

St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis
Parish Council Meeting August 6, 2024
Draft Minutes

- Opening Prayer – Fr. Varghese
- Roll Call
 - Present (in-person): Fr. Varghese, Fred Chandler, Geoff Ziegler, Patrick Price, Jim Trippi, Nancy Stark, Evelyn Ridley-Turner, Mary Rice, Sheila Brown, Mary Catharine Grau
 - Present (virtual/Zoom): Teresa Reynolds, Rocky Marsh
 - Absent: Karla Hudecek, John Sobotowski, Chris Durnil, Rachel Hudson, Matt Hayes
- Approval of minutes from June 2024 meeting
 - Fred Chandler moved to approve the minutes from June; Geoff Ziegler seconded it.
 - Unanimously approved by those present at the June meeting (recognizing new members at this August meeting were not present for the June meeting).
- Comments from pastor and/or pastoral associate
 - Fr. Varghese
 - “Thank you” to Matt Hayes for his efforts at Parish Council President over the past few years.
 - “Thank you” to Patrick Price for his willingness to take on Parish Council President role for the upcoming term.
 - “Thank you” to all those who have stepped up to join the Parish Council and/or take on new roles.
 - Parish Goals (background from “Amazing Parish” at St. Meinrad) – these are individual-level and Parish-level
 - Goal 1: Cultural Prayer (bring it into your life, raising our mind to God)
 - Goal 2: Active Discipleship
 - Goal 3: Get out of our comfort zone
 - Per Fr. V: Focus on Goal 1 for the next four months, will pivot to Goal 2 and Goal 3 over the following eight months.
 - Looking to formally add Building & Grounds to Stewardship Ministry
- Introduction of new and returning members (Patrick Price)
 - Introduction of STA Parish Council constitution (focus on consultative)
 - Background shared around how each Parish Council member ended up here
- Task Force conversations
 - Discussion ensued on the initial assignments of new members to the existing Task Forces. No concerns voiced.
 - Jim Trippi initiated discussion on re-igniting STA Speaker Series
 - Motion made (Patrick Price) to reignite STA Speaker Series, motion seconded (Sheila Brown). Unanimously approved.
 - Motion made (Patrick Price), motion seconded (Sheila Brown) to indicate Parish Council support of the Gala Fund-A-Need being the “financial starter” for the Speaker Series. Unanimously approved.
 - Jim initiated discussion, with Patrick’s recommendation, on re-igniting “Face Stories” conversations (from pre-Covid). Sheila offered a desire to capture past speeches and share on STA website for additional reference/consumption.
 - Reports on 2024-25 objectives and actions
 - Spiritual Growth: No update

- Stewardship:
 - Please volunteer for SausageFest!
 - Please purchase Gala tickets!
- Community Engagement:
 - STA rep at MLK Center: Charles Williams filling this role.
- STA School:
 - 224 students / 29 new students / 22 first child from family
 - 67% students are parishioners
 - 20 new families
 - Fully staffed in a desired manner
- Dialogue, Truth, Faith: No update.
- Finance Committee (Patrick representing FC in John's absence)
 - Ongoing discussions on additional electronic giving options. More to come.
 - FC/School Committee will be looking at future tuition rates.
- Other Ministry Leader reports and additional items of interest
 - Spiritual Life: Matt Hayes (see pages XX)
 - Haiti Committee: Fred Chandler shared pamphlets/information on recent updates from our Belle-Riviere / St. Thomas Aquinas twinning partnership
 - Future Meetings: 7-8:30 pm (unless otherwise noted):
 - October 1
 - December 3
 - February 4
 - April 1
 - June 3
- Ending Prayer – Fr. Varghese