning Council: next meeting is on 4/4; Ronald McDonald House is clearing land; Hendler property is still progressing; HUM purchased property adjacent to Ronald McDonald House for use for women's program. Joe is bringing together group on Fallsway to make improvements to corridor, such as improvements to bathrooms at St. V's for use by people who are homeless.

Emergency Services, numbers of persons served and dollars spent:

Men's Program: January- 59 men; \$572 spent

February-37 men; \$545 spent

Food Program: January- \$216 spent

February- \$0

March- \$627 spent

Food Program: Hurlle Waldman volunteered to assist in the program with Jane's retirement, and has been working with Jeanne.

The Resource Exchange: Peggy C. sends out regular updates to volunteers; our

storage unit costs have increased due to new unit that opens at both ends for easier access. Waiting list has shortened to 2-2.5 months; fewer people are needing beds, so we are down to 5-6 beds per month. Beds cost 15 for about \$3000. Charlestown furniture give-away was in February, and will have another in May. Broadmead furniture give-away is April 8. We need to recruit volunteers to assist in the moves, which are scheduled for 4 moves per month through the summer. Peggy M will send Kristen's name and information since she is interested in helping.

Peace & Justice Committee

Beyond the Boundaries- City Council starting a new affordable housing subcommittee under the Urban Affairs Committee; Matt Hill may be a member.

Sanctuary at St. Vincent's- the committee is investigating possibility of becoming a sanctuary parish- Louise Gregg is leading this.

Pax Christi- Stations of the Cross will again be held on Good Friday, beginning at noon at City Hall. Consider volunteering for a station.

Social Action Ministry Convocation – Congratulations to Jack Schmidt for the award he received for his many service activities promoting social justice. St. Vincent's was well represented leading several workshops, including one where Chuck and Audrey worked with St. Ignatius.

National Climate March: Saturday April 29, 2017 in Washington DC. Buses are being organized by Bethany Gregg.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted, Ray Heil

Education and Enrichment Committee

Joe and Parish Council members, I am out of town. Liz Hasan will take my place at the meeting; however, I have not typed the minutes from the last meeting (about mid-March) and I do not have my notes with me to type them now.

The only thing I actually remember is that the Spring Retreat will be in May and registration forms will be given out next Sunday after Mass. We will be going to Cape May in September for our annual trip (It is NOT a retreat). It will be open to all. Peggy Shouse is in charge of that. At the time of the last meeting, several ideas were floating around for the fall and for Advent, but it was too early to make them definite. I wish I had my notes but I cannot remember anything else that the committee is planning.

Sincerely, Rita McMullin, Education and Enrichment Committee.

Facilities Committee

Denny asked me to report for the Facilities Committee. He also is away and will not be back in time for the Parish Council Meeting. No one is available to take his place at this time. There is nothing new to report. Their next meeting will be in May.

From: Dennis McMullin, Facilities Committee