

St Rita's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2019

7 PM

Welcome: Parish Council Member in attendance were Fr. Peter DiTommaso, Nathan Bonner, Mike Luttrell, Tom Beck, Michael Whiteley, Gary Spegal and John VanDerCruyssen; Faye Ganoe (Finance), Diane Cruttenden (Women's Society), and Marty Schorn (Building Grounds).

Opening Prayer: The meeting was held at St. Rita's house and began with an opening prayer by Fr. Peter DiTommaso

Approval of Minutes: The last meeting was held October 9, 2018 at 7 PM and the meeting minutes were approved

Committee Reports

- **Finance**
 - A **Cash Summary Analysis** for the period of /1/2017 to 11/30/2018 was presented by the Finance Committee representative. The total Parish operating income and expenditures for this period were \$79,506 and \$94,826, respectively, for a total net operating balance was -\$15,320. The ending cash and savings balances were \$33,755 and \$129,024.42, respectively.
- **Family Ministry**
 - **Giving Tree**
 - **Drivers are needed** for 8:30 and 11 AM Sunday Masses
 - **Simple Suppers** –
 - Other than Ash Wednesday (3/6/2019) during the month of March there will not be Wednesday evening Mass because Fr. Peter and Fr. Chris will be unavailable due to *Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts* responsibilities. Wednesday evening masses will resume Wednesday (4/3/2019) when they return and continue through the remainder of Lent. The Stations of the Cross will continue as normal on Friday evenings while they are out of town.
 - The Council discussed having Wednesday Simple Suppers and/or Friday Fish Fries while Fr. Peter and Fr. Chris are away. It was noted that last year the Ash Wednesday Simple Supper was well attended, but the following Wednesday suppers were not. There will be a fish fry on Friday (3/8/2019) before the Stations of the Cross. Plans for having Simple suppers and/or Fish Fries when Frs. Peter and Chris return were discussed, and it was noted that volunteers are needed to help.
- **Women's Society** – Mrs. Diane Cruttenden updated the Council on: 1) the Christmas Mart and indicated that it was well sold with the exception of the vender; 2) the Garden Club prepared nice arrangements and sent them to the Esther House and Shelter; and 3) that the Spiritual Retreat does not get good turnout. Enhancing participation of younger women was also discussed; it was noted that many of the younger women have parenting responsibilities.
- **Building Grounds** –
 - **Parking Lot Lights** - repairs cost ~\$410.
 - **Sanctuary Lights** – 16 LED Flood lights - cost \$390. Star Electric was paid \$200 for the work and they donated the money back to the church.
 - **Carpet for Church Balcony**- plans for moving the pew, instruments, speakers and wiring were discussed and multiple council members offered to assist in this project on Sunday and Monday prior to carpet installation on 1/14-15. Total cost is \$1633.

- **Parking Lot** – plans for resurfacing the parking lot blacktop were discussed: 1) Fr. Peter is planning on some time next year (2020); 2) Marty will bring the previous estimates to the next Parish Council Meeting, but new estimates may be required; 3) it was noted that there are 3 particularly bad spots in the parking lot that may require more extensive work; 4) line painting is expected to cost about \$500; and 5) ~\$30,000 is budgeted for this project.
- **Old Business/Follow-up**
 - **Pancake Breakfast** - a pancake breakfast or breakfast sandwich for after the 8:30 mass was briefly discussed but no specific date was established.
 - **Fish Fry** - Mr. John VanDerCruyssen said he would like to do two events on Fridays before the Stations of the Cross during Lent. He indicated that tickets would need to be sold.
 - **Pork Sale**- John also said he would like to sell pulled pork by the pound sometime in the spring or summer.
 - **Parish Directory** – in progress.
 - **St Rita's 100th Anniversary**- is scheduled for July 9, 2019; after mass there will be a dinner at the Blue Ridge Summit Fire Hall. The Bishop and 6 local priests are expected to attend. The cost is \$16 per person, but tickets will sell for \$10 person with children under age 12 free. The size of the hall limits the number of attendees to 200 and tickets will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Advertisements will be placed on the St. Rita's Website and the church bulletin.
 - John offered to design the tickets.
 - Fr. Peter asked about scheduling additional activities during the year for the 100th Anniversary such as a social dance, silent auction, tea party etc. and previous Parish activities were discussed. It was noted that a committee with someone in charge would need to be advertised in the church bulletin.
 - The Council also discussed longtime parish members who may have historical parish pictures, directories, or other items (stained glass window in St. Rita's house) that could enhance the 100 year celebration.
 - **Security Upgrades** – as noted in previous minutes the Diocese of Harrisburg recommended that a Floor/Evacuation plan be developed and a fire drill be scheduled in consultation with the Fire Chief. Mr. Gary Spegal indicated that the handout from the Diocese was 40 pages length and recommended the purchase of a defibrillator (~\$1,500) and having a fire drill after mass (final blessing) according to a fire diagram (plan) to include ushers doing a sweep rest rooms as well as considerations for Active Shooter situations.

New Business

- **Rib Sale** – was proposed for some-time in the summer
- **Building Grounds** –
 - Spring Cleaning – need to add request for volunteers to church bulletin
 - Light in shed – fix/replace
 - Church Doors Creaking – need WD-40

Closing Prayer