

St. Alphonsus Parish Council Meeting

October 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Richard McAuliffe at 7:00 PM.

Sandy Olsen led an Opening Prayer.

Old Business:

- A. The minutes from the August meeting were available for review and there was one correction to the spelling of John Lach's name in category of Old Business, section E.
- B. Open Meeting Rules- the council feels that it is necessary to set some basic guidelines for the public participation at parish council meetings. When writing these guidelines, it is important to remember that the council is an advisory board. Greg Ghering will be drawing up some suggested guidelines for the council to review at the next meeting.
- C. Ushers and Greeters- Maggie will be meeting today with someone about the "Time and Talent" survey but this may be put on the back burner because of the stewardship assessment that the staff will be researching.
- D. Marketing Committee- no report available

New Business

- A. Recap of planning meeting-The council will brainstorm on other forms of communication for both the parish and the staff.
There was discussion about reworking the bulletin which would include starting with a letter from Father Pat that will be composed by Father Pat and Rich McAuliffe to notify the parish of the short and long term plans, goals, and priorities. It was suggested that we put the goal of "A stronger, larger, engaged parish drawn to Jesus Christ" in the bulletin regularly. Sandy, Lisa, and Angie will be summarizing the minutes from the September planning meeting and will meet with Maggie and Maureen. This summary will be emailed to all council members and will be the start of ideas to communicate to the parish members.

B. Communication-

*Kristin Ray suggested that we perform a survey through “survey monkey” asking the parish how they would like to be communicated with and what they would like to be informed of. It was suggested that we also carry out a paper survey for those parishioners that do not use the internet. Kristin will organize the survey and then check back with the parish council.

*To better facilitate communication of the staff and parish council it was suggested that both groups share their minutes at their meetings.

*Placing the staff profiles in the bulletin was another idea to increase awareness of who is doing what in the parish. Father Pat will ask the staff at the next staff meeting if they are interested in doing this.

C. Father Pat presented an article for the council members to read that studied what matters to people looking for a new congregation. He also provided statistics from 2011-2015 about the activity of the church with regard to baptisms, funerals, marriages, confirmations and registered parishioners. Upon evaluating the statistics, it showed that all areas seem to be similar year to year.

The next meeting will be on November 7 and Greg Ghering will provide the opening prayer. All members are asked to bring a list of ideas about increasing communication in the parish for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Kerri A. Barton

Parish Council Secretary