

August 23, 2022
SJP II Parish Council Meeting

Attendance: Father Paul, Jim Loughman, Kathy Luczynski, Larry Clairmont, Dick and Barb Wisniowski, Chris Milesi, Diane Wyman, Eugene Michalenko, Barb Armata

Father opened the meeting with a prayer and asked all sub-committees that have not yet met directly with him to reach out so he can understand what the committee does.

Jim asked for a volunteer to do the minutes. When no one offered Father began to take minutes – Kathy agreed to prepare them until someone else volunteers. Jim asked for an update on Fundraising from Diane. She shared that the tag sale profit is \$16,348! The committee expressed appreciation for her amazing efforts and those of her volunteers. She stated the Fall Fest and Christmas wreath sales will follow.

Kathy distributed and reviewed the yearend financials. Balance sheet remains solid with \$800 more than last fiscal year in checking account balances. Memorial account is up by \$2781 comprised of donations to SSK restoration (previously referred to as SSK Steeple Fund). On the income side collections are down almost 8% (\$23,107) which is an alarming trend for the past several years. Fortunately, our fundraisers totaled \$80,240, \$62,374 more than last fiscal year when covid restricted events. Lay salaries, utilities and diocesan assessments comprised the largest increases in expenses. We ended the year with a profit of \$2355 but \$64,958 less than last fiscal year.

Father asked about mass attendance noting it appears it is up with many fresh faces, yet collections are down. Discussion ensued noting inflation is having an impact as well as the aging and loss of elderly, deceased members. Michelle recently informed Kathy and Deb that although we issue more than 700 envelopes, just over 400 are returned with donations. We will be eliminating those envelopes to save costs. The committee discussed ideas for getting new mass attendees to register including an announcement during mass and / or registration forms in the pews.

Jim questioned history revenue of the Manor. Details will follow. Rentals are up post-covid and Jill is doing an impressive job. Net profits however are lower due to the loss of the “all volunteer effort” as we now pay for cleaning etc. Larry noted some repairs that are needed to the property. Kathy stated a reserve has been established for that reason with funds available.

Larry stated he has not received statements for the Charity Center since May and therefore cannot submit an Annual Report. Kathy will follow up with the office.

Father reported taking ND School rental off the Colebrook site as available. Given the parish needs for the facility it has been too difficult to accommodate prospects.

Kathy stated that utility costs are a major concern for fiscal year 2023 given the number of properties we need to heat and the rising cost of fuel. Plans are underway to lock thermostats with limited access to control settings. It is necessary to implement practical and prudent changes such as these cost saving measures to sustain the parish. At some point it may be necessary to take more drastic measures.

Father informed the committee that he was approached by someone angry that he planned to close the charity center as well as other rumors. He noted it is not anything he plans to do stating the importance

of the Charity Center to our mission. Kathy stated that as members of the PC if misinformation is circulating, members are obligated to respond to it ... ask questions and obtain accurate information to share. The Finance Committee discussed the need for building usage assessments but there are no plans to move the charity center at this time. We must, however, continue to be fiscally responsible and begin to address some inefficiencies with the parish. Diane and Larry are invited to the next FC meeting on 9/12 to represent various buildings they rely on for their efforts. Various ministries are what is important ... utilizing collections wisely for those efforts vs. utilities.

Kathy suggested going forward the Communications Committee efforts could be to ensure that parishioners are well informed of various happenings in the parish and to ensure transparency especially when inaccurate information is circulation. It was agreed that we will need to develop a conduit for disseminating information from others to the committee. As a separate item, Kathy will prepare a Fact Sheet on the Restoration initiatives. Although invitations to join the committee have been placed in the bulletin, parishioners still have many questions.

Kathy updated the group regarding the SSK restoration initiative. The committee was formed in February with Gary Bellows leading the construction cost aspect and Fran Bourdon leading the fundraising component. Fran prepared a very comprehensive Fundraising Plan that has been reviewed by the committee. During the prior visit of the Bishop, he stated that nothing is off the table if a comprehensive plan is submitted to proceed. The objective of the committee is to obtain a realistic approach and estimates to resolve the mold issue identified as well as the prior engineering report. Gary is working with David J Tierney Jr Inc. (a Diocese approved contractor) together with Russ Sprague from the Diocese. With a better sense for restoration costs, completion of the fundraising plan, recruitment of necessary volunteers and skill for the fundraising initiative, a plan will be submitted to the Diocese for approval. Proceeding with the plan however will be dependent upon sufficient volunteers. The committee discussed the value of restoring the church to the entire Parish as well as the Diocese since the cost of closing the church or any future demolition should the building fall contributed by the Diocese will be debt to the Parish.

Father stated there will not be a mission in September, but he is planning a large event for lent.

Next meeting Tuesday September 20th at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Luczynski.

Minutes moved via email by Barb Armata, seconded by Larry Clairmont; minutes were approved.
