

# ST LEO PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: May 28, 2024

**Members Present In-Person:** Sr Pat Michalek, Fr Elias Puentes SJ, Marcia Matthaei, John Landy, Heather Paez, Sarah Templin, Vern Harkins, Cyra Benedict, and Mike Bianchi.

**Members Present Virtually:** Eugena Buena-Douglas, Tom Trunk, Emily Ignacio,

**Members Excused:** Fr Phil Boroughs SJ, Deacon Tom O'Loughlin

**Members Absent:**

**Guest:** Kevin Lovejoy

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The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

The meeting opened with the land acknowledgment, "We gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Twulshootseed language."

An opening prayer was offered by Sister Pat. "A Prayer for Our Parish"

## 1. **Topic:** Pastoral Council Elections.

**Summary of Discussion:** Through the parish nomination process, 3 candidates have been nominated. They are on the ballot being presented to parishioners for their vote at Mass on June 8-9 or by phone call, text message or email to Mike Bianchi by 3:00 pm June 9.

**Decision/Action** Votes will be tabulated by the committee and announced to the council and the parish. The newly elected member will be invited to the Council meeting on June 25.

**Responsibility for Follow-up:** The election committee

## 2. **Topic:** Partners in the Gospel Transition

**Summary of Discussion:** Congratulations and thanks were extended to Deacon Tom, Emily and John for their work in preparing the summary of the parish listening sessions that was published in the bulletin.

Discussion took place regarding a recent article published in America Magazine about "Forming a Parish Family", a reflection published in the Liturgical Press, "Managing an Ascension" and a webinar that was forwarded to council members regarding Partners in the Gospel. The materials were educational regarding the process underway, not just in the Seattle Archdiocese but also in other parts of the country. The discussion confirmed that St. Leo Parish has been very proactive in understanding and working through this transition period.

The St. Charles Parish Council has been invited to attend the 9:30 Mass. at St. Leo on June 9 and to thereafter attend an informal coffee and discussion in the Bix with the St. Leo Council. This will

provide an opportunity for them to see our parish liturgy in action and to informally discuss some of the ministries and services provided at our parish.

**Decision/Action:** Arrangements are being made and invitations are being extended to St. Charles Council.

**Responsibility for Follow-up:** Fr. Elias to discuss hospitality plan with Nancy; Sister Pat will invite the SCB Council; available St. Leo Council members will be present at liturgy on June 9 and for the gathering after Mass.

Discussion took place regarding a proposal to update the St. Leo Parish Community Charter to reflect that our parish will no longer be a Jesuit Parish after July 1, 2024. The Council unanimously agreed to proceed with an update that reflects the 113-year history of our parish as a Jesuit Parish, and that in our future we will continue to be inspired by and dedicated to the Jesuit Charism of service, fueled by Ignatian Spirituality and be a welcoming place to all people.

**Decision/Action:** With input from the Council, the draft of the proposal will be further modified and presented to the Council for approval. It will then be presented to our new Pastor for his approval in July.

**Responsibility for Follow-up:** Vern

### 3. **Topic:** Summer Council Meetings

**Summary of Discussion:** A non-business, but social Council meeting will take place on June 25, potentially beginning at 5:30 PM. It will be a potluck celebrating the work of the Council during the past year, saying goodbye to departing member Marcia Matthaei, Father Elias and Father Phil, and welcoming our newly elected council member.

Three new staff members will be invited to join the Council at the June potluck. This will provide an opportunity to meet them and for them to meet the Council.

With confirmation from our new Pastor Father Michael that he would like to meet with the St. Leo Council in July, the Council will meet on July 23 at 6:30 PM. It will be later determined whether the Council will meet in August.

**Responsibility for Follow-up:** Sister Pat will confirm the July meeting with Father Michael. She will also invite the three new staff members to the June potluck.

### 4. **Topic:** Commission Reports: The council reviewed the minutes provided from the commissions in advance of the council meeting and discussed a few highlights. A summary of some of the highlights from the minutes and the discussion are:

- a. Facilities reported on potential replacement of the main door at the Food Connection, progress for the fencing between the Food Connection and the church to protect the Food Connection trucks, new church fencing on Yakima and minor repairs in the rectory.

- b. Faith Formation reported on the upcoming first communion celebration for twenty-seven children in the parish.
- c. Pastoral Care expressed thanks for the leadership of the Commission by Laurie Dooley and their appreciation for her willingness to continue in her leadership role. The Commission has plans for follow up work in the fall on updating the parish data base. They are working with staff on organizing the celebration of our Jesuits for June 22-23. The Commission is also exploring the possibility of developing a Care Givers Support Group in order to ease some of the stress that caregivers in the parish experience.
- d. Stewardship provided an update on the status of the Annual Catholic Appeal and is seeking volunteers from parish leadership to speak about the campaign at Mass. They will continue to plan for the Spirit Mass to take place in the Fall.

5. **Topic:** Pastor's Report

- a. Fr. Elias has been busy preparing for the transition of the parish to the new Pastor in July. He reported that G St. is in a much-improved condition because of the property owners pressuring the city for assistance. There has been increased police oversight of the area and this action has helped eliminate unwanted activity on G Street. There is also a plan this summer for the city to plant some trees along G. Street to improve the overall appearance. CCS has been supporting these efforts as well. He reported that Father Marc Powell participated in a recent staff meeting online and that he was welcomed by the staff.

**Closing Prayer.** The meeting closed with a prayer at 8:15 PM.

**Next Meeting:**

**Date:** June 25, 2024, 5:30 PM

**Respectfully submitted by:** Vern Harkins, Secretary