

Parish Council Minutes 4/8/2025

Voting Members	Present/Absent	Non Voting Members	Present/Absent
Stacy Celli	P	Julie Brown	P
Tiann Colwell	A	Terri Calvert	P
Mike Esselstein	P	Ethan Gion	A
Jerry Fitzgerald	P	Mary Skiles	P
Terry Fox	A		
Father Konka	P		
Nick Marez	A		
David Nash	P		
Casey Seymour	A		
Brooke Talkington	A		
Shelley Thomas	P		

Additional representatives attending: Larry Gion, Finance Committee

Meeting called to order 6:36 pm

Fr. Konka led the opening prayer

Approval of Minutes from January meeting: Request for any corrections/additions was made. None were offered. Shelly Thomas moved approval of the minutes, Jerry Fitzgerald seconded motion, minutes approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Fr. Konka reported that in March two new water spots in gathering space and water in the basement. On 3/8 Terri called Fisher Roofing who came on Saturday to put up tiles with heater to patch. Called Monday to have come to look it over and fix the problem (drywall is fixed), still need a roofing company to come fix the issue rather than continue to patch.

Drain pipes fixed but not tied into the alley drain yet. There is a City of Scottsbluff easement in the alley that will need to be addressed in order to tie into drain in the alley. Adam Vath said he might be able to help. More to come.

New Business

Mike Esselstein

Mike reported that in February he was informed that the heater in the gathering space was not working. As it turns out it wasn't only not working but there was a gas leak and the presence of carbon monoxide. The heater in the gathering space is separate from the main system in the church. We received a quote of \$4200 for parts to fix and they might have arrived in 4-6 weeks. Big Mack quoted \$6000 for a brand new unit installed with a \$600 credit from the gas company for the efficiency rating of the unit. Mike and Larry Gion communicated and made the decision to replace. Call was made Wednesday, installation began on Thursday and finished on the following Monday.

In addition to the expenses for the new heater \$4000 was needed to replace computers in the office due to the system not being able to upgrade older units.

#### Terri Calvert Parish Representative

- a. Confirmation April 27th 10:00 Mass (8 kids)
- b. First Communion May 4th 10:00 Mass (11 kids)
- c. Senior Mass May 11th 8:00 Mass with breakfast to follow
- d. Planning for Vacation Bible School June 2-6 from 9 to Noon each day, this will replace Totus Tuus. 7th and 8th graders will be leaders for the youngsters. Daily Mass will be at 11:15 every day that week.
- e. We are using the Radical Rite of Prayer
- f. Pilgrimage visitation from folks from Mullen, Thedford, Hyannis and Alliance was a success. Many thanks to the Altar Society for the meal and service. Very good turn out of pilgrims as well as folks from St. Agnes.
- g. Members of Christ the King will be making a similar pilgrimage on May 8th
- h. There will be an effort to contact each person that visited and signed our book during the year to invite them back for the service when we officially close the door, to be opened again in 25 years.
- i. Terri reported more water in the basement. The heating units are equipped with humidifiers, both of which have deteriorated to the point of needing to be replaced. Due to maintenance agreements with Big Mack they will be replaced although we will have to pay for the parts.
- j. In light of the murder of a priest in Kansas, a friend of Fr. Konka's, he made a request for a security door bell.
- k. During the year of Pilgrims of Hope we have been asked to join the Catholic Day of Giving which will be on May 7th. There has been good feedback about past days of giving. All three dioceses of Nebraska will be participating, each having drop down menus on their websites listing options for giving. The 24 window of opportunity will be in the bulletin, posters, flyers and will also have a QR code to utilize.

#### Julie Brown School Representative

- a. Julie has hired two new teachers!! Rob Polk will take over the 5th grade and Kyla Oderman will be in the first grade room. Rob, of course, has been with the school for several years in a counseling role. Kyla will be coming to us from Morrill.
- b. Lee Mowry was hired at the end of February to be the new custodian. Lee has worked at the Knights of Columbus hall and came highly recommended. Lee is currently being trained in the ins and outs of the school and the needs that exist. Casey Seymour will be working with Lee to learn the usage of the outside equipment, primarily the lawn mower.
- c. Julie reported that the Strategic Planning process has begun. First meeting was March 29th with 25 participants comprising school staff, foundation board members, advisory board members, parents and school/parish community members. Jamie Weingart of JNW Consulting led the meeting helping the group to identify strengths, define future goals and develop a 3-5 year plan to further growth. The group identified the top five issues to bring to the forefront. A future meeting will be scheduled to subdivide the group to determine who will work on which issue. Julie was excited about the meeting and what was accomplished. Primary among the concerns/issues was student numbers. The school is a reflection of the community which has become ever more transient

#### Larry Gion Financial Committee Representative

- a. Larry recapped the expenditures since the last meeting (we did not meet in February or March). Those were the heater in the gathering space, \$5800, and the new computers for the office, \$3945. Larry explained that we usually budget \$14,000 for such costs but we have been hit fairly hard this fiscal year and our expenditures are closer to \$26,000.

- b. We did receive \$4765 from the Altar Society for replacement and repair of gutters and screens. We additionally received \$5200 from insurance proceeds for the use of repairs.
- c. Larry reviewed the state of affairs over the last couple of months. These were also provided in the bulletin so everyone could see them. Our Christmas collection was \$9670 but \$20,000 was budgeted so we experienced a \$10,330 shortfall (52%). Additionally the preliminary March numbers are \$33,787 with \$50,000 budgeted, therefore, a \$16,213 shortfall (32%)
- d. Father Konka was asked about our Diocesan Appeal numbers. Our goal was determined at \$37,670, to date we have raised \$24,040 with 64% of our families having contributed.
- e. Larry also went over our insurance policies/premiums through Catholic Mutual Group. The current value of the church, parish offices, school and rectory is \$16,284,000 a 2.5% increase of \$395,000. We are paying \$57,627 in annual premiums, a 10% increase over 2024. The finance committee had budgeted \$58,000 with workman's compensation coverage of \$2400 for a total of \$60,400. Actual premium expenses were \$57,627 with workman's compensation coverage of \$3342 for a total of \$60,969.
- f. Larry brought up concerns about the sidewalk just outside the north door of the church. Tree roots have pushed up the cement surrounding the tree creating some significant hazards to folks walking near the tree. Yellow painting has been used to highlight the areas and provide warning.

#### Mary Skiles

No official report for the Church Foundation. However, Mary commented that the Church Foundation may be able to help with some of the expenses incurred over the last couple of months. Their money is left over funds from capital projects such as the windows in the church, new music books, covering the pews and restoring the tabernacle. She stressed that the group only meets once a year so we would need to have any requests ready by their next meeting.

Fr. Konka conducted the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 pm.

Next meeting Tuesday May 6th at 6:30

Respectfully submitted by David Nash, Council Secretary