

## **St. Augustin Parish Council Meeting**

**September 11, 2018**

### **St. Augustin Church Conference Room**

**Call to Order:** Pat Smith called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Father Pisut opened with prayer.

**Present:** Father Christopher Pisut, Colin Riemersma, Pat Smith, Nick Bigelow, John Gilbert, Sherill Whisenand, Karen Pierick, Marianne Dowd, John Knight

**Absent:** Paul Martin

**Guests:** Christy Sullivan (BOE), Sybil Sullivan (Business Manager)

**Approval of June minutes:** Carried (John G. moved, Karen 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**Prayer Service for Healing:** The Stewardship Committee has scheduled a Prayer Service for Healing and dinner in light of the recent sexual abuse revelations in the Roman Catholic church. It will take place Sunday, September 23 at 3:00. This complements other measures St. Augustin has undertaken to address the issue with parishioners.

**Feast Day re-cap:** The Feast Day celebration received positive reviews (particularly the family maximum pricing), had a strong turnout, and covered expenses. Its committee met in early September to discuss any minor changes for next year.

**Choir/organ/loft:** Father plans to hold a discussion with the choir in the near future.

**Boston Trio Concert:** This event enjoyed overwhelming success, a near-full crowd (220+), and a positive reception. Prior fundraisers covered costs, and the free will offering on site created a cushion for future events of this nature.

**Board of Education:** Christy attended and presented, communicating the BOE's intent to work together more closely and transparently with this council, the staff, and the Finance Committee. Her report included the following. The PE teacher now also serves at AD, and this has run smoothly. Enrollment is the same as last year. The front drive is nearly complete, with final grading and seeding next week; the retention/inclusion hole is required by law for runoff control, but aesthetics will be improved over time. Additional safety measures have been implemented: devices over classroom door hinges; auto door lock for the entire building; video cameras will be installed once funds are raised. Sybil stated that strategic planning is in process at the diocesan level for comprehensive school and church safety (disaster, intruder, etc.). Finally, a retirement benefits package was proposed by the BOE for employees with 25+ years of service, using funds with permission from donors to a prior target; the Finance Committee has declined this measure due to sustainability concerns; the BOE intends to restructure and re-present it so that it can be discontinued at any point; Father reported that the diocese will not accept it due to legal and discriminatory complications.

**Finance Committee:** Multiple attendees at tonight's PC meeting requested greater clarity on the scheduling and communication of FC meetings. Sybil presented a financial report to the council and said it will be distributed to parishioners as well. Collections are up, but a deficit still currently exists which is not sustainable. Ideally 55% of tithing should be directed to the school. Interest income is not accessible due to the parameters on our funds. The parish recently underwent an energy audit. We also need teacher salary endowment funding. Father indicated that the parish will kick off a capital campaign next year.

**Buildings & Grounds:** The bell tower has been repaired, though it resulted in sidewalk and lawn damage that will need correction. The stairway at the southeast entrance of the sanctuary is under repair for trip hazards. Regarding roof leakage, the ridge tiles were repaired and it made a significant difference; the flashing on the south side of the tower still needs fixes. No progress on the status of the State/National Historic Sites registry, but the diocese is seeking to "bundle" St. Augustin with other churches in the area.

**Parish Life:** The Altar & Rosary Society will hold a different celebration each weekend of October for Rosary Month; Respect Life will host a live outdoor rosary. The Knights have scheduled a Smoker Poker evening for September 29, with proceeds benefiting people with intellectual disabilities. A&R's end-of-summer luncheon received excellent reviews and was an overall success. Respect Life hosted a Theology of the Body presentation by Father Zach Kautzky on September 9, which was well-attended; more presentations to come this fall. Father expressed the need for A&R, KofC, and the parish office to coordinate calendars more effectively.

**Adjournment:** 7:30 pm (Sherill moved, Nick 2<sup>nd</sup>). Next meeting will be October 9 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Bigelow