

St. Nicholas Parish Council Meeting Sunday, July 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President, Don Dufner. Prayer was said by the council members.

Members present: Fr. James Statz, Mike Kuechle, Sue Stommes, Mary Caskey, Anita Neu, Dave Stang, Don Dufner, Kelly Bautch and Roger Utecht, also Parish Secretary Brenda Kraemer. Excused: Elmer Frank and Sandy Stang.

Sue approved the minutes from our March meeting and Mike seconded it. There were 2 additions to the agenda: under old business, the water softener in the parish house and under New Business, a Time & Talent Survey was added. Dave approved the agenda and Anita seconded it.

Old Business: A. Budget for Liturgical Items: Still being discussed is the Rose vestment. It will take at least 3 months to construct the new vestment. Council will look into some local options and look at fundraising and/or grant options.

B. Extermination of bats: Mike got an estimate from Dick's Nuisance Animal Control from St. Cloud at \$2,400. There would be a 3 year guarantee. This price does not include clean up in the attic. Council members will try to get a second estimate.

C. Cemetery Project: Dave reported that the committee received the final plans last Friday and will need to approve them. There are a couple of issues that need to be resolved before they give the final go-ahead to Cold Spring Granite. It will take approximately 3 weeks for the Granite Co. to have the work done. The color of the granite chosen is "Academy Black." There have been 12 donations to the project so far.

D. Water Softener: Mike spoke to Erken's Water and they agree that we are using too much salt. A suggestion was made to install a flow meter to see how much water is actually being used. There may be an underground leak.

New Business: A. Appointing a New Trustee: The diocese has a 10 year rule for the length of appointment of Church Trustees. Both Mike and Mary's years of service have been over 10 years now. The council is VERY APPRECIATIVE of both Mike and Mary's services! It was decided to stagger appointments. This "position" is an appointment and not an election and appointment comes from the Priest. Fr. Statz has spoken to Ken Lutgen and he has accepted the appointment. The transition will take place during the September Council meeting. Fr. Statz is asking for suggestions for the second trustee position.

B. Meeting with Bishop: Fr. Statz was called into a meeting with the Bishop which stemmed from complaints about a particular homily at St. Anne's. Fr Statz is asking us to pray that he is gifted with the Holy Spirit and if there are any problems in the future to come to either him or Brenda in the Parish Office and he would discuss them directly.

C. Salaries of Employees: Salaries of employees were reviewed. Fr. Statz would like to be paying a just wage for all employees of the Church. Suggestions were made and final approval will happen after the annual financial report is finished.

D. Time & Talent Survey: It was brought up that we have not had any new people to be ushers, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers or Servers for quite some time. The council should bring ideas to the next meeting to invite new members to help.

Financial Report: May, 2018 Total income= \$5,702.93 Total expenses= \$5,599.37 Net income= 103.56
June, 2018 Total income= \$14,857.12 Total Expenses= \$ 17,450.70 Net Income= \$-2,593.58
Mike approved the financial report and Sue seconded it.

Maintenance Committee: A list was made by the committee of Elmer Frank, Ken Lutgen, Robert Kraemer and Mary Caskey. There are numerous jobs to complete, some larger than others. The list will be made available if there are any volunteers to help out.

Christian Women: There was a meeting in June. Some members did attend the Deanery meeting on June 14th. St. Nicholas was in charge of serving breakfast to the group of around 250 women. New Co-chairs will need to be appointed for the groups in September, as the co-chair moves to the chair spot. June Donut Sunday was well attended. There will be a Donut Sunday scheduled in July, August and Sept.

Men's Society: At the June meeting, it was decided to meet just once per year unless needed.

Cemetery Committee: In addition to the whole Cemetery project, the committee will be trimming trees and other general maintenance items on Saturday, July 14th. There will be a lunch and refreshments provided to helpers. All are welcome to come help.

Religious Education: Brenda met with SA and Fr. Statz and dates were decided for the upcoming year. First Reconciliation will be set for December 15th at SA and First Communion will be set for Sunday, March 31st. Holy Week will be much the same as it was last year, with student involvement. The Easter Vigil will be held at SA in 2019. There will be a new Safe Environment format this year. Classes will start in October.

Pastor's comments: Checks will no longer be left in the sacristy for people to pick up, but will be mailed to them instead. To help alleviate concerns mentioned in the meeting with the Bishop, the Angelus will not be prayed before Mass and all Latin will be removed.

Future agenda items: Snow Removal

Next meeting date: Tuesday, September 18th at 7:00 pm in the Parish House.

Motion was made by Mary to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Dave. The meeting was closed with a prayer by the Council Members.

Submitted by Brenda Kraemer, Parish Secretary