

**Church of St Patrick
Parish Council Summary Minutes
February 8, 2024**

Members Present: Fr Kuss, Terry Kapsen, Ivan Pittaluga, Zach Neuman, Lisa Romain, Andy Piazza, Roseanne Strand; **Members Present via Zoom:** Jim Swanke, Daniel Farris, Bernadette Daly, Mike Weibel, Grace Hanson, Allison Schmidt; **Guest:** Don Keller.

Members Not Present: Bill Schnobrich, Cappy Moore.

Approved Summary Minutes for January 8th Meeting

Meeting Objective: Parish updates and discussions of priority matters, followed by proposed changes to strategic planning structure.

Christmas Holy Land Diorama Proposal – Don K/Project Lead & Fr. K

- Don K presented a proposal to create a New Parish Ministry at the Church of St. Patrick.
- Over 5200 visitors experienced the diorama between December 9th and February 24th!
- In addition to parishioners, churches, senior living facilities, and other visitors from multiple states, this proposal would broaden the audience to include parochial elementary and other schools by providing subsidized transportation to experience the Christmas Holy Land diorama, through visitor donations and a pending offer of support from a “school bus” company.
- Fr. K requested that at our next meeting, the parish council make a recommendation whether to create such a ministry of parishioners and friends to assume responsibility for the diorama’s care, marketing and promotion, weekly visitor presentations, including introductory tours of the church.

Restaurants to Raise Money for Youth Mission Trips, VEAP, Samaritan Funds, etc. – Fr. K

- Invited parishioners and families would purchase items or meals at certain restaurants during a specified period, where the parish would receive a percentage of revenue generated.
- Zach N provided examples of the ease and effectiveness of this type of program from his experience with his daughters’ schools. (e.g., Culver’s Concrete Mixer™ purchases over a couple of days yielded \$1500 for the school).

Mass Times Update – Ivan P, Zach N

- No consensus from parishioner survey on what time defines an “earlier Sunday Mass”.
- Fr. K requested the subgroup to solicit additional input from families with children following the weekend Masses to gain better understanding of needs and report recommendation at the next council meeting.

Parish Update & Priorities/Fr. K

- Two parish event listings were presented by Fr. K and reviewed for the remainder of the 2023-2024 fiscal year and those annually recurring events for the FY 2024-2025.

**Church of St Patrick
Parish Council Summary Minutes
February 8, 2024**

- A chairperson to manage and a team to work St. Patrick's 2024 Garage Sale (September 4th - 7th) needs to be finalized soon... same for the "Gala for a Brighter Tomorrow" (December 7th).

Women's & Men's Ministries/Terry K (for Cappy M) & Andy P

- Request from the Women's Club for parish council volunteers to serve parishioners at various events and get to know one another better. Bill S will have nametags made for all council members to wear when volunteering at parish functions and events.
- We circulated signup sheets to cover Fr. Jason Lee's "Thanksgiving Masses" and the Diorama dismantling/move to storage during February. We need additional parish council volunteers for the three St. Patrick's Day weekend Masses, March 16th-17th and the "All Parish Mass & 40th Anniversary of Fr. Kuss' Priesthood" on June 16th.
- Andy P provided an update on the annual Lenten Fish Dinner March 1st, sponsored by the Men's Club, and expecting a good-sized crowd.

1st Half Financials for '23-'24 Fiscal Year/Jim S

- The parish is in decent shape and has reached its goal of 6-month financial liquidity.
- Continued careful management of budgets should allow the parish to achieve our FY 2023-2024 goals by June 30, 2024.

St. Patrick's Strategic Plan/Terry K

- We need to bring more focus to the strategic plan, so we are creating a subgroup of 3-5 parish council members to drive the Strategic Plan forward, with reporting and decision making included in our future monthly meetings.
- Bernadette D, who audited the online Archdiocese Small Group Training program shared her thoughts on it. We felt that since our parish has been involved in multiple small groups for years, the amount of time to become "certified" by the archdiocese could be better spent on supporting and growing more small groups within the parish as we move forward.