

# MINUTES OF THE HOLY REDEEMER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

*April 8, 2024*



Council members present: Dianne Connelly, Janet Holden, George Lane, Liz McCarte (Council Secretary), Beth Norcross, Rita Shields, Ron Weishaar (Council Chair), and Father Sullivan. Council members absent: Deacon Art LaChance, Linore Dudik Jones and Amanda Constant.

- A. The meeting started at 5:30 PM. Father Sullivan led the group in an opening prayer.
- B. The Council voted unanimously and without discussion to accept the January 6, 2024 meeting minutes.
- C. Rita inquired about updates to the website. Father Sullivan indicated he has this as a follow up item to address with the current web site designer within the next few weeks.
- D. George provided an update on the 'Day of Reflection and Faith Sharing' and the next steps for the small groups:
  - 93 people signed up and 81 attended the Day of Reflection. Attendance greatly exceeded the goal of 70 people. Positive feedback was received on the speaker and the day's event.
  - The response to the small group initiative also exceeded expectations. 51 people signed up to participate, including some that could not attend the Day of Reflection. 12 people have offered to be a facilitator.
  - George is organizing the members into 5 groups with attention to diversity and making sure married couples are together. The groups will likely consist of 8-10 people with 2 facilitators.
  - George is also working with Theresa and Pat Lim on a small group for seasonal people which can meet in person then Zoom in the off season.
  - The initial small group series, *Jesus and the Eucharist*, which all small groups will attend, will last for 7 weeks. Participants will watch two 30-minute videos, each followed with a table-based faith sharing conversation. The series is scheduled for Wednesdays, May 1 to June 12, from 3-5 PM.
  - A Steering Committee, made up of facilitators, will be working on a process, content and structure for the small groups post the initial series. The Steering Committee will also plan for occasional events that will gather all in small groups for a dinner and a special speaker.
  - It is anticipated that future church leaders and increased participation in Parish objectives will result from these small groups.
  - There is still time for parishioners to join a small group and can do so by contacting the Rectory.
- E. The church rededication occurring on July 7 will be a summer highlight with the Bishop in attendance. There will be a number of other celebratory events over the summer including a preview for all donors with wine and cheese, an open house for the community and a concert sponsored by the organ manufacturer. St Vincent de Paul is also arranging for a concert by Rose Clancy. The Hospitality Committee is working on the events with Father Sullivan. The renovations are scheduled for completion at the end of May barring any issues with the elevator installation.

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- F. The Council discussed whether to hold an election this year. There are currently 9 elected and 3 ex-officio members. Last year it was agreed to make the 3 alternates full members of the Council, increasing the number of elected members from 6 to 9. This year 3 members have served their terms (one resigned due to relocation). With all the activity occurring over the summer, the Council agreed there would not be an election this year. The next election is planned for 2025. With the reduction of 3 members, the Council returns to its original target of 6 elected members plus 3 ex-officio members.
- G. The Council revisited a discussion on potential approaches to increasing the involvement of children (carried from 1/8/2024 meeting.)
- The Council is cognizant of the challenging demographics of the Parish. There is a small number of children off season which then increases on a seasonal basis.
  - Father Sullivan and Beth said they will be watching a series of Rebuilt workshops focused on increasing the involvement of children in church activities. They will report on ideas from the workshop at the next meeting.
  - Beth also stated that Holy Redeemer's First Communion will be the first weekend in May. The children will be crowning Mary again this year, an event well received by the congregation.
- H. Ron led a discussion to conclude the review of the 3 Year Pastoral plan. Father Sullivan commented that the areas identified as needing attention will probably be carried out by members of the small groups as they grow beyond faith sharing. These areas are:
- Section II Education and Formation - Father Sullivan commented the action to establish an Evangelization program for adults will be led by the Spirituality Committee as well as being supported by small group members.
  - Section III Governance and Finance - share ministries with other parishes.
  - Section IV Social Services and Outreach - Partner with local schools and community organizations.

Father Sullivan said there are two Town initiatives that can use our support:

1. The Chatham Conservation Foundation is leading a town clean up on April 27 from 9-11. This weekend's bulletin will ask for parishioner participation
2. There are ongoing discussions among town leaders regarding affordable /attainable housing topic in South Chatham. The Diocese and Parish have shown their support by selling the South Chatham property for a very reasonable sum. We can support this by participating in town meetings held to discuss this subject which are open to the public.

- I. Father Sullivan concluded the meeting with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Liz McCarte  
Council Secretary