

Approved Parish Council Minutes

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Joliet

August 25, 2015

In Attendance: Cindy Harvey (Parish Council President), Kurt Kambic (At Large), Lynn Michaels (CCW/55 Club), Blanca Aguirre (Finance), Sylvia Sarver (Religious Education), Minnie Cazales (At Large), Father Pete Jankowski (*Ex Officio*), Paul Kolodziej (*Ex Officio*), and Deacon Darrell Kelsey (*Ex Officio*)

Absent: Scott Lockwood (At Large), Elizabeth Lockwood, (Youth Group), Mimi Hernandez-Bly (Hispanic Ministry), Deacon Chuy Dominguez (*Ex Officio*) and Alicia Tocwish (*Ex Officio*)

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. Opening Prayer led by Fr. Pete

I. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

II. Introduction of New Members to the Council

Fr. Pete formally thanked Rosario Gurrola for serving the council for the last three years. Because Rosario is teaching a confirmation class for religious education on Tuesday nights, she was no longer able to serve on the council.

Fr. Pete then introduced the new members to the council. Blanca Aguirre (Finance) is the lead money counter for the parish on Monday mornings. Sylvia Sarver (Religious Education) serves as Julie Dillenburg's assistance on Sunday mornings for RE Classes; her husband Ron is a musician for the choir. Minnie Cazales (At Large) is a catechist in the religious education program and is an active member of the parish, both at the English and Spanish services. We are most grateful to welcome all three members to the group!

Fr. Pete also announced that Deacon Felix (Chuy) Dominguez will take a more active ministry at St. Patrick's Church, primarily working with the Hispanic Community. With his name added to the bulletin, Deacon Chuy will dedicate himself to homebound visitations, weekly visits to Sunny Hill Nursing home, Hispanic ministry formation and assisting/preaching at Sunday Masses.

III. **Reports**

A. **CCW.**

1. The VFW Cantigny Post on Horseshoe Drive has asked St. Pat's to help them staff their Bingo Program once a month. In return, a segment of the proceeds from the event will be directed towards St. Patrick's Church. The CCW will serve as representatives for this program.
2. In place of the Arts & Crafts Fair, the CCW is thinking about sponsoring a "Day of the Dead" celebration on October 24th.

B. **Maintenance.**

1. Reporting for Jim Smith, Cindy Harvey reported that the gym floor project is coming to completion. After stripping the floor to its base, the company consigned to the project sanded the floor, applied two coats of polyurethane and then the painters came in to apply the basketball markings on the floor. The painters also provided signage for St. Pat's Church and Catholic Charities. Fr. Pete wishes to have a sign made for the wall with the St. Patrick image and a quote from his breastplate prayer. As a result, the gym will be off limits until after Labor Day.
2. Work on the back lot south wall has begun. Fr. Pete has paid out of pocket for the purchase of the south lot behind the parking lot. Troy Township has leveled the land and removed the south limestone wall which Jim Wright and diocesan insurance deemed hazardous. With a nice donation from an anonymous parishioner, Fr. Pete purchased retaining bricks to hold back the earth from the back lot. Felipe Reyes will construct the wall for the parish at no charge.
3. As soon as the back lot project is completed, the parking lot will be sealed and striped, preserving our work on the lot from last year.

C. **Finance.** The budget for 2015-2016 has been submitted. Alicia is finalizing the accompanying report that is submitted to the diocese on the budget.

D. **Food Pantry.** The parish was grateful for so many summer donations, which sustained the pantry through the most difficult months. Three fresh food trucks came through the property during the summer, which was a blessing. In addition, 160 cases of fresh chicken were donated to the pantry as well.

E. Hispanic Ministry.

1. A diocesan Círculo retreat will take place in the gym during September.
2. The Spanish Legion of Mary, in concert with the Regional Legion, conducted house-to-house visitations in the Spring, inviting those in the neighborhood to visit the parish.
3. Fr. Pete asked that the Hispanic Ministry folks help provide food and such for the Spanish Fiesta that will take place on September 26, 2015.

F. Religious Education.

1. Because of the growth in the program, Religious Ed Confirmation classes have been extended to Tuesday nights this year from 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Anticipated growth in the program is projected at 350 students or so.
2. Julie is still looking for THREE teachers to fill classes in the program. Members of the council were urged to submit names to help Julie out.

G. 55 Club.

1. Lynn Michels reports that the 55 Club calendar has been worked out with the Head Start Program so that the seniors are able to meet in the gym on dates when Head Start is not in session.
2. Fr. Pete suggested that the 55 Club work in concert with other parishes in the area to host outings to other locations. The group feels that the outings would be a nice addition to the current programs already offered on site.

H. Men's Club. The Men's Club is seeking new members. Fr. Pete asked for them to "tend bar" during the Spanish Fiesta on September 26th. Previously, the club helped at the Summerfest Celebration on July 11th where over 1000 drinks were served for the event.

I. Teen Ministry. Teen group meetings resumed on Wednesday, September 9th. Because of their schedules, the teen group will no longer serve formally at a monthly Mass.

J. Liturgy. As the new Liturgy Planner, Cindy Harvey asked for input concerning the ministry schedules and the manner in which she puts them together.

K. St. Vincent de Paul. Speaking for the SVDP Group, Deacon Darrell asked for volunteers to step up to conduct SVDP interviews and answer phone calls.

IV. **New Business.**

Deacon Darrell and Cindy Harvey would like to begin a Bereavement Support Group at St. Patrick's Church. Now that Deacon Darrell has completed his work in Spiritual Direction, both he and Cindy feel the need to pursue this spiritual opportunity. Fr. Pete suggested that Deacon Darrell work with other parishes in the city to pursue this opportunity. Fr. Pete will contact other parishes in the cluster to see if an interest exists for a regional group.

V. **Pastor's Report**

1. As stated, work on the gymnasium is almost finished. By putting on an Elvis Wig at the Summerfest Celebration, Fr. Pete was able to embarrass himself and helped acquire enough funds (in addition to Catholic Charities' \$4,500 donation) to pay for the gym renovation. *No monies from the parish were used to complete this project.*
2. Per the direction of Jim Wright (Diocesan Insurance), this summer we were able to remove all clutter from all basements (save the rectory), ridding ourselves of bleachers in the gym that were becoming a liability in the process. As many donations to the SVDP Thrift Store were offered in the process. Fr. Pete asks that all groups make every effort to keep all facilities free of clutter in the future.
3. With the back lot project and the parking lot sealing taking place in September, Fr. Pete wished to thank formally all those who donated their services towards these projects as well. As before, *no monies from the parish were used to complete these projects.*
4. The next two projects on the docket are to fence in the back lot (someone has already driven their car through the property, albeit for a valid reason) and to repair the roof. Towards the latter, the parish will host a Spanish Fiesta on September 26th. Alfredo Saucido from *El Rio Grande* restaurant is providing the music gratis for the parish. Fr. Pete will also seek out donations to cover the rest of the \$16,000 cost for the roof. Rafael Hernandez has committed to providing free service to fix the roof as long as we pay for the materials. Again, we are seeking funds that will not dip into the parish finances.
5. Because the Summerfest Celebration took over the place of the Parish Picnic, Fr. Pete has altered the parish celebrations for 2015-2016, with the council's approval...
 - a. Summerfest will now become a yearly July event.
 - b. We will sponsor a Spanish Fiesta each year in September.
 - c. The CCW will sponsor a *Dia de los Muertos* fundraiser in October.
 - d. RE will sponsor their Italian Dinner Fundraiser in November.

- e. We will continue to sponsor the *Our Lady of Guadalupe* and *Posadas* celebration in December, in addition to our other activities.
- f. The Parish Appreciation Dinner will now take place in January.
- g. The Irish Mass & Dinner will continue to take place in March.
- h. Replacing the time for the May Appreciation Dinner will be a *Cinco de Mayo* celebration at the parish.

Deacon Darrell ended the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Peter Jankowski