

St. Augustin Church Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 p.m. by 2018-19 Vice President Sherill Whisenand. Fr. Pisut opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Fr. Pisut, Matt Eide, Nick Bigelow, Marianne Dowd, Sherill Whisenand, Karen Pierick, Colin Riemersma, Christen Cota

Not Present: John Knight and John Gilbert

Guests: Kristel Kautzy (Principal, St Augustin School)

Approval of June 2019 Minutes: Marianne Dowd moved; Colin Riemersma, seconded. Unanimous approval as submitted.

2019-2020 Parish Council Executive Officers Election: The Council elected the following officers:

President	Nick Bigelow
Vice-President	Christen Cota
Secretary	John Gilbert

Discussion ensued to have the Executive Officers elected during the August meeting, not the June meeting, as stated in the current by-laws. By holding these elections in August (the Council does not meet in July), there is time for the newly-elected members to become familiar with the roles and consider placing their names in nomination for office. It will require a 2/3 vote of the Parish Council for the by-laws change. According to the current by-laws, the new Parish Council is seated after the May election and welcomed into the Council at the June meeting when executive officer elections are held for the coming year. The Parish Council sees this as disenfranchising new members who have not had the opportunity to know the Council's workings and perhaps seek office.

Items of Business

Feast Day Update: Nick Bigelow said that ticket sales are in full swing. He said they are seeking more help for set-up and tear-down from the Knights of Columbus. Colin Riemersma asked if Dowling students were planning to do a lot of these tasks for participation hours. Nick stated that yes, they would be assisting but more adult assistance was also needed. Colin Riemersma raised concerns that some parishioners with larger families or income-issues had approached him and said the cost of the tickets was too prohibitive (\$12 for individuals and \$40 cap for a family) and was there a solution to let these families participate at another level of cost. Discussion centered on a way to accommodate these families and it was decided that if any family was in this situation, they should call the Parish office and accommodations would be made. This policy would be publicized in the Church Bulletin and social media sites for parishioners to contact the church office. The Feast Day is for all and cost should not be a deterring factor, several Council members stated.

Capital Campaign: Fr. Pisut stated that the Finance Council needs to meet to have a discussion about the earmarked projects. He said there was a shortfall of the original goal and project decisions will be made based on immediate needs.

Parish Staff Changes: Fr. Pisut updated the Council that Randy Mudge was now the St. Augustin Business Manager and brings a breadth of experience to the position including a desire to help the Church and the School to become self-sustaining. Fr. Pisut acknowledged the retirement of Deacon Fred Pins, noting that a reception was recently held in Deacon Pins' honor so that parishioners could wish him well in his retirement. Questions were raised about deacon staffing and would more deacons be added. Fr. Pisut said that St. Augustin Church is considered adequately staffed and no new deacons are being assigned from the Diocese of Des Moines at this time. He noted that that decision comes from the Diocese and is always subject to change. He added that the Ordination Ceremony for Bishop-Elect Fr. William Joensen of Dubuque will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, West Des Moines, by invitation only on Friday, September 27. Additional details will come from the Diocese of Des Moines and are on their website at www.dmdiocese.org. It is an invitation-only event, limited by venue size.

Choir Loft: Parish Council members, at the behests of St. Augustin parishioners, have been asking for over one year (June 2018 Parish Council minutes). for the Choir to return to the Choir Loft. The Parish Council 2018 unanimously voted for the Choir to return to the Choir Loft and lend its support to Fr. Pisut in making that move happen. In October 2018, Fr. Pisut discussed the issue with the current choir and choir director in an informal question-and-answer session. The ensuing months were used to seek a piano (keyboard) for the Loft (estimated cost: \$4,000) and the sound system update/modification for the Loft area. Fr. Pisut stated that the money for the piano is not the issue and an anonymous donor might make the donation. He said he will work with the sound system vendor to ensure that there is the quality of the system to move the Choir back to the Loft. The Council reiterated its desire to have the Church restored to its original seating and the choir return to the choir loft at the nearest possible time, preferably before the new fall 2019 choir season. No final decision was made.

St. Augustin School Report: Kristel Kautzy, Principal, gave a report to the Parish Council, stating that the school year is ready to go. She said a Service Committee of 30+ volunteer parents came forward and offered to clean the school prior to the opening day. She said that she and Fr. Pisut will institute weekly mass from 8:45-9:15 a.m. Wednesdays at the Church. She said this ongoing event is being met with positive response by parents. She announced that Rachelle Watters will be the new Administrative Assistant of the School. Teachers report to the classroom on August 15. Students report to school, along with school staff and teachers on August 20. "Back to School Night" is set for Tuesday, August 27, 7-8 p.m. at St. Augustin School. The Parish Council thanks Ms. Kautzy for the positive changes which are being implemented. Ms. Kautzy stated that it is her intent that either she or a member of the St. Augustin Board of Education will attend all Parish Council meetings and encouraged Parish Council members to attend the Board of Education meetings. She added that her Board of Education representatives would also like to attend other parish subcommittee meetings as warranted.

Standing Reports

Board of Education: Council member Karen Pierick reported that the next BOE meeting is September 3, 6:30 p.m., at the Church Library – Council Members welcome and that the instituting of Wednesday Mass for the students is widely received as a positive move.

Finance: The Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. as part of its quarterly schedule. Fr. Pisut announced that parishioner Paul Mitchell is the incoming chairman of the Finance Committee

Buildings & Grounds: No report at this time

Parish Life: The Council asked Fr. Pisut to shed some insight into the life of the Des Moines Diocese incoming Bishop-elect William Joensen. No other issues/comments to report. Nick Bigelow commented that Fr. Pisut will celebrate a milestone birthday on the actual Feast Day of St. Augustin.

Adjournment was at 7:38 p.m. by unanimous consent

Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 p.m., Church Library

These August 13, 2019 Parish Council Meeting Minutes are respectfully submitted by,

Sherill Whisenand

Sherill Whisenand
Parish Council Member
Temporary Secretary