

St. John Paul II Parish
Adams, MA
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
on Monday, October 24, 2016

The Parish Council of St. John Paul II (“SJP II”) Parish met in Kolbe Hall of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Monday, October 24, 2016.

Those present: Fr. Steven Montesanti, Kathleen Luczynski (Chair) and James Loughman (Secretary) (Communications), Janet Rogge and Louise Charron (Family Life), Deborah Wooley (Finance), Christine Milesi and Barbara Wisniowski (Hospitality), Lawrence Clairmont (Property), Barbara Armata (Spiritual Life), and Steven Melito (CCD Director). In addition, Fr. Robert Miskell and two other individuals also attended the meeting.

The meeting began with the Hospitality Committee presenting a birthday cake to Fr. Miskell, which he then shared with all those in attendance.

Fr. Miskell then gave an opening prayer, following which Kathy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes: Jim submitted the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on September 19, 2016. Barb moved to accept the minutes as presented, Jan seconded the motion; and it passed

Bylaws: Jim proposed amending Article VII of the Parish Council Bylaws, requiring at least six regular meetings per year, to reflect only four such meetings per year are now required, given our recent decision to change to a quarterly schedule.

Kathy so moved; Jim seconded the motion; and it passed.

September Mission: Fr. Montesanti reported that attendance for our Parish’s second annual fall spiritual mission, on September 24-28, 2016, featuring Williams College chaplain Fr. Gary Castor, who spoke about “Mary, Mother, Model of Mercy,” although slightly down from last year (during which we made an unprecedented publicity blitz), was still quite respectable, and that the feedback was unanimously positive.

Fall Fest: Kathy reported that our Fall Fest fundraiser held at Notre Dame School on October 9, 2016 raised just under \$30,000 for our Parish.

Kathy noted the organizers of Fall Fest have decided to hold it one day earlier next year (i.e., on the Saturday rather than Sunday before Columbus Day) to avoid traffic/schedule conflict with Ramblefest.

Halloween Party: Jan and Steve reported the Halloween Party for young parishioners, sponsored by our Parish’s Family Life Committee and CCD program, was attended by roughly 35 children, was extremely well received and obtained plenty of grassroots support.

The tentative plan is to reprise the Halloween party next year, and possibly add a similar event for Easter as well.

Advent Lecture Series: Fr. Miskell announced that he will be presenting a series of lectures at 6:00 p.m on Mondays during Advent (November 28 and December 5, 12 & 19, 2016) at Notre Dame church. The focus of the talks will be upon Advent as it relates to ecclesiology (i.e., the nature and order of the Church).

In a related vein, Barb Armata noted there will be a Vespers service at St. Stanislaus Kostka church on the evening of Sunday, December 18, 2016.

Fr. Montestanti indicated the Parish office will be able to handle publicity for the series “in house” so the Communications Committee’s services should *not* be required to promote it.

Polka Mass: Kathy reported our Parish will hold a Polka Mass at St. Stanislaus Kostka church on Sunday, April 2, 2017, with the Eddie Forman Orchestra providing the music.

NOTE: On October 25, 2016, the Polka Mass was cancelled, due to a scheduling conflict with another Parish event.

Lenten Retreat: Fr. Miskell indicated that he will be presenting a Lenten Retreat during Passion Week (i.e., the week before Palm Sunday) in April 2017, although the details for it still remain to be determined at this time.

Pilgrimage to Quebec: Kathy announced our Parish will be sponsoring a bus pilgrimage to Quebec (including the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, the Shrine of our Lady of the Cape, Notre Dame de Bonsecours, and St. Joseph’s Oratory) during April 24-27, 2017.

Larry indicated that we will require 58 attendees to make the trip economically viable. He also indicated the tour guide would handle the necessary publicity (e.g., flyers, etc.)

Parish Picnic: Barb Wisniowski reported that our Parish Picnic Committee has booked the Rymanowski Brothers Band to play polka music at our Parish picnic at the Polanka Pavilion on Sunday, July 30, 2017. She also stressed that more volunteers are required for this event.

Serv Safe Certification: Kathy explained that our Parish needs someone who has received Massachusetts “Serv Safe” certification to oversee large scale parish events where food is served, such as the Parish Picnic.

The individual who performed that role for our Parish last year may no longer be available, so it is imperative that one or more other individuals step up to the plate to assume this role. Kathy noted that a “Serv Safe” class is scheduled to take place in Cheshire in November, which would give an excellent opportunity for those interested to obtain such certification.

Brad Tetreault, who is one of the leaders of Boy Scout Troop 38 (and in attendance), indicated that he had a basic “Serv Safe” certification and was willing to play such a role at Parish events to the extent that his schedule permitted.

However, it was agreed that it would be best if our Parish had more than one person available to play that role. Ideally, therefore, one or two members of the Parish Picnic Committee will also seek to obtain or renew such certification.

Finance Committee: Deb submitted a copy of the Parish's financial report for the latest quarter (July through September) of this fiscal year (FY 2017) as compared to last (FY 2016), which will appear in the upcoming Parish bulletin as well as on the Parish website.

Deb reported that, overall, the financial indicators for our Parish remain encouraging, although work still remains to be done.

Fr. Montestanti commended the Finance Committee for all of its hard work in overseeing and managing our Parish's finances.

Job Transitions: Fr. Montesanti reported that:

(1) Laura Scholtz was recently hired as the new Parish office manager, and started work this past Monday. Accordingly, the Parish office has been reopened, with office hours being Mondays through Thursdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Fr. Montesanti thanked our parishioners for their patience while the parish office was closed during the search for a replacement office manager.

(2) Ryan Larabee is the name of the individual who was recently hired to take care of the mowing, raking, shoverling and plowing at Notre Dame campus and the Manor (formerly the St. Thomas Aquinas rectory), and is also responsible for plowing at St. Stanislaus Kostka church.

2017 Vision and Goals: Barb Wisniowski stressed the need to secure new volunteers for our Parish's various Committees.

After much discussion, it was agreed a two-stage recruiting drive should be pursued. The first stage will be a Town hall style meeting to be held on a Tuesday evening in mid-January, while the second will be a followup sign-up session after all three weekend Masses at some point during the early spring. Chris indicated the Hospitality Committee would be willing to serve refreshments at one or both stages if asked to do so.

St. Stanislaus Cemetery: Fr. Montesanti explained that the Diocese is requiring our Parish to pay for a consultant to document all of the plots at St. Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery (which belongs to the Diocese but is administered by our Parish in the first instance) as a first step in ensuring that the Cemetery operates according to Diocesan guidelines going forward.

Next Meeting: Our next Parish Council meeting will be held in Kolbe Hall on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.;

Fr. Montesanti offered the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Loughman (Secretary)