

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 18, 2023

Chair Ed Chopko called the meeting to order on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. following the Parish's Town Hall hosted by the Pastor, Fr. Ryan Furlong. Fr. Furlong was invited to say the opening prayer.

Roll Call:

- **Present:** Linda Black, Ed Chopko, Fr. Ryan Furlong, Deacon Bob Green, Dave and Kathy Hilditch, Kathy Lattanzi, Steve Motika, Dick Stahl, Michele Warholc.
- **Excused:** Alice Shimek, Michael Valiski
- **Staff:** Bernadette Sartor, Therese Tuttle, Jackie Loges
- **Guests:** V. J. Carr, Diane and Scott Chopko, Shirley Giesy, Taylor Horn, John and Janice Prince

Minutes: The Monday, May 8, 2023 Parish Council Meeting Minutes were sent to Council Members by email before the meeting for review. Steve Motika moved to approve the Minutes, seconded by Kathy Hilditch. The Minutes were approved.

New Staff: The Chair introduced new staff members in attendance: Bernadette Sartor, Young Adult and Family Ministry, Therese Tuttle, Business Manager, and Jackie L???, who assists Therese in the business office for the three parishes.

Update on Fr. Kish Scholarship Fund: Chair Chopko invited Taylor Horn to discuss the history of the Scholarship Fund which began in 2016. Taylor was part of the class who created the scholarship for the benefit of graduating high school seniors. She described the application, review and selection procedures. Fundraising was a key element. Last year \$7,000 was distributed. To continue this fund, we will need to generate some new funds and to help this, an anonymous donor has presented four Pirates tickets and a parking pass for the Spring 2024 season. Taylor has spoken to Kelsey Quinn from Youth Ministry, who agreed to help. More details to follow. Although Taylor no longer lives in Cortland, she also offered to help.

Committee Reports:

Christian Formation and Education (CCD) – Linda Black, Coordinator of Religious Education, reported.

- Reported on enrollment numbers for each grade for this year's program.
- Beginning meetings with First Reconciliation students.
- Kelsey Quinn and Bernadette Sartor will coordinate the High School Youth Groups programming and activities.

Liturgy Committee and Pastoral Ministry – Kathy Lattanzi, Pastoral Minister, reported.

- The first meeting has been scheduled.

- Kathy is available to lead prayer services and continues to share the Eucharist with hospitalized or homebound parishioners.

Family Life and Marriage Prep – No report.

Website and Facebook – No report. Will seek a Council liaison with the Website Administrator.

Social Justice and Outreach – Alice Shimek submitted report.

- CHOW – Quiz night is scheduled on Saturday, September 23, in Fr. Kish Parish Hall. Toiletries being collected to Grahn, KY – hotel size shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.
- St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen – St. Robert's team prepared and distributed 460 hot meals in June and 556 in September.
- Cortland Area Cares Food Pantry – In August, 268 families received food on distribution day and 979 individuals. Because of the surplus food, they will be giving out larger amounts in September.
- Trumbull Mobile Meals – Continues to need volunteer drivers for meal deliveries.
- Lakeview School Pantry – Expressed appreciation for the parishioners' generous peanut butter and jelly donations for their students.

Finance Committee – Therese Tuttle, Business Manager, reported.

- Shared 2023 financial reports with a comparison to the 2022 fiscal year, which are posted on the website.
- Clarification that St. Robert's and the other two parishes in Trumbull County North are maintained separately.
- Council Members were encouraged to contact Therese with any questions.

Buildings and Grounds – Dave Hilditch reported.

- The parish hall floor tile lifting mitigation project was completed between May and August, with some weather delays.
- Arardvark Pest Services completed spraying.
- Recent storm roof damage was repaired.
- Rectory deck estimate received for \$2,800.
- Long-time parishioner contacts shared with Pastor.

Communications and Planning Process Review – Kathy Hilditch reported.

- Get well, and sympathy cards continue to be sent to our parish family.
- After discussion, the regular goal process will not be followed this year. The Chair asked each member to bring a short-term goal to increase attendance and contributions to the next meeting which will be prioritized with Fr. Furlong.

Safety Committee – Steve Motika reported.

- Joint meeting with St. Thomas and St. Williams's committees is scheduled for October with Deacon Bill Bancroft as the liaison.

- Requested consultation with Fr. Furlong to discuss what has been done and what will be done going forward on the security cameras, key system, and card reader. Discussed changed locks and access for the Fire Department.
- Non-lethal self-defense training presented by security experts will be scheduled, and Cortland churches will be invited. Participants pay for the class, not the parish, which only provides the location.

Deacon's Report – Deacon Bob Green reported.

- Reported on planning for Marriage and Family Life.
- In November, four students will attend the National Catholic Youth Conference. Since Fr. Furlong is also serving as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, he shared that there will be a focus on these demographics with financial support from the Diocese.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Ryan Furlong reported.

- Communications were encouraged, “both ways.” Father shared that the transition is moving forward and there would be successes and bumps in the road. He expressed appreciation for everyone's patience, support, and kindness.
- Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting will be Wednesday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Ryan led the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Warholic, Secretary