

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
St. Vincent dePaul Church undercroft
August 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Action Items

- **All available council members to attend dessert social with St. Leo's council on August 19 at 6:30**
- **All available council members to attend a facilitated meeting of St. Leo's and St. Vs the week of 8/26 (awaiting confirmation of date from Seek the City team)**
- **The election is coming. Begin considering who might stand for open council positions.**
- **Before September meeting, the engagement committee will organize a phone tree to touch base with parishioners about thoughts and concerns regarding Seek the City and to disseminate current information about the process**
- **Geri S. will decide on members of the internal task force.**

Present (in person, no Zoom this month): Geri Sicola, Mark Palmer, Pat Ball, Catherine Mundy, Mary Hennigan, Leah Mank, Fr. Ray Chase, Fr. Bernie Carman, Peggy Meyer, Ray Bahr, John Gontrum, Fr. Jaisman Francis, Colleen McCahill, Kevin O'Reilly, Graham Yearley, Janice

Bonner, Al Reichelt, Jill Huppert, Mary Thomey, Salliann Alborn, Tina DeFranco, Chris Venuti, Roy Sambuchino

Introductions

All present introduced themselves and said one thing they love about their parish.

Opening prayer led by Fr. Ray.

Reading of vision and mission statements by Geri S. and Jill H.

July minutes were approved.

Pastor/Pastoral Associate's Report

We hope to support Episcopal Housing Authority's application for the contract to convert the hotels from shelters into permanent housing. They have responded to the city's request for proposals. We await further details about how best to support them.

Seek the City

Meeting of St. Leo's and St. V's with Bishop Bruce, Julie St. Croix, and an external facilitator is planned to be at St. Jude Shrine. PC members were polled to ascertain availability of dates (8/26, 8/28, or 8/29). In other Seek the City news, Bishop Bruce approves of us reaching out to the Corpus Christi community.

Governance Sub-Committee

The committee was established by Lindsay. Leah and Catherine M. joined. The immediate responsibility of this committee is to plan for Fall parish council elections.

Approval of new parish council constitution by-laws

The by-laws were approved.

Proposal for ad hoc committee from Jim Casey, Ray Bahr, and Ray Heil

Ray B. discussed the reasons behind the proposal. These include a need to investigate alternatives should closure of the parish still be a possibility, broader parish engagement so that parishioners feel they have all the information, and a sense that the process is moving too slowly. Ray emphasized that the committee would emphasize information should be shared as much as possible to alleviate general anxiety. Catherine M. noted that this ad hoc committee might address some matters which might need to have been addressed even in the absence of Seek the City.

Scope of Work for Internal Task Force

Geri S. turned our attention to the scope of work noting the three issues that came out of retreat:

Retention & Evangelization, Inclusivity, and Service to the Poor. She asked us to consider how the proposed ad hoc committee overlaps with the responsibilities of the task force, or not. John G. expressed concern that the interparish committee and the task force (as outlined in

the scope of work) are not connected enough and that the task force risks not being able to put changes into place soon enough. Fr. Ray clarified that the task force follows up on changes that were deemed necessary in the process of writing the vision statement, saying that the taskforce is more practical and immediate, whereas the interparish work, at this point is still completely open-ended.

Mary H. suggested that the engagement sub-committee might be the best and quickest way to get a sense of how people are feeling or what questions remain unanswered. The telephone tree during Covid might be a model for this. We would need to develop a script, which can include what PC is doing now.

The scope of work was adopted by consensus with the note that it includes the possibility to assign a working group to investigate closure options.

Geri will take volunteers and discuss with the executive committee who will be on the task force. We are looking for 7 members total.

Proposal for evangelization event from Green Team

Peggy M. spoke for the green team in proposing an after Mass evangelization event in October to promote the parish as a green church. Geri asked how the event would be promoted. Peggy said that they would post

flyers. Dates are to be determined, but likely either October 13 or 20. There are also plans for a movie showing (*Cooked: Survival by Zipcode*) to precede the evangelization event. It would need to be determined how narrowly focused this event will be. Is it only promoting the green focus of St. Vs or is it more like a ministries fair (Peggy mentioned a voter registration booth, Community Solar, Peace & Social Justice table, etc.)? The feasibility of an outdoor Mass was discussed. Promoting the green initiatives of the parish is fitting because fall is the season of creation and *Laudato Si* is still not as widely known as it ought to be.

Closing Comments from Visitors

Chris V. noted that he felt the meeting was well-facilitated, complimenting Geri and noting that he felt our conversations were a way of living our faith and looking to a preservation of our faith into the future. Roy asked if we had an events manager. SalliAnn noted that the big picture is fighting back against a secular culture.

The meeting was concluded by praying the Our Father.