

SS PETER and PAUL PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2024

Attendees: Charlie Gaughan, Dan Gerken, Greg Jones, Colleen Stuart, Joan Haag, Joe Burke, Katherine Nicaise-Steffen, Kevin Morgan, Marcia De Fazio, Robert Coutch, Sharon Coutch, Sharon Keller, Warren Restine, Kathryn Walsh, Kimberly Bourke, Daniel Rosati.

Excused: Rev. Jim Cuipek, Rev. Ted Jost, Rev. Paul Mukasa, Deacon Rob Ciezki, Amanda Przyklek, Deacon Carl Koester, Deacon Dennis Conroy, Amanda Przyklek, Dick Blake, Katherine Sion-Wypij, Eileen Lyon, Jennifer Golinski, Judy Shelley, Karin Dusza, Lauren (Ren) Gibson, Leslie Brooks, Lori Baker, Rachel Rizzo.

Unexcused: None

The meeting was held in the parish meeting room and was called to order by President Warren Ristine at 7:00 PM. The opening prayer was presented by Warren. The mission statement was read by all.

Special Presentation - Hamburg Hiking Trail

A presentation was given by the Hamburg Walking Trail Committee headed by Kathryn Walsh and committee members Kim Bourke and Daniel Rosati. They presented their vision of a walking trail in the Village of Hamburg along 18 Mile Creek from the overlook on East Main St. to the Hamburg Golf Course. Because the trail is adjacent to private property, the committee needs to get the permission of the property owners to move forward with the hiking trail. They presented their reasons for wanting to establish the trail. Kathryn, who lost her son in a MVA six years ago, found healing in walking along the Creek. The committee answered questions placed before it by the pastoral council members. Some of the issues submitted to the Hiking Trail Committee before the Pastoral Council Meeting were:

Liability: What happens if someone is injured on the trail?

Answer: Kim Bourke responded to this question. The committee brought with them a pamphlet addressing this issue entitled "New York Recreational Use Statute and The Private Landowner." Kim explained that New York State protects landowners who provide recreational opportunities on their property. The recreational use statute in New York State prohibits suing landowners who have donated their land for recreational use by the public.

Maintenance: Who is responsible for maintaining the trail?

Answer: Although this has not been worked out as the project is in its early stages, some suggestions for maintenance were: volunteering by different community groups, a service project for confirmation candidates, a Boy Scout project. However, this is still up in the air.

Parking: Greg was concerned that if the trail becomes popular in the future, might parking be an issue?

Answer: Since the trail is in the middle of Village, parking shouldn't be an issue since there is plenty of parking space in the Village. This may need to be revisited in the future.

The Mechanics of Building the Trail: Warren asked about width of the trail; clearing of brush, rocks and other debris; marking of the trail, etc.

Answer: Kathryn acknowledges that the trail needs work; e.g., drainage repair at the overlook. Since the trail is already being used, the committee's vision is to make it more accessible, safer, and as means of healing, spirituality, and solace.

Warren thanked the trail committee for their presentation and told them that the Pastoral Council would pass on the information presented. At which point Kathryn, Kim, and Dan left the meeting.

Kevin requested that members present be polled to see how many members are in favor of the Hamburg Hiking Trail. Joan seconded the motion. All were in favor of the Trail.

Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2024

Warren called for a vote to approve the June 10, 2024, meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements

Warren welcomed new Pastoral Council Members Sharon Coutch, Dan Gerken, Marcia DeFazio, as well as Youth Representative Colleen Stuart, sister of former Youth Representative Holly Stuart, and St. Vincent de Paul Representative Charlie Gaughan.

Warren noted that Joan accepted the Secretary position.

Old Business

Family of Parishes Road to Renewal update

Family #28 is now known as the
"Eternal Flame Catholic Community"

It was made clear that name of the church (SS Peter and Paul) is not changing.

ALPHA:

ALPHA is run by the parish family with each family parish taking turns hosting an ALPHA event. Sharon and Robert Coutch were active in an ALPHA community in Pennsylvania. They gave overview of its purpose and how that purpose is accomplished:

ALPHA is an evangelization opportunity which seeks to introduce the basics of Christianity by sharing a pot luck meal, music, video and discussion. Sharon and Robert stressed that it is the video that is used for delivering the evangelization message. With each following meeting, those who attended are encouraged to invite others to join them. Eventually, as friendships are made, those ALPHA core members who have struck up a relationship with those seeking more information or who have expressed an interest in pursuing the faith further may be invited to accompany them to Mass where they can be introduced to other church members thus feeling more comfortable in their surroundings. There are two alpha groups: An alpha adult group and an alpha youth group.

Two retreats are scheduled in November for ALPHA. In addition, there are three billboards along the 190 promoting ALPHA. The Pastoral Council will put this topic on the October 24 Agenda.

The Pillar Meetings have been put on hold.

New Business

Opening prayer SignUpGenius - Warren indicated that there are still spots to be filled for prayer leaders for pastoral council meetings. He asked the committee to check out the SignUpGenius for months needed for prayer leaders.

Pastoral council meeting- Normally scheduled for April 14, 2025 is being moved to April 7, 2025 due to Holy Week. Meeting place to be determined.

Subcommittee sign up sheets we're past so that the committee members could sign up for committees they are interested in.

Kathy gave an update for the picnic held in June at the Moose Lodge. She indicated that all went well and that the Moose Lodge staff was most helpful. She felt that all had a good time even though it was a little chilly that day.

Sharon explained for new members what that the Discipleship Subcommittee extends a warm welcome to new parishioners by taking them a welcome gift. Included in the gift bag are items such as: a loaf of bread, holy water, Spiritual pads and post it notes, etc. Subcommittee members are assigned new parishioners to deliver the bags to. She also indicated that bags, tissue paper, ribbons, and items to put in the bags are available at each meeting. The bread can be purchased with a parish gift card.

Warren advised the committee that painting is being done around the windows of the church and new copper gutters are being installed. Hopefully, this will stop the water from seeping into the church. In addition, the new columbarium in the cemetery was blessed this summer. He encouraged the members stop over at the cemetery and see it.

A thank you card was sent to the to the pastoral committee from our previous youth representative, Holly Stuart, it was passed around so the members could read it.

Standing committee reports: comments, concerns, questions?

There were no comments concerns or questions?

For the good of the parish (parishioner/member's concerns)

There were no parishioner's or member's concerns at this time.

Adjournment

Warren led the members in the Road to Renewal Pray.

Reminder that the next meeting will be held on Monday, October 21.

Greg Jones is the prayer leader.

The meeting ended at 8:06.