

**Parish Council Meeting Minutes**  
St. Malachy Church Conference Room  
August 26, 2024; 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Members present: Fr. Gifford, Brad Maas, Deacon Robert O'Rourke, Jeremy Bries, Heidi Vorac, Becky Werner, Christina Pustejovsky, Kristin Wilson, Brian Sebastian, Kevin Lillis, Julie Atwell

Parishioners present: Judy Kanke, Devon Schaaf

**Meeting Summary:** Parish Council convened their monthly meeting on 26 August 2024. Most members were present with a few exceptions. This meeting was Mr. Jeremy Bries' first meeting as the new Parish Council Chairperson. The new school principal, Mrs. Devon Schaaf, was present for an introduction. Primary topics of discussion during the meeting included the upcoming Parish Mission, debate across the council on the publication of the Council's Subcommittee Report on Stained Glass Windows, and council discussion on best practices for communicating decision-making processes to the Parish at-large. Fr. Gifford also introduced the plan to make a pilgrimage to Ireland in 2025 with an open invite to parishioners. Additional discussion topics and notes can be found in the official meeting minutes. The meeting was closed in prayer, noting the next meeting scheduled for 23 September 2024.

### **1.0 Call To Order**

- 1.1 Opening Prayer: Jeremy Bries
- 1.2 Agenda reviewed by Council and voted to proceed with no changes
- 1.2 Minutes from June meeting reviewed and approved with noted changes
- 1.4 Review of Parish Council membership information - deferred to September meeting

### **2.0 Faith Formation**

- 2.1 Into His Likeness - no major commentary noted

### **3.0 Reports**

#### **3.1 Officer Reports**

- 3.1.1 Chairperson Report
- 3.1.2 Becky Werner provided a summary of the Finance Council Meeting Minutes. Finance council meeting minutes are available on the church website in a similar location to Parish Council meeting minutes.
- 3.1.3 Brad Maas had no reports as Secretary

#### **3.2 Committee reports**

- 3.2.1 Introduction of Devon Schaaf (new St. Malachy Principal)
  - School update:
  - 121 students total enrolled from 68 families. Statistically, roughly 1/3 of enrolled families are not Catholic
  - Very excited to kick off the year and thankful for the well-prepared school

-Program goal: Vertically align science and social studies programs

\*Kevin Lillis asked if these changes require any sort of approval. Devon answered that the diocese doesn't need to approve changes within the curriculum for the changes being proposed.

-Professional goal: develop a Catholic School Improvement Plan - working with the staff and education commission to develop goals and a plan to achieve them

-Final goal: update school website and update parish website as well

-Principal looking for a rep from parish to be on education commission, prayers for staff and students, and looking for support in increasing compensation for teachers.

\*Jeremy Bries asked about orders of magnitude different from public school teacher compensation. Further research required.

### 3.2.2 Parish Mission

Kevin Lillis and Julie Atwell provided an update on the Parish Mission

-Still need to fill position of Personal Ask Coordinator

-Julie Atwell requested council members ask at least 5 people (each) to attend the parish mission

-Speaker identified: Oscar Rivera. Worship Leader: John Paul von Arx

-Kevin Lillis further explained the purpose of the Quads: to learn and be taught how to be an effective disciple

-Devon Schaaf - question about the Quads and how they are formed and who you are put with. Answer: quads are formed based on group dynamic, availability, etc.

When does registration open: Exact date still TBD, estimated 4-6 weeks prior to the event. Ticket cost \$35/person. Assistance available for parishioners with concerns about the cost.

Request from Julie Atwell on Summerfest 2024 outcome - postponed for September or October Parish Council meeting

## 4.0 Old Business

4.1 Parish Council Subcommittee on Stained Glass - final report provided to Parish Council for review. Report intended to capture central themes with a focus on tasking appropriate committees to come up with recommendations for improvement. Plan is to use this as continued discussion point for current and future Parish Council meetings

Discussion across the council on roles/responsibilities - concerns noted from Kevin Lillis on the subcommittee not having the authority to recommend other councils/committees to take action.

Recommended change was to author the report from Parish Council to the other Committees rather than from the subcommittee to the other councils/committees. Others on council felt that it's appropriate for the subcommittee to recommend to other councils/committees because the subcommittee was tasked to perform the interviews and completed them. Mrs. Kanke provided feedback requesting more engaged communication (ie Parish-wide meetings with participation). Mrs. Schaaf provided feedback that she feels that the communication of the recommendations to other Parish leaders is acceptable.

-Further discussion on subcommittee report postponed to September meeting to allow Council members to review the report and make additional changes. Also need to consider how this is communicated with the Parish at-large

## **5.0 New Business**

5.1 Sanctuary Flooring Project - discussion among council members on how to codify the process for communicating on capital improvements/investments and criteria for determining what projects utilize the process.

5.2 Ireland Pilgrimage - Fr. Gifford desire and planning to finalizing the details of a pilgrimage to Knock, Ireland at the end of July 2025. Desire to get input on how to communicate this trip to parish without making it come across as a formal parish event, more as an open invitation for parishioners to join. Current estimated cost \$5-6k. Kevin Lillis provided feedback: communicate to parish as "Fr. Gifford's vacation" reduces the feel of it being a parish event.

5.3 Open floor for future business:

Invite youth discipleship new employees to October meeting

## **6.0 Announcements**

6.1 Staffing Additions/Changes

-New staff member addition announcements.

-Still recruiting Maintenance Supervisor vacancy, interviews scheduled for late August

6.2 Open Floor

Motioned to adjourn the meeting approved.

Closing Prayer: Jeremy Bries

Next Council Meeting: 23 September 2024, 7:00pm