

St. Andrew Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Unofficial
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 9, 2023

1. Chair Deb Ehrecke Called meeting to Order 7 pm
2. Present: Deacon Dan Freeman, Deb Ehrecke, Bob Brus, Chris Rubley, Darin Wernke, Joan Martz, Ray Harre, Ed Kocal, Barb Reiland, Connie Motto, Kathy Elliott, Shirley Schmitt, Brenda Todd. All committees represented.
3. Opening prayer: Deacon Dan Freeman lead
4. Introduction of new Financial Council Rep Joan Martz; all members introduced themselves
5. Minutes of May 10,2023 and July 13, 2023 Meetings approved
6. Election of officers: Results: Chair-Deb Ehrecke, Vice Chair-Bob Brus, Secretary-Brenda Todd. Thanks for service by Deacon and all to Barb Reiland for many years of Financial Council and Shirley Schmidt for secretary of Parish Council.
7. Reports from Committees:
 - 7.1. Building & Grounds -Ed Kocal - Committee being formed for Building and Grounds, August meeting planned with members, TBD. Iossi has started storm repair work on ceiling in classrooms. Ed will get 2nd bid on flooring for Capital Campaign project. Deb will share possible contractor names.
 - 7.2. Faith Formation, Brenda Todd and Darin Wernke
 - 7.2.1.VBS- 60 kids, elementary age attended; Phyllis, Wendy and volunteers did a great job; kids enjoyed and eager to come back
 - 7.2.2.Religious Education: Start date 9/10/2023; Kids can start registering, none so far. Registration Forms available in church, on web, emailed and Facebook. All religious ed teachers lined up
 - 7.2.3.OCIA (former RCIA) Order of Christian Initiation of Adults - Darin Wernke leading, committee to plan all the details, 4-5 people. Spread out the effort to more people. Darin shared his approach to evangelizing, inviting people to OCIA, and methods of recruiting. Start date 1 October 2023. Team teaching approach like last year, committee will discuss. Volunteers to do snacks, like K of C and Mary's angels, Faith formation, take time to explain roles and meet candidates to help integrate them into parish life. Volunteers for breaking the word. No candidates so far. Darin added he is very excited about the direction and plan for OCIA, good for parish.
 - 7.2.4.Faith Formation program – Formed.org – we put into the budget, explaining to parish council. Formed.org is a tool presenting so many awesome different program opportunities for family faith formation, organized into categories for different age levels and interests. Annual subscription, Parish buys it, so no additional cost to each family. We just register their email and they have access. Cost \$999 for parish under 400 families, less than a 2-day entry at Disney World for family of 4. Some Topics: Sacraments – preparation and enrichment, Saints lives stories, Movies, family friendly, faith based Specific programs for men only, for women, retreats with a specific focus. Teen discussions and programs, Kids Bible Stories, faith songs, faith focus ABC, and other faith educational materials, Parents and Grandparents can share with kids, with no worries of uncontrolled ads and popups, educational excellence, programs for Eucharistic revival, current church focus as mentioned by Deacon.
 - 7.2.5.Group Faith study programs, Use for Religious ed and OCIA, offer parish videos for discussion and faith formation at parish center; world famous Catholic teachers and speakers, theologians. No ads like YouTube, educational material for all ages, for every family's access. We will show families how to get to it. Company gives our administrators a 45-minute training, to help get parishioners excited and set up, recorded for review later. It Has usage tracking ability for evaluation of usage before renewing. Can be routed to television for easier group viewing.
 - 7.2.6.Deacon raised the St Ambrose Pilot also being worked, no action over summer.
 - 7.3. Justice and Peace. Ray Harre - 2nd quarter distributions were: Café on Vine - \$450, Coar Peace Mission - \$450, Buffalo Food Pantry - \$450, Humility of Mary - \$450, and Gilda's Club - \$210. Total distributed - \$2010. Carryover - \$.21
 - 7.4. Christian Service, Connie Motto. Food Pantry served 17 on 7/18/23, next service will be 9/19/23. Churches United served 35 on 7/14/23, next meal will be served 9/8/23

- 7.5. Mary's Angels, Deb Ehrecke - Mary's Angels met Monday, August 7th. We had election of officers: President-Deb Ehrecke, VP-Tess Mckenna, Treasurer-Connie Motto, and Secretary is Kathy Schaefer. discussed the parish picnic on Sunday August 27th right after Mass. Meat, buns, paper products and beverages will all be supplied by the Knights, Angels and church. Potluck for everyone to bring one or two of their favorite sides. Face Painting and snow cones. Fr Hennen is coming, Bishop was not available. Next ladies' luncheon -Monday, 8/14/23 at Steel Plow at 11:30. All ladies of the parish are invited. Planter and flowers look great outside of the parish doors. Thanks to Ed Kocal for picking up the planter and Wendy Schnack for the beautiful flowers. Cost was split by the Knights and the Angels. Lots of compliments have been received. Blue Grass Community Club is going to host a celebration for veterans on Sunday, September 10th with a pork chop dinner and band; asked our church to have an ice cream social. Mary's Angels will ask for donations of cakes and cupcakes from our ladies and serve ice cream cups with them. Good fundraiser and another way to advertise our parish. Deacon Dan planning on attending also. Religious Ed is going to need a whole new curriculum next fall and if there is a need for Mary's Angels to help out with cost, we would be glad to.
- 7.6. Parish at Large, Chris Rubley - no report
- 7.7. Parish at Large, Bob Brus - no report
- 7.8. Welcoming Committee, Kathy Elliott - Strobehn family and the Cesar family, both part of our OCIA this last spring, have filled out the parish census form but were never officially greeted. I will be reaching out to them this week to see if we can meet after Mass this coming Sunday to give them a Welcoming Gift and the packet of information on the parish and take a photo for our parish records. I have the names of two other new parishioners to contact about scheduling meetings with them to officially welcome them to St. Andrew parish.
- 7.9. Worship and Prayer, Shirley Schmidt - Rosie reported last choir practice 6/5/23, none during summer; Choir will continue to sing at Mass and Kamrin Varela will begin cantor ministry. Adoration was discussed. 2 attendees at last adoration on Thursday night. List of churches with adoration put in bulletin. Future adoration schedule to be determined. May Crowning of Mary statue and Mother's Day blessing went well. Deacon Steve noted existence of an adoration leaders guide, sent to Shirley. Volunteer Sunday discussed. Shirley is updating sheet for 8/16/23 meeting. Need to recruit musicians, especially accompaniment. Deacon added that Abby will be off a month due to pregnancy. Deacon Steve had two new Eucharistic Ministers to train. Deacon Dan discussed his experience at the Muscatine County Fair, blessings for races and good interaction with attendees. Morey Pranger built an ingenious portable confession screen for these events
- 7.10. Knights of Columbus, Chris Rubley - K of C meeting scheduled 8/14/23. On the Agenda: -the induction of officers ceremony will take place. Discuss the Parish Picnic, grilling, set up, and cleanup. Goals for the 2023-2024 year.
- 7.11. Finance Council, Deacon Dan Freeman - New members, Joan Martz, Russ Klaren, Vince Westerhoff, plus current Pat Sheehey Brenda Todd. Deacon thanked Barb for her service on the Finance Council. Deacon will distribute monthly report to parish council and finance council, showing current and prior year profit and loss comparison statement- year to date, and balance sheet. Through July Total income/profit was \$13,761.06. Expenses \$22,435, net income \$-8,673.96
8. Old Business
- 8.1. Capital Campaign - As of the last Capital Campaign report on July 27, 2023 our parish has had 96 gifts totaling \$225,055.00 in pledges and one-time gifts. We are at 70% of the goal and a 57% participation rate. Because we're in the "wind down" stage, reports are coming out every two weeks instead of every week. I'm expecting the next report later this week. I know there have been at least two additional pledges sent in since the last report, meaning our overall total will go up a bit more. I had asked Bob McDonald when we could expect the first distribution of funds for the 20% that will come back to the parish, and asked if we have to request it. He provided the following requirements: We do have to make the request for distribution of funds First distribution of funds will be three months after the end of the campaign, which in our case would be October 1, 2023. Parish must have at least 30% of the pledged funds in hand in order to receive a distribution. St. Andrew is currently at 27% right now. When we reach 30% the estimated 1st distribution would be approximately \$13,500. The project must be ready to go. We have a firm proposal for flooring in the parish center. Proposed cost would be \$27,728.70, which includes taxes. There will be no other costs added to this proposal. They gave our parish a 15% discount. The

proposed cost will expire February 2, 2024 and it's very likely there would be a price increase after that date. Bob confirmed that we can go ahead with the flooring project whenever we like, use existing funds to pay for it, and reimburse that funding as we receive the annual distributions. Total distributions over three years will be approximately \$45,000. Deacon Dan will need to communicate our plan ahead of time with Tom Tallman in Finance at the Diocese so that Tom can ensure that campaign funds are used for the project the parish had identified at the beginning of the campaign. Excess funds can be used for an additional project that benefits the parish as a whole. I recommend that the parish proceed with the plan to install the flooring.

- 8.2. Catholic School Tuition - 10 students were added since budget review, total 31 at \$1795 each. 9 HS, 22 grade school. Deacon shared the letter to be sent to families of requirements for subsidy. 4 requirements: Mass attendance, be registered at Parish, participate in parish life, and contribute according to means. Budget has been revised and two of monthly payments have been made. Some families are conditional, with criteria to be reviewed before 2nd half of year tuition is paid.
- 8.3. Revised Budget 2023-24- Deacon Dan; change due to 10 more students at Catholic school. Assessments are High school \$16,155 (9 students); grade school \$39,490 (22 students) for this first year of ESA, Iowa new law. 2nd year will be less and 3rd year, zero expected to be paid by us. Money was moved to provide for increases in budget. Total budget Income now \$264,000. Total budget expense \$258,435, Net ordinary income \$5,565.00. adjustments were made to miscellaneous income now \$23,000; operational wages- Janitor now \$8500, Other Family Life expense for flowers now \$1000, high school assessment now \$16,155 and elementary school assessments now \$39,490. Discussion will be held in finance council on whether to invest part of what's in checking balance. Approved revised budget will be submitted to diocese.
- 8.4. Parish Directory - Kathy Elliott discussed Gina Harper and Kathy's efforts. Previous company used is no longer in business. Meeting planned, and discussion on preparation and picture taking. Church has a good camera. Deacon showed Wilton St Mary's new directory, shared the cost, vendor and methods used.
- 8.5. Parish Picnic Discussed by Deb/Mary's Angels and Chris/K of C. - Meat, buns, drinks, tableware provided, cost split in 3 by parish, K of C and Mary's Angels. see more details under 13.2 above
9. New Business: Welcoming & Belong Synod. Deacon extended invitation to all to join in meeting to discuss ideas for welcoming and belonging effort, meeting TBD, with committee who attended Diocesan meeting. Our parish Synod inputs will be used as a starting point.
10. Next Meeting will be Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 630pm
11. Motion to adjourn and second by Bob Brus and Kathy Elliott
12. Closing prayer: Deacon led us in the Hail Mary and gave blessing after 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Todd, Parish Council Secretary