

**St. John Paul II Parish
Adams, MA
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
on Monday, September 28, 2015**

The Parish Council of St. John Paul II (“SJP II”) Parish met in Kolbe Hall of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Monday, September 28, 2015.

Those present: Fr. Steven Montesanti, Kathleen Luczynski (chair) and James Loughman (Secretary) (Communications), Janet Rogge and Dick Jette (Family Life), Deborah Wooley (Finance), Christine Milesi and Barbara Wisniowski (Hospitality), Lawrence Clairmont (Property), Barbara Armata and Mary Whitman (Spiritual Life) and Timothy Rougeau (Music Director). Steven Melito (co-director of the CCD program) attended as a presenter.

In addition, about a half dozen other individuals also attended to observe the meeting.

Fr. Montesanti led the opening prayer. Kathy then opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: Jim submitted minutes of the Parish Council’s August 24, 2015 meeting. Barb Armata moved to accept them as submitted; Mary seconded the motion; and it passed.

Diocesan Evangelization: Steve Melito described the five hour Diocesan Evangelization meeting that he attended in Springfield on Monday, September 21, 2015. He distributed copies of the materials that were handed out at that meeting.

As a long-term project, the Diocese wants each parish to evangelize in their local community. To begin with, the focus of these efforts will be on persuading “lapsed” Catholics to come home to the Church.

To that end, the Diocese is asking each parish to form a five-person Evangelization Committee, which will attend two weekday training sessions in Springfield. After that, the Evangelization Committee will presumably meet more or less monthly, like our Parish Council, Finance Committee and various Standing Committees.

Parish Council Bylaws: Kathy said that, in the interests of continuity, Fr. Montesanti had asked the current Parish Council members to continue to serve as such, and as far as she was aware they were all willing to do so.

Jim noted that our current Parish Council Bylaws call for a three-year term limit for “regular” members of the Parish Council (i.e., those other than the pastor and deacon), and pointed out that a number of the current members were finishing their third term on the Council. Accordingly, he proposed amending the Bylaws to extend the term limit from three to four years. Barb Armata so moved; Mary seconded the motion; and it passed.

Parish Census: Kathy reported Parish Census forms had been sent to 744 households, and 550 of them had been returned as of September 21, 2015. An ad hoc committee consisting of Kathy, Paula Wheeler and Donald and Carol Graves will review and organize the information acquired from the completed forms.

Bishop's Visit: Bishop Mitchell Rozanski will visit our Parish for a special Mass on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at 4 p.m. to install (and bless) a St. John Paul II relic that the Vatican recently donated to our Diocese at Notre Dame church.

Tim reported that there will be a procession inside the church at the start of the Mass and veneration at the end of the Mass, but otherwise the ordinary liturgy will be followed.

Due to the fact that Bishop Rozanski needs to depart shortly after the Mass, and also that Fall Fest that will be held at Notre Dame school that weekend, it was agreed that it would not be practical to hold a social after the Mass.

Finance Committee: Deborah reported modest but encouraging improvement in our Parish's financial situation, due in large part to the recent Tag Sale on August 7-8, 2015, and the rental of the Manor, and weekly collections being very slightly ahead of budget, but stressed that our cash flow was still extremely "tight."

Barb Armata commented that publishing a breakdown of the Parish budget in the Parish bulletin had been very well received, and was "just what parishioners were looking for." Deborah, Kathy and Tim said that they were still working on ways to "tweak" the format for publishing the budget the next time around, to give an even better picture of our finances.

Kathy noted that, of our Parish's revenue, 65% comes from collections, 6% from our "historic" fundraising efforts (e.g., Fall Fest and Tag Sale), 6% from "new" fundraising efforts (e.g., rental of the Manor and electronics recycling), 11% from gifts and trusts, 7% from the rental of Notre Dame school to the Berkshire Dance Theater, and 5% from "other" sources.

Deborah mentioned that the Finance Committee had proposed having a second collection once a month to help defray reduction of our Parish's debt to the Diocese. After discussion, the Parish Council agreed that this would be a good idea.

Use of Polanka Pavilion: Larry asked whether the Parish still wished to proceed with renting space at the Polanka grounds for storage of boats and recreational vehicles during the fall and winter months, because publicity for such a venture would have to be arranged soon if it did.

Deborah responded that the Finance Committee was inclined to "table" that proposal, at least for this year, due to concerns about (a) liability, (b) neighborhood sentiment and (c) zoning. After further discussion, the Parish Council agreed it was best to table the idea for now.

Larry then asked whether that meant the Parish also wished to table the proposal to hold a two-day Craft Fair at the Polanka grounds. The general consensus was that such an event was distinguishable, and efforts to pursue it should proceed, although it was noted that some form of overnight security for vendors sites would have to be arranged. Jim suggested soliciting the help of Boy Scout Troop 38, which had recently used the Polanka grounds or their own flea market, and had camped there overnight to keep an eye on their merchandise.

Likewise, it was agreed the Polanka grounds would make an ideal weekend campsite to rent to concert goers and the like during such events as the Solid Sound concert at MassMoCA. In a similar vein, it was also suggested that another short-term use for the Polanka grounds might be renting parking space (in conjunction with a shuttle service) during this winter's upcoming Sno-Cross (snowmobile racing) event on the Curran Highway in North Adams.

Spiritual Renewal: The shared consensus of both Fr. Montesanti and the Parish Council was that the Parish Mission, known as “Get Real through Spiritual Renewal” with Dominican preacher Fr. Hugh Burns on September 19-23, 2015, had been a rousing success.

The mission was well attended and well received. Dick (and others) also commented that it encouraged cross-campus integration, by getting parishioners from Notre Dame church to visit St. Stanislaus Kostka church and vice versa.

With that in mind, Fr. Montesanti said that he would like to make this sort of event an annual occurrence, with our Parish to hold a fall mission (albeit with varied speakers) every year.

Dick noted that the Spiritual Renewal task force would be having a review session at Kolbe Hall on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss how the mission went and how arrangements for it might be improved the next time our Parish holds one.

Dick also mentioned that, because Fr. Burns had brought his own donation envelopes, the 1,000 “Support our Parish Mission” envelopes that our Parish had printed up for the event were still available to be used.

Parish Brochures: Jim reported that his fellow Communications Committee member Eugene Michalenko had recently printed copies of the “final” version of our Parish brochure, outlining our Parish’s various organizations and activities, and they were ready to be distributed. He added that they would *not* be updated for the next two years.

Dick mentioned that the Family Life Committee would be largely (but not exclusively) involved in distributing them by mailing them out to new Parish members, families with newly baptized children, etc.

Dick also suggested that a version of the brochure be posted on the Parish website.

Next Meetings: Our Parish Council’s next meeting will take place in Kolbe Hall on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Montesanti led the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Loughman (Secretary)