

Trinity Parish in Bergen Point
Vestry Meeting
Sunday, January 22, 2017

Present:

Father Gregory Perez	Mary LoSardo, Clerk
Matt Guerra, Senior Warden	Jayson Cofield
Maureen Bonczowski, Junior Warden	Carmela Raisch
Stephen Dittrich, Treasurer	Jane Wiazdzonek

Absent: Brian Minish-Malinconico, Marci McKim

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM. Minutes from the December 11, 2016 meeting prepared by Mary LoSardo were reviewed; Mary noted the date of the annual parish dinner listed in the minutes has since been changed from 10/14 to 10/28 to avoid conflict with the Bergen Point October Festival. Motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Matt Guerra and seconded by Father Greg. Approval of amended minutes was unanimous.

Rector's Report

- On January 12, Father Greg and Matt Guerra arranged to transfer money from a Trinity investment account to Windmill Alliance to cover WMA's January staff payroll. (Government funding had not come in on schedule.) All members of the vestry subsequently agreed with this action. Since the transfer could not be made electronically, the investment check was received on the same day as the government check. The money has been re-deposited back into the investment account. We assume no penalties will be involved.
- Father Greg made a pastoral visit to Dorothy Niedzinski last week while she was in the hospital recuperating from knee replacement surgery on both knees. She has since been moved to an acute care facility to continue her recuperation.
- Brian Minish-Malinconico continues to recuperate from pneumonia. Members of the vestry will continue to reach out to him to offer encouragement and support as he continues his recovery.

2016 Year-End Financial Report

Father Greg was pleased to note the amount of pledged money received in 2016 exceeded the budgeted amount. This was the result of some members donating money over and above their pledged amounts. In addition, we had new members joining the parish throughout the year. (Father Greg reported this to the congregation in today's worship guide.) Our fundraising income was also higher than the amount anticipated in last year's budget.

Hall rental income, however, was below budget. A contributing factor was the replacement of the hall's flooring and kitchen cabinetry, since the hall was unavailable during the renovation. In terms of promoting the hall's availability, Jane suggested a photo of the facilities be on the website along with rental agreement which is currently posted. Stephen Dittrich mentioned an event last year, in which the space was completely transformed by a professional party planner. Staci Dittrich has photos and we

will use them on the website, and also in a brochure.

Columbarium: This account is a separate item, only used for funding the columbarium in the narthex. Mary raised the question of whether a space (in the columbarium) for one's ashes could be purchased on an installment plan. Father Greg said this is something we should explore, as well as the amount we charge for a space. (Currently, parishioners are offered a discounted price.) We could also consider having brochures available in local funeral homes to promote this as an alternative to burial.

The long-term placement of the columbarium was also discussed. While it is presently indoors, the original plan was to have it outdoors in a memorial garden where friends and family could pray and meditate. Questions were raised about the danger of vandalism if the columbarium is outdoors. Stephen and Mary agreed to research how other churches ensure security of outdoor placement and also to review their pricing policies.

Proposed Budget for 2017

The revised budget was presented:

- A line item was added for advertising, to cover any ads that are NOT associated with a fund-raising event (e.g., Open House, Easter and Christmas season services, etc.).
- A fund-raising budget goal was set 22% higher than last year's budgeted amount (reflecting 2016's better performance).
- The diocesan assessment was increased by \$1000, reflecting a 20 percent increase over last year.

Father Greg also suggested we offer financial support to Joe Boney as he continues his diaconate studies. Matt Guerra moved that we provide up to \$1000 in funding; Jayson Cofield seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Jane Wiazdzonek then motioned the amended budget (with funding for Joe) be approved; Jayson Cofield seconded the motion and approval was unanimous.

Buildings and Grounds

Window treatments for the Parish Hall were discussed last year. Improving the appearance of the windows will make the space more appealing to potential renters. Alternatives such as valences and pleated shades were discussed. Carmela and Jane have agreed to look at other rental halls to see what is used and report back at the next vestry meeting.

Annual Events Calendar and Fundraising

Calendar Father Greg presented the 2017 calendar and noted changes made since the last vestry meeting:

- The October **Parish dinner** has been moved to **October 28** to avoid conflict with the Bergen Point Festival. Jane proposed we hold it at the Chandelier Restaurant, since the cost of having it catered in the Parish Hall would be almost as expensive as a restaurant and would not necessarily attract as many people as we have had in the past. The vestry approved; Father Greg will contact the Chandelier in the coming week (January 23) to reserve the date. Target capacity will be 120 people.

- The **“Sundae Sunday”** event is being moved from May 7 to **October 15**.
- The WMA annual meeting (with parents and guardians) is scheduled for March 15. Since this is a Wednesday evening, Father Greg will check with Margo Alfieri and ask the scouts to meet in the trailer.
- WMA will have two **“dine-outs”** for charity: **March 24** at Longhorn’s and **April 19** at K. P. Sarelli’s.

A listing of Annual Events (2017) is attached and reflects these changes.

Fund-Raising: The vestry would like to sponsor a carnival or community fair. Jayson suggested we hold it at the end of June and promote it as an end-of-school-year celebration. While we could get mechanical rides and receive a percentage of the receipts, liability may be a concern. Inflatables are a better option. We would like to have:

- an hourly 50/50 drawing;
- a small number of vendors (perhaps five) who would sell their goods; and
- a sports showcase, where kids can learn about different sports before they try out for them.

Next Steps

- Jayson will check on the school calendar to identify the date of the first weekend after the school year ends.
- Carmela will contact the gentleman who offers sports showcases.
- We will confirm that we do not need a license for the 50/50

We also need to get more people involved in planning and in manning the fair and other events we would like to sponsor. Mary suggested that Carmela attend the newcomer’s reception (March 4), since Carmela attended as a newcomer last year. She can describe how she became involved in church programs and activities and find out more about our new congregants’ interests.

WMA Board meeting will be rescheduled from January 23. Father Greg will inform the attendees of the new date.

Motion to adjourn at 12:20 was made by Jane Wiadzionek and seconded by Carmela Raisch. Approval was unanimous.

Next meeting: Sunday, 2/12/17 at 11:15 AM in the vestry room.