



Ave Maria Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Time: Began at 6:30pm

Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Location: St. Denis, Lexington, Mi.

Members Present: Father Donald Eppenbrock, Sister Maria Inviolata, Donna LaRose, Marge Filipiak, JoAnn Martenka, Steve Schneider, Marc McEachern, Kathy Solar, Patty Rusesky, Diane Kautz, Dina Wurmlinger, and Tom Goniwiecha.

Members Absent: Mark Stencil.

Guests Present: Tom Belanger.

Minutes Taken By: Diane Kautz

AGENDA ITEMS:

a) Opening Prayer – Led by Father Eppenbrock.

b) Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes - motioned by Marge Filipiak; seconded by Patty Rusesky.

c) Review Prior Meeting Action Items -

1. Steve Schneider to contact the diocese regarding: do they have a recommended process for reaching out to those "no longer coming to church?" Steve spoke with Mrs. Peg McEvoy; she will help us; we must initially have a phone conversation with her so she can decide what to bring to a future Parish Council meeting.

ACTION ITEMS: Sister Maria, Steve Schneider, Marge Filipiak, and Tom Goniwiecha to take part in the phone conversation in June; Sister Maria to coordinate.

2. Sister Maria would place some verbiage within our weekly church bulletin which addresses our "open door policy". Tom Goniwiecha was asked to provide some draft verbiage to Sister Maria. **Complete.**

d) Parish Council Member Review -

1. Who is staying?
2. Who is leaving?
3. Who's term is up?
4. How many names do we have to draw out of the hat in May/June?



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This generated quite a conversation. The discussion was focused on the Parish Council Bylaws, i.e., term limits & how often the Parish Council meets. Bottom line: **we need 3 new Parish Council members at this time.**

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Tom Goniwiecha** to modify the bylaws to reflect the outcome of the discussion. 1) Term limits to be changed from (2) 3 year terms to (3) 3 year terms. 2) Parish Council to meet quarterly (emergency meetings if necessary); the 3rd Tuesday of January, April, July, October at 6:30pm rotating between the St. Denis & St. Mary centers. When modifications are complete send a copy to the Parish Council members for their review.
2. The **Parish Council** must then respond by COB May 10th if they desire any additional changes or the bylaws will become official, and made available to prospective new Parish Council Members.

e) **Strategic Planning Continued** - A brief review of the Ave Maria Version 1.1 Draft Strategic Plan took place. A few minor changes were requested.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Tom Goniwiecha** to update our Strategic Plan with the desired changes. When modifications are complete send a copy to the Parish Council members for their review.
2. The **Parish Council** must then respond by COB May 10th if they desire any additional changes or the updates to the Strategic Plan will become official.
3. **Sister Maria** to then have the document uploaded to our website.

f) **Next Pastoral Parish Council Meeting** – Tuesday, 07-18-2017, 6:30pm St. Mary, Port Sanilac, Lexington, MI.

g) Roundtable –

1. **Sister Maria** - noted that she will be gone May 14th thru June 1st on a pilgrimage to Spain.
2. **Marc McEachern** - brought up the Lay Ministry Process which he went through and is now a Lay Minister. He much enjoys Proclaiming and instructing.
3. **JoAnn Martenka** - mentioned having a Polish dinner August 26th after 4pm mass. They will decide where the proceeds should go in July. Also, noted that we need a new counter and air conditioning at the St. Mary hall.



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4. **Steve Schneider** - noted that we should have some type of socialization after dinners citing the Mardi Gras dinner as an example. All agreed. He also mentioned that he needs some info from Sister Maria regarding hand rails at St. Mary.
5. **Diane Kautz** - mentioned that we need to recall the person on the stained glass window.
6. **Tom Goniwiecha** - stated that he would send the meeting minutes, updated bylaws, and updated Strategic Plan to the Parish Council tomorrow, and that they would have one week to get back to him on anything requiring additional modifications or the above mentioned documents would become official.

h) Closing Prayer – led by Sr. Maria.

i) Adjourned – at 7:45pm