

The Catholic Community of Sumter Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting August 22, 2017

Members present: Fr. Giovannie Nunez – Parish Administer, Fr. Noly Berjuega-Parochial Vicar, Bro. Rufino, Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary, Valerie Williams, Andrew Williams, David Marcella, Dr. Jan Neuner, Joey Duggan, Paul Dunlap, Harvin Bullock, Dr. Mark Crabbe, Colleen Yates, and Chris Hilditch **Members missing:** Dee Reiter

Additional attendees: J Seth, Irene Dunlap, Margaret Daugherty

Fr. Gio opened the meeting with The Hail Mary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Valerie Williams asked for any Committee Reports: No Committee updates given.

OLD BUSINESS:

* **Margaret J. Lafoon Trust- College Scholarships-** No Updates at this time

* **AED/ Defibrillators** – Dr. Mark Crabbe asked that the CPR and AED Training be placed in the bulletin when scheduled. So, parishioners can sign up to attend.

Paul Dunlap noted that the AED box placed at the St. Jude location blends into the wall color. It would be easy for someone to run into it. Safety tape will be placed around the edges to make it stand out and avoid injury.

* **Subcommittee Report-**Andrew Williams shared that Jim Fields attended the last subcommittee meeting and brought all the plans/architectural drawings from the FCCC (Future Catholic Community Committee). This was done to show the current subcommittee what has already been discussed and where the FCCC stopped in the planning process. Valerie Williams is working on arranging a tour at St. Michael's Catholic Church for interested Parish Council members to tour a recently built church.

NEW BUSINESS:

* **One Faith One Family (FCCC)** – J Seth. Mr. Seth was invited to answer questions and give Fr. Gio and the Parish Council a briefing of where the committee stands to date. Harvin Bullock asked if St. Anne Church was a "protected property". If a buyer was interested in the property but did not want to keep it as a church. J Seth stated that the church is Not a historically protected building. It can be torn down.

If St. Anne was sold, Valerie Williams and J Seth discussed possible places in North Carolina to store the Stained-Glass Windows.

Andrew Williams stated that the issue would be avoiding a negative impact on the Catholic School. J Seth stated that the FCCC plan (in the event of St. Anne's sale) was to relocate SASJ catholic school to the St Francis Xavier Property and the Old school at the St Jude property.

J Seth stated that the FCCC (prior) decided to build both the Church and the Coffe Building (Center of Faith Formation and Education) at the same time, but with a priority on the Coffe Building. At the time, cost for the Church was 3.5 Million and the Coffee Building was 4.5 Million.

Mark Crabbe stated that after the Subcommittee viewed the plans for building, it was felt that the Coffe Building was designed for K-6 grade and is not big enough for a k-12grade school or even the Religious Education Classes K-9grade. We will need to look at the square footage of the Coffe Building in light of the needs of the community. J Seth stated that the designs were made to easily expand.

Fr. Gio stated that the original plans for the Church was for an 800-seat church. The Diocese may require a larger seating capacity for building a new church.

J Seth stated that the most important thing to the success of this project is the enthusiasm of the Priests and Commitment to seeing it through. A new campaign will be a major project and we will need a stable pastor, the support of the Bishop and the parishioners. J Seth also offered to attend the next subcommittee meeting with some former members of the FCCC to give guidance and pass on knowledge.

Coleen Yates stated her displeasure with a decision to move to Hwy 521. She stated that she thought there would be a community vote on whether to stay at St. Anne or move to 521. She stated that there are a large number of St. Anne parishioners who never gave their approval to move to 521. St. Anne means a lot to this community and there should be “a more democratic discussion” about this issue.

Mark Crabbe stated that neither Parish Council nor the subcommittee made any decision to move or not move. The vote was taken years ago under Fr. McKay and Fr. Carboy. There were numerous community meetings to educate and notify people and a vote was taken. The results were held by Fr. Carboy and Fr. McKay, but the community did vote to move to the land on 521. This happened years ago after it was determined that St. Anne could not be expanded. Now, because of the moisture damage, St. Anne would need over a million dollars’ worth of repairs but it still doesn’t make it any bigger. We may want to stay at our current parish but we need to take care of the future generations.

Jan Neuner stated that the One Faith One Family Campaign was approved by The Diocese and conducted based on the decision to move to 521. This decision was made long ago. The community needs to be in a place where we can grow and expand.

J Seth stated that the sale of St. Anne was always part of the plan.

Coleen Yates stated that she did not feel that she could contribute anything to the Parish Council and left the meeting.

Fr. Gio stated that we must brace ourselves for parishioners with these reactions.

J Seth was thanked for his presentation to the parish council.

***One Faith One Family Finances** – Margaret Daugherty discussed the history of the pledge campaign and presented spread sheets showing the contributions over the past 5 years have steadily decreased. Donations do come in, but the amounts are low. Andrew Williams asked about the diocese assessments of the One Faith One Family money. Nicole stated that St. Anne and St. Jude were allowed to run a piggyback campaign along with the Diocese Our Heritage Our Hope Campaign. Currently, it is not known if the diocese assesses the OFOF money already collected. Tom Paturzo, CFO should be consulted.

***Building and Grounds Committee** – Fr. Gio is looking for a volunteer to head a small committee to identify the repair issues that need to be addressed around both locations. We need to continue to take care of what we have now. Fr. Gio asked for a volunteer from the Parish Council who knows what to do, who to call, how to get it done. David Marcella feels that the problem with volunteers is that they are not obligated. We need a paid employee. David agreed to chair a committee and go around the facilities and make a punch list of what needs to be done and then recommend a volunteer or to call a professional.

***Office/Staffing (possibilities)** Fr. Gio discussed the need to have a more streamlined telephone system with only one telephone number. Calls come in and would be disseminated to the appropriate person. We would also have an emergency option for after hour calls from the hospital. There is also a need for a proper secretary at St. Anne office. Someone to be the face of the office and answer the needs of the parishioners. Tom should be freed up to concentrate on the finances. Any person hired should be bilingual. The plan is to start with the addition of the phone system. A more unified and streamlined office will help to answer the needs of the parishioners.

Fr. Gio thanked the Parish Council for their time and dedication. Fr. Noly closed the meeting with the Glory Be.

Parish Council will meet again on September 19th. *(rescheduled for September 26)

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary