

St. Leonard Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 5, 2023

Location: Parish Office

Called to Order: 6:03 PM

Attendees: Jay Branham, Katie McCullum (Secretary), Mike Gandolfo, Allison Gousha, Gary Gruneisen, Ray Triplett, Fr. Lou, Sharon Coonan (Ex Officio) and Will Coburn (arrived 6:11pm)

Absent: Julia Bauscher (Chair)

Guest: Carol Sexton

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Getting to know one another... Favorite hobbies
3. UCHM update – Carol Sexton
4. Parish Council Vice Chair
5. Project Summary Post Evaluations
 - a. Sweets and Bites
 - b. Food Truck Invasion
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Admin
 - b. Formation
 - c. Worship
 - d. Welcome
7. Parish Council Terms and Recruitment for new members
 - a. 2024 – Julia, Will, Mike, Allison
 - b. 2025 – Ray, Katie, Gary
 - c. 2026 – Jay
 - d. Selections late May – overlap meeting in June
8. Joint Parish Council meeting - Saturday, September 16, 9:00-3:30, Epiphany Lighthouse – Ray and Allison are not available
9. Other business
10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The Council said the opening prayer created by the Worship Committee.

Getting to know one another... Favorite hobbies

In a continued effort to get to know one another the Council shared their favorite hobbies.

United Crescent Hill Ministries Update – Carol Sexton

Carol provided an update on the fundraising for the food pantry move to its own room which will be more store-like. On October 14th there will be a fundraiser 3-7pm. All proceeds to go to this new project. St. Leonard is underwriting it. Will be wonderful upgrade for the people in our community it serves. The 50th Anniversary Celebration is next April. Carol invited the Parish Council to come down and tour the building and new food pantry.

Parish Council Vice Chair

Father Lou described the need for a Vice Chair to serve on the Council and the possibility of the Vice Chair eventually transitioning into the role of Chair. Jay volunteered to serve. Council motioned and approved.

Project Summary Post Evaluations

- **Sweets & Bites** – attendance was down from the previous gathering. Football season could impact attendance. It was suggested to possibly roll a large tv into the cafeteria. The Project Management Guide and Post Evaluation Form were circulated to the Council for review.
- **Food Truck Invasion** – Allison gave update. Very hot. Well liked by those in attendance, but not great attendance. Bounce houses were a hit, as was having access to the cafeteria/air-conditioning/bathrooms. Some food trucks won't be coming back as didn't have a lot of business. Possibly too many trucks (too much competition). Was suggested to have music in the future. Set-up was well done, as was information booth. Ray discussed how it accomplishes what we are looking for – bringing people into our community. Food truck following does bring in some of the people but our goal is to attract people from surrounding community. Discussion ensued regarding timing and advertisement. Possibly advertising in The Record. Mike brought up advertising in the parking lot as it is prime real estate and repetitive advertising to people passing/driving by would help. Maybe a larger and easier to read sign when driving up Zorn. Father Lou would like to see parishioners mingling more and talking to people rather than in a stationary welcome booth.

Committee Reports

- **Admin** – Fr. Lou – no updates since last meeting.
- **Formation** – Mike – no updates since last meeting.
- **Worship** – Ray – the committee compiled and categorized the information that came from the Listening Session. They prepared a written narrative divided into categories that will be out for the Council's consideration soon. This will all be feedback – does not include suggestions. The committee would like the council to sign-off on what they prepared so far and let the Worship committee know if we want them to come up with action items for next month's meeting.
Parishioners that gave feedback are waiting to hear what we are going to do with what they shared. Ray then offered questions for reflection: why should anyone want to join St. Leonard Parish; what does St. Leonard Parish want to be known for; and what is our elevator talk about our parish? They have a great group and are ready to work. Official chair is now Jo-Dee Jackson – announcement coming soon. Mike spoke to the importance of Worship leading recruitment as most people want to experience Worship first. Father Lou stated our main focus is proclaiming the gospel and to be wary of working out of fear of closing/something happening if we don't get more members. We proclaim the way of Jesus through service – our goal is to attract people rather than chase people. Building relationships and our own relationships with Christ were discussed. As a parish without a school, we need to be aware of people sending their kids to church where is school is – some think is a requirement to get tuition discount and it is not. We need to make sure the message is clear.
- **Welcome** – evolving into Parish Life Committee (per Ray) Katie Gabarino is now Chair. She is very motivated to get things going and shares Council's goals about drawing people in from the surrounding neighborhood.

Parish Council Terms and Recruitment for new members

- 2024 – Julia, Will, Mike, Allison
- 2025 – Ray, Katie, Gary
- 2026 – Jay
- Selections late May – overlap meeting in June

Renewable terms were discussed and the Council was asked to begin thinking about recruits/replacements.

Joint Parish Council meeting - Saturday, September 16, 9:00-3:30, Epiphany Lighthouse – Ray and Allison are not available

Reflection on Connection (per Father) and what is our gift as a parish. His goal is to come out at least closer to those ideas – allow time for spirit to move in what people are feeling and sharing. Once goals are in mind then all other committees are there to support those goals. Council's role is to help keep our energy focused on our overall

goal. Ask questions and keep us on track. Role call for attendance at retreat for planning purposes. Information/details to be circulated.

Other Business

- **Parish Council Minutes:** Father Lou & Sharon: – suggestion for a volunteer from the parish to take Minutes so all Council members can be fully present during meetings – we have a list of people that volunteered. Council agreed a great idea. The volunteer would be Ex Officio. Sharon will work with Julia and reach out those that volunteered.
- **Homecoming:** is this coming weekend. Looking for help to set-up. Any kids need service hours? Silent auction is up and running and bidding has begun. Parish Council donating game basket.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:04 PM

The next meeting will be October 3, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McCullum, Secretary