

Parish Council Minutes 5/6/2025

Voting Members	Present/Absent	Non Voting Members	Present/Absent
Stacy Celli	A	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	P		
David Nash	P		
Casey Seymour	A		
Brooke Talkington	P		
Shelley Thomas	P		

Additional representatives attending: Larry Gion, Finance Committee

Meeting called to order 6:34 pm

Fr. Konka led the opening prayer

Approval of Minutes from April 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:

New Business

Fr. Konka

Father received a message from the Chancery about submitting our budget by June 20th. Larry indicated that it may be possible but meetings with the finance committee will need to be scheduled.

Mike Esselstein

Mike reported on the Knights of Columbus convention. Council 2681 received numerous awards including Scott and Kristen Schiff and their family being named the "Family of the Year". John Songo received an award for his photographic contributions and Fr. Stoner (Bridgeport, regular at St. Agnes reconciliation services) was named runner up "Priest of the Year". Congrats!!!

Terri Calvert Parish Representative

- Praise and Worship Night scheduled for 5/7. Will include Adoration with songs, Knights of Columbus will be providing pizza.
- Senior Mass will be 5/11 with brunch following in the Garden Room.
- Vacation Bible School scheduled for June 2 -6. Daily Mass will be at 11:15 during this week.

- d. Dr. Ray Gaurendi, Host of "The Doctor Is In" on Spirit Catholic Radio will be presenting at St. Agnes June 2nd. His topic for the night will be "Standing Strong as a Parent and Grandparent". Tickets available on line as well as being sold at the door on the night of the program.
- e. Eucharistic procession scheduled for June 22nd after the 8:00 Mass.
- f. Big Mack was on site Monday May 5th to service the AC in preparations for summer.
- g. Fisher Roofing scheduled for Monday the 12th
- h. Mulching of the gardens as well as school grounds and Father's house occurred over the weekend. Suggestion was made to replace the barrier rings around the trees before the next mulching.
- i. Jerry Fitzgerald reported that Austin Gonzalez approached him needing to know if we wished to continue using his service for mowing and snow removal. It was determined that at this time we retain his services.
- j. Shelley Thomas inquired about whether the security doorbell had been installed at Father's house. It has been but we're still learning about charging and operation.

Julie Brown School Representative

- a. Julie reported that the St. Agnes School Student Council members helped with the mulching project over the weekend. All hands were busy and a big help!
- b. The hires at the school have been made as was reported last meeting, the exception being the part time position to compliment Mrs. Svitak
- c. Julie has contacted Ferguson Signs about work on the sign, so far no response about when the project will move forward. However, the feeling is it may be completed before school begins next August. Fingers crossed.

Larry Gion Financial Committee Representative

- a. Larry gave the overall report of the state of the budget. He projected for us how things may look at the end of our fiscal year in [June](#). As has been reported previously we are facing a significant shortfall with collections and support for the parish. A couple of significant shortfalls occurred at Christmas and Easter. The Christmas collection netted \$9670.00 while the budget was set at \$20,000, a \$10,330 shortfall. Easter similarly was short, receiving \$4736.00 while \$7000.00 was budgeted resulting in a \$2264.00 shortfall. Putting it all together as well as adding in designated gifts from a number of parishioners we are currently at a \$28,584.00 shortage with a little over a month to go in the current fiscal year.
- b. There was good discussion about reworking the budget to exclude second collections from the overall operational budget.
- c. Larry reported that we have received two letters, one from the Scotts Bluff County Court and one from Sorenson, Hahn, Browning and Judy law firm. Both letters were making us aware of probate proceedings beginning on the Bernadine Overman estate. It appears that Bernading has named St. Agnes in her will to receive part of her estate. Thank you Bernadine, Mark, Donna and Chris!!!!
- d. Fr. Konka commented that at the School Foundation meeting on 5/5 the topic of continuing to support the school will continue to be a challenge into the future. The strategic plan will address this as a priority and confidence is high that solutions can be found to help down the road.
- e. Brooke Talkington commented that we should seriously look into having parishioners contribute to the operations of the church. Repairs, maintenance, etc. She believes, as do many, that doing so could certainly qualify as "Time, Talent and Tithing. Definitely something to look into.

Mary Skiles

- a. Mary continued with the results of the Outreach that occurred earlier this year. In February cards were placed in the pews in the hope that folks that were not, for whatever reason, contacted. 141 cards were returned and we did get 22 new registrations!!! 93 were repeaters from previous calls. Mary reminded us that there were 170 families on the previous list that were not contacted or did not return calls. With this information Teresa will be able to revise the number of families registered with the parish. It was reviewed that this information is what the diocese uses to determine what our contribution to the Diocesan Appeal should be. Our contention has been that they are working with inaccurate numbers. In addition we went over more of the comments from the outreach project.
- b. There was lots of discussion, one suggestion that was made to do immediately was have Fr. Konka welcome visitors at the beginning of Mass. One of the themes from the outreach was that we did not appear to be a welcoming community. Work has begun!!!

Good of the order/future meetings: For the next meeting review more information from the Outreach project and address things we can do. It was also planned that we will begin work on the Bylaws for the group.

Fr. Konka conducted the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned 7:48 pm.

Next meeting Tuesday June 10th at 6:30

Respectfully submitted by David Nash, Council Secretary