

**Sts. Isidore & Maria Torribia Parish  
Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
February 24, 2019**

**Present**

**Council**

Arthur Jones	Anna Bauer	Roger Parulski	
Josh Apenowich	Joseph Machuga	Robert Wylie	Andrea Ketchum

Staff - Fr. Pat Connor	Deacon Doug Farwell	Peter Olausson	Nicolette Butler
Susanne Krebs			

Absent - Teresa White

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Chair/Secretary Art Jones.

**Opening Prayer** - Fr. Pat offered the opening prayer

**Agenda Approval** - An agenda had been emailed to the council members. Fr. Pat asked to add "Bulletin changes regarding listing of committee members" under Pastor remarks. Moved by Anna Bauer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Wylie to approve the agenda with Fr. Pat's addition. PASSED.

**Meeting Minutes Approval**- The December 2018 meeting minutes had been emailed to the council members. Motion by Anna Bauer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Machuga to approve the minutes as distributed. PASSED

**Pastor Remarks** – Easter Masses - The rules of abstinence for Easter were reviewed. They will be placed in the bulletin for a reminder to parishioners. The mass schedules for Easter will be posted in the bulletin as well.

**Bulletin Changes**- Fr. Pat discussed changing the way committee members are listed on the bulletin. Now they are listed by church. In an effort to unify the parish Fr. Pat proposed that the members be listed by the council they serve on without listing a church affiliation. Both the Finance Council and the Parish Council are serving for the whole parish, not an individual church.

Fr. Pat also proposed a mission statement: "We are committed to overseeing each sited of our three churches, and bringing the cares and concerns of all our people to our council meetings for discussion. We are committed to avoiding isolation and work for unity." Council agreed that our current mission statement states this but requested that action on Fr. Pat's statement be tabled so it could be deliberated on further.

Motion by Anna Bauer that Finance and Parish Council members be listed by their affiliation, officers first then members alphabetically with alternates listed at the end. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger Parulski. PASSED

**Council Resignation** - Fr. Pat reported that Maynard Black has resigned from the council. He is now a member of All Saints parish to obtain a discount for his children attending school in that parish.

## **New Business-**

**Attendance/Financial Report-** Suzanne Krebs presented on the dramatic decrease in attendance and collections revenue that has occurred in the past 6 months. It was known that a large number of people from Corning were attending our churches, especially St. Joseph's. With a new priest coming to the All Saints Parish those people have shifted back to that parish. That has resulted in a 38% decrease in attendance. A small decrease was seen when Fr. Erb retired but the migration of people back to Corning has surpassed this. All Saints Parish has seen an increase in collections and attendance that almost matches the decreases seen at Sts. Isidore & Maria Torribia Parish.

With this migration collections revenue also dropped. Collections revenue is down \$36,000 for the first seven months of the fiscal year with a forecasted shortfall of \$60,000 for the year if this trend continues. The parish savings account (\$11,000) has already been depleted covering expenses. Social funds from St. Catherine's and St. Joseph's churches will have to be used in an emergency to cover expenses. Steps have been taken to cut expenses such as reduction in personnel hours in the office and maintenance, as well as delaying the repairs, the choir loft window at St. Catherine's for one. Suzanne estimates the parish will be out of money in 6 to 9 months. If the parish runs out of funds it will cease to operate.

A long discussion ensued on ways to address this crisis. It was agreed by the council that the following actions will take place:

- Parishioners will be informed of the crisis starting with the masses on March 2nd & 3rd.
- Art Jones and Anna Bauer volunteered to present this information to the parishioners at the masses. Suzanne will prepare a script that they can use so the parishioners are informed accurately.
- Suzanne will contact the dioceses to schedule a Pastoral Planner to lead town hall meetings with the parishioners. Pastoral Planner will work with a committee of parishioners that will be assembled to look at options for the parish. This will be done as soon as possible.
- Suzanne will develop an article for the bulletin.

## **Old Business**

**Parish Town Hall Meetings on Mass Schedule Changes-** These meetings were in regards to the mass schedule changes that were enacted when Fr. Erb retired. Peter reported the meetings were lightly attended. Only about 60 people attended both meetings and about 100 of the surveys were returned. The desire for Sunday masses at the 3 churches was expressed but no workable options were presented. The geography of the parish makes it impossible for one priest to offer masses at the times the people in attendance wanted. It was expressed both at the meetings and on the surveys that alternating masses on an approximately 6 month rotation between churches was not popular. Peter will bring the surveys to the next council meeting for members to review.

**Next Meeting -** March 10, 2019. 6 PM at St. Joseph's Hall

**Closing prayer –** Deacon Doug offered the closing prayer.

Motion by Anna Bauer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Wylie to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM

Respectfully submitted  
Arthur Jones  
Council Chair/Secretary