
Church of St Matthew Parish Council

Monthly Meeting Notes 2023

Meeting Notes for May 25, 2023

Members present: Jerald Dosch (facilitator), Kathy Goldenstein, Phil Grant (ex-officio), Maggie Lee (note taker), Anthony Minus, Becky Montgomery (Finance Council), Janelle Rohr, Ellen Schneider, Linda Sellars

Absent: Zach Czaia, Karen Thompson (trustee, ex-officio)

Guests: Tiffany Monita, Suzanne Clarke

7:05 - **Parish Council meeting began**

Jerald led the reflection

Notes from the April meeting were approved after discussion about the joint meeting format with Finance Council.

Phil reported that Zach will be stepping down from Council to support his wife and new child.

7:10 - **Introductions**

7:13 – **Listening Weekend Report**

Question^[ML1]: A parishioner asked if the statue of the Blessed Virgin could be moved to a more prominent place in church or if we can do a better job of highlighting with lights.

Why we don't use the alter bells during Mass and have any Alter Servers

Comment: A parishioner expressed concern that the parish was taking on too many large and expensive facility projects (replacing roof, e-box, solar panels).

- Council discussed being more proactive in communication, so parishioners understand the reasons behind each project and the financial benefits of doing the projects at the same time (reduced project costs, substantial tax rebates, etc.)
- The lack of financials in the bulletin on a weekly basis may also be contributing to the concern that perhaps the Parish can't afford what is planned.

Comment: A parishioner expressed surprise and disappointment that they were not allowed to record or take photos during 1 of the 3 First Communion Masses.

- Janelle explained that it's an Archdiocesan policy not to take pictures during Mass, in keeping with privacy rules and protection of youth. St. Matt's has permission to post photos of children on our website and all children receiving the sacrament had their photos taken after Mass. Those photos were shared with

families. It's difficult to prevent people from using their smart phones to record/photograph but someone showed up with a full complement of video recording equipment and was told they wouldn't be able to record. All families were required to come to the First Communion practice on May 10, and Janelle at that practice told families that pictures during Mass are not allowed, but pictures after Mass are fine.

- Anthony – maybe let adults know where they can find photos. And we need to communicate issues around photography.

7:25 – Community Engagement Meeting

Summary: The meeting was well attended with about 35-40 people. Another meeting is planned for June 13. Phil Boelter (Catholic Finance) was the mediator. Engaged everyone in a process to identify top areas of need. Similar to a synod-type process. There was a lot of overlap – consensus around what people think are the biggest needs in the community.

- Suzanne – surprised that crime didn't come up as a big concern.
- Linda – Energy in the room was great. A lot of ideas were generated that fell into distinct buckets. When potential names for the group-process were discussed, people from St. Stan's didn't like names with "West Side" – felt it didn't include them.
- Focus of these meetings is the West Side, not West St Paul and not West 7th, but what's going on in these meetings may be useful to St Stan's nonetheless if they do something similar in their neighborhood.
- Phil – thinks there will be synergies with St. Stan's.
- Tuesday June 13th – is the next meeting

7:35 – Discernment Process for New Council Members

- Kathy – Tiffany Monita and Tiffany Rivera Prescott are thinking about it. Tara Perron & Katie Shetka are planning to join.
- Kathy will follow up with Phil & Angela about introducing new council members.

Synod Update

Participants agreed that it was not worth the time to participate in the Archdiocese's meetings, and that we should direct energy toward activities in our parish community. Discussed the need to share what came from synod meetings with parishioners who participated so they know how their input is being used. Suggested that we remind people about the three priorities that came out of Synod process. Suzanne mentioned that the small groups idea from the Synod process may be something St Matthew pursues. Linda observed that the Community engagement and our meeting with St. Stan's came out of the synod.

Invite Someone to Mass

We'll designate this event for August Mass in the Park. Need to make a plan to promote it – will **discuss at the June meeting**. Cherokee park has been reserved.

Facilities Update

- E-box: expect to start work in 6 months - probably start around November. It will be highly disruptive. A check/payment has been sent.
- Roof & solar panels probably need to replace a few more roofs. Making that evaluation.
 - Will need a fresh proxy request for additional roofs and for solar panels' approval. It will require an additional line of credit.
 - When St Matthew does it all together, the church gets a 30% rebate from the federal government on the electric panel and solar panels + 15% rebate on roofs.
 - Savings will be immediate once the panels are in place. Estimate it will cover 90% of electric costs.
 - ROI – payback in 10-12 years then next 10 years is profit.
- Investing in pipes – improving efficiency of system – catching up on a backlog.

8:01 – St. Stan's meeting recap.

- 10-14 people attended from both parishes.
- Talked about programs at each parish, including how St. Stan's lost their youth ministry leaders.
- Discussed maybe sharing a part-time youth minister. Might be able to get a critical mass of teenagers. Their youth group was about 11 this year. Faith formation at St Stan's – 9 kids, at St Matthew, 37. Confirmation – don't have a class at St Stan's every year. St Matt's has been averaging 20 to 24 Confirmation candidates every year. At St Matthew this year, 36 children made their First Communion. About half the students receiving sacraments are from public schools and about half are from Community of Saints.
- Exchange in bulletins – interesting speakers @ St. Stan's in the Fall. Could promote their events in our bulletin and St Stan's could promote our events in the St Stan's bulletin.

8:04 – New Business

National Night Out

- Ellen is willing to take the lead. Looking at partnering with another entity or organization that might have something. Promote it and make a regular thing.
- Ellen is filling out the paperwork with the city.

8:15 – Revitalizing the Congregation/Discussion of the book: ***Keeping the Covenant***

- See attached summary

Next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, June 29.

Facilitator: Maggie Lee

Note taker: Ellen Schneider