

Holy Innocents Church

Parish Council Minutes-June 8, 2017

Present: Bridget Dinardi, Danielle Dispenza, Mark Moran, JT McNally, Grace Baer, Lina Spedalieri, Mary Law, Brother Henry Stephen, O.P., Mark Mannix, Kate Vullo, Alice Wagner, Maryanne Dowd, Kate Howe, Steve Busby, Jackie Kovatch, Tim Hickey, George Mulry, Mike Fisher, Gerard Finelli Father Hugh Burns, O.P., Wanda DeJesus, Mary Doerr, Father Frank Sutman, O.P., Olga Carlsen, Beth Curley,

Absent: Rither Alabre, Mike Cusack

Meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm.

Opening Prayer-Beth Curley

There are two new members of the Parish Council. Rither Alabre was not able to attend the meeting. Danielle Dispenza introduced herself. She has been a Pleasantville resident for ten years. Danielle is a catechist and very involved with the Re-Creation program. Since she currently has children in the Pleasantville schools, Danielle will be able to bring her knowledge of community events to the Parish Council.

Grace Baer had a correction to the May minutes. She wanted to make it known that the OLP committee is not soliciting funds from the Parish for their anniversary celebration. The committee has been well received and there are many volunteers. A meeting has been scheduled for July 20th. **With this change the minutes were then approved unanimously.**

Since June begins a new Parish Council year, an election of officers was held. The new officers are:

President-Mike Fisher

Vice President-Jackie Kovatch

Secretary-Kate Vullo

Pastor's Report-Father Hugh Burns, O.P.-Father welcomed Brother Henry Stephen, O.P. who is a deacon and who will be with us this summer. Two other brothers (Brother Isaiah Beiter, O.P. and Brother Ignatius Weiss, O.P.) will be in residence and serving at Rosary Hill. Sister Donna Kelly will be the new Pastoral Associate. She has already attended several events at HI. She will officially start in September. Father attended Pleasantville Day and thought we should have a booth next year where we could display pictures and souvenirs from OLP. The old equipment has been taken off the roof. Fundraising is going forward for Renew and Rebuild. George Mulry is chairman of the campaign. The campaign will go public in the fall. A price has been obtained for security cameras and soundproofing the social hall. The security cameras would cost about \$15,000. If enough money is raised from the capital campaign, Father would like to purchase new chairs for the hall. The speaker series will begin again in the fall. Scheduled so far are: Brother Hyacinth in September speaking about food, a speaker from the Southern Poverty Law Center in October speaking about hate speech, Pastor Paul in November for an ecumenical event (perhaps musical) on the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther and in December Father Frank speaking about Julian of Norwich, a Christian mystic and theologian.

Committee Reports/Liaison Updates:

Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors

Nick Antonaccio has trained a few new lectors. He will have a training session for the new Eucharistic Ministers soon. (Bridget Dinardi)

Finance

The finance committee met last night (Tues 6/6/17) to review the budget before submitting it to the Archdiocese (Mike Cusack)

Food Pantry

Nothing new this month (Bridget Dinardi)

Maintenance

I will not be able to attend tomorrow night's meeting as I have a graduation related event to attend.

Father Hugh can bring you up to speed regarding the progress of our ongoing HVAC project.

Barbara and I are still working on the budgeting of the security system and will update you and Father as soon as we have this info.

Please extend my best wishes to the entire parish council and thank them for their energy and efforts!

(Harry Roney)

Making All Things New

Nothing new this month (Maryanne Dowd)

Parish Events

This is the announcement that was circulated: Parish Events will be hosting its annual meeting on Tuesday, June 6th. We will be discussing upcoming events, setting dates, and organizing the chairpersons and committees for the events. Parish Events currently organizes the High Tea, Penny Social, Advent Tea, Happy Birthday to Jesus Party, 100th Anniversary of OLP next September and many other events for all ages. We are always open to suggestions for new ideas. We will continue Sister Kathy's tradition of bringing parishioners together for fellowship and community spirit. All are welcome to join us. (Jackie Kovatch)

Additional Committee Updates:

American Heritage Girls-Steve Busby-Tomorrow evening (June 9th) there will be a badge ceremony.

Twenty-two girls currently participate. There will be a Scout Mass on Sunday, June 11th for both boys and girls.

E Mail-Steve Busby- 820 people are still subscribed to e mail blast. 51 percent open it, which is very good for a nonprofit. People often go to the e mail blast and then on to the website. Go to e mail and then they look at the website.

Website-JT McNally-The website is changed for the liturgical season and updated. Father would like to obtain e mails for the people who attend the speakers in order to send them promotions about future speakers.

Finance-Tim Hickey- On Tuesday evening there was a meeting. The Finance committee in the future needs to be appraised of any decisions made by the Council that could affect the budget e.g.: no raffle this year. Mike Fisher requested a formal update from the Finance Committee in September. He would like to know what they expect from the Parish Council.

Mary Doerr, a very active, lifelong parishioner asked to speak on behalf of herself and her parents. Mary became aware of the Renew and Rebuild Campaign as a result of the call that her parents received. Her parents were surprised at the very substantial amount of money that they were asked to contribute to this campaign especially since they were not aware that the campaign was taking place. Mary also expressed concern that the parishioners were being financially profiled according to what the Archdiocese felt that they should be giving. She did not feel that it was right to divide parishioner on the basis of their funds as most people contribute what they feel they can whether large or small. The Parish Council was very appreciative of Mary's comments. Discussion took place and all agreed that Mary had many valid points. Although this campaign is being orchestrated by the Archdiocese, the Parish will put a notice in the bulletin announcing the campaign (ahead of schedule). Also discretion is being used by the people making the phone calls and often the amounts asked are being reduced.

Maintenance-Tim Hickey-Harry Roney is getting estimates on the stairs and soundproofing.

Parish Events-Jackie Kovatch-The Penny Social is on July 13th. Mike would, as president, like to have a calendar of parish events. He will check with Alice Fortino about this.

Reminder from Maryanne Dowd that all budget items have to be approved by Barbara Mackin.

Re-Creation-Danielle Dispenza-The final Re-Creation event was a very successful barbeque.

Social Concerns-Alice Wagner-On May 13th, Alice and her committee celebrated several Sister's birthdays with pie, ice cream, iced tea and candy.

Refugee Outreach-Mike Fisher-The plan is that in the next couple of months a liaison would be assigned to each of our six families. The Archdiocese will open a Refugee assistance office in Yonkers this summer. Wanda DeJesus, Grace Baer and Mark Moran will attend the World Refugee meeting that is being held at the Pleasantville Community Synagogue on June 20th. If you know of anyone who would be interested in working with the refugees, please let the Parish Council know.

A Home-JT McNally- JT put an announcement in the bulletin about the need for furniture.

FORMED-Olga Carlsen- In September, the parish will lose the right to free sign up. Olga will look into what we can do to keep this service free.

When the Council reconvenes in September we will have a short team building exercise. Questions to think about during the summer:

1: Tell us about yourself and, if you wish, your family: years in the Parish, how you spend your days (home or work). 2: What led you to join the Parish Council? 3: What are some of your interests or strengths that you feel can help our Parish Community and Committees? If you have an active Committee role, share that story. 4: If you are unassigned, what Committees or specific areas interest you?

Closing Prayer-Beth Curley

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting Thursday, September 14, 2017.

Minutes submitted by Bridget Dinardi