

Church of St Matthew Parish Council

Monthly Meeting Notes 2023

Meeting Notes for March 27, 2023

Members Present: Jerald Dosch (note taker), Kathy Goldenstein, Phil Grant (ex-officio), Maggie Lee, Janelle Rohr, Ellen Schneider, Linda Sellars, Anthony Minus (facilitator), Karen Thompson (trustee, ex-officio)

Absent: Zach Czaia

Zoom meeting began at 7pm.

Call to order, parish mission statement and vision.

Reflection.

Members approved notes from the previous meeting (February 23).

Finance Council Report, including e-box fundraiser update: The parish is currently running ahead of budget in combination weekly collections and qualified charitable contributions and other donations although weekend collections are slightly below original budget forecasts. "E-box" is the main electrical panel in the basement of the church.

Phil presented three resolutions regarding financial issues for a proxy request to the Chief Financial Officer of the Archdiocese. He noted that Parish Council consultation is required for all proxy requests. The pertinent language from a typical proxy request letter is "The Church of St. Matthew Pastoral Council has been consulted and offered its advice regarding the substance of the proxy request at its March 30, 2023 meeting."

As part of the proxy request, Phil brought three resolutions: (1) Elevator repair; (2) Line of Credit; (3) Roofs, electric panel ("e-box"), and solar. After discussion, the Council approved all of the resolutions. The resolutions will be inserted into the request letters to be sent to Thomas Mertens, CFO of the Archdiocese. The trustees and Phil are meeting with Mr. Mertens and Archdiocese COO Bill Lentsch on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

These resolutions for major projects were presented, discussed and approved by vote:

1. The Church of St. Matthew is authorized to proceed with repairs to the school building's elevator. Catholic Mutual Insurance will pay all of the costs except for our \$1000 deductible. Approved by unanimous vote.
2. The Church of St. Matthew is authorized to (a) replace its main electrical panel (bid estimate is \$109,000); (b) replace the flat (north end) roof of the school building (it is leaking and would/could hold solar panels in the future; bid estimate is \$220,000); and

(c) take out a \$500,000 Line of Credit from Catholic Finance Corporation. Apadana is the likely contractor based on excellent recommendations, bid cost (\$109,000) and favorable timing. The standing line of credit will only be used to cover expenses not paid for through the fundraising efforts. Approved by unanimous vote.

3. The Church of St. Matthew is authorized to install solar panels on suitable flat roofs of our school, church and Parish Center buildings. The solar panels would generate 80-90% of our electricity needs. Rebates and electrical energy cost savings will help with the solar installation costs. Approved by unanimous vote.

To date, the eBox fundraising effort (video and Donor Box platform) has raised over \$20,000 and at least \$10,000 in pledges. The eBox will be replaced this summer when school is not in session. The Donor Box effort has brought in about \$1000 but from people who don't normally give to the parish and are as far away as Switzerland.

The broader fundraising efforts will be kicked off later this spring.

Listening Weekend: Few comments from parishioners this time. The only questions were about the closed bathroom in the sacristy. It still needs to be repaired. There was a discussion about additional volunteer or paid help to work on the to-do list of repairs including those noted by Catholic Mutual. The basement bathrooms, including the new ADA unisex bathroom, will be announced and made available for the Holy Week services. There will be a diaper changing station installed in the new ADA bathroom. The Dosch family offered to pay for it. The two upstairs bathrooms need signs too.

Ongoing parish initiatives:

Parish Council Recruitment & Visibility

- Maggie has been adding columns to the weekly bulletin. This will be continued in the future, perhaps on a less frequent basis. "Why I joined the council" will be the next column.
- We will need three new people to serve on the parish council next year. Some names were discussed.
- Add a poster of parish council members in the back of the church.
- We need to do a "state of the church" presentation, perhaps at the May coffee Sunday.

Synod Update:

- Karen provided a synod update.
- Moving forward with a preliminary meeting with St. Stan's regarding possible areas we can collaborate on common goals for the two parishes and councils.

Parish Youth Engagement:

- Another movie night was held. Not as well attended as the first one but still a success.
- Perhaps make movie nights monthly during the winter moving forward.

- Plan a Sunday afternoon mass in the fall targeted for young people with pizza afterwards.
- Ask the Community of Saints choir to sing at mass in the fall. Maybe individual youth musicians too.
- Look for additional ways to directly involve youth in masses.
- Last Faith Formation meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, May 3. Short prayer service and BINGO. If you can help with the event, contact Janelle.
- First communions will be two Sunday masses and one 2 pm Saturday mass in May. Janelle needs lay ministry help for the 2 PM Saturday Mass.

Partnering with the community:

- Work with various West Side organizations and partners.
- Karen gave a brief historical overview and introduced current initial work.
- West Side visioning planning meeting will be held on May 2.
- Hope is that the meetings will help St. Matthew's advance its core mission.
- Talk about National Night Out planning for 2023 to follow up on last year.

Campus Safety and Security:

- Some fundraising has occurred but more money is needed.
- Options and vendors will be considered.
- Actions will be taken after the electrical panel, school roof repair and solar projects are done.
- The charter school has purchased and installed their own cameras.

Coffee Sunday will be hosted by the Parish Council on May 7.

New Business – nothing discussed

Next meeting will be on April 27. Perhaps start with a joint meeting with the Finance Council from 6:00 to 7:00 and then meet only as the Parish Council. A potential topic is assembling the "state of the parish" report. Facilitator will be Ellen and Kathy will take notes.

Fr. Steve's birthday is April 15. There will be cookies and reception after both of the weekend masses.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.