

ST. THOMAS MORE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 14, 2017

PRESENT: Fr. Mike Ratajczak, Chris Smith, Diana Diaz, Lisa Seufert, Ron Briseno, Erik Acheff

NOT PRESENT: Brian Leahey, Valerie Thompson, Andrea Sweeney, Jody Cadieux, Jane Gladden,
Lisa Attardo

CALL TO ORDER: Chris Smith at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Erik Acheff

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MARCH 15, 2017 MEETING MINUTES: Approved in March 2017, as posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Memorial Item descriptions for the Parish Offices section of the weekly bulletin will be changed to reflect the actual spaces in that building, i.e., Conference Room, Pastor's Office, Secretary/Receptionist Space, Staff Offices, etc. Suggestions are welcome to help with the new verbiage. Brian Leahey will help with cost estimates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Erik (for Lorraine): **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

ACA \$61,537.41 from 344 families, average donation is \$178.79. This total includes an estimate for tithing families of \$8,550, which will be finalized and paid to the Diocese around October 10, 2017. If all pledges are paid up by the end of the year, we will receive \$11,537.41 back from the Diocese. Historically, our pledge fulfillment rate is over 99%. We are still receiving responses from our second letter.

Chris (for Valerie): **MEMBERSHIP**

The Spring New Member Luncheon was well attended. The Fall 2017 New Member Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, October 15 from 12:00 – 1:30pm in the lower level of the Parish Center.

Fr. Mike (for Brian): **NEW CONSTRUCTION**

We are still in the process of negotiating the final payment on the new church building with our contractor. Fr. Mike has been in consultation with the parish leadership and also with the finance council to make them aware of the present process.

Chris (for Jane): **PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Press Releases:

- Spring Ring – April 29th
- Gala – May 5th
- Mental Health Forum – May 15th
- VBS – June 19th- June 23rd

Projects:

Article on St. Thomas More’s CPR/AED training program developed by Dr. Phil and Jane was published in April’s Southern Cross.

Article entitled “Oceanside Parish ‘in Love’ with Syrian Refugee Family It Sponsors” written by Denis Grasska was published in June’s Southern Cross. This inspiring piece with quotes from Fr. Mike, Sr. Maureen, and Lisa Attardo surely achieved its goal of inspiring other Catholic communities to sponsor refugee families currently living in this area.

Jen Frost conducted a training session for Lena Rumps and Jane Gladden on a spreadsheet she developed which automates press release submission dates based on each source’s lead time requirement. This will be a very useful and efficient tool. Many thanks to Jen!

Lena Rumps wrote and submitted an article for the spring/summer Tower on our new Marian Shrine. Lena’s inspiration came from an interview with the Marian Shrine artist Claire Wing. Claire provided some great insights and a lot of detail about her St. Thomas More experience in general. An abbreviated version of Lena’s piece will be published in our upcoming newsletter while the full article may be offered to The Southern Cross.

Updates:

Publicity ministry responsibilities will now be shared between Jane Gladden and Lena Rumps. Lena will focus on article development and press releases (with Jane serving as back-up and guide) while Jane’s main focus will now be public relations. Jen Frost will no longer be a part of this team as she was simply helping during the transition period. Again, many thanks to Jen!

Lisa Seufert: **SCRIP**

Scrip Sales April 1, 2017 to June 12, 2017 (gift cards & Online Presto Pay)

Total Sold:	\$28,473.00
Net Cost:	<u>\$27,307.94</u>
Rebate Total:	\$1,165.06
Costs-Shipping:	(\$ 130.00)
Plus 2% Credit card	
April	\$50.60
May	\$86.74
2 weeks June	\$53.00

Total CC cost \$ (190.34)	
Frazier Farms total sold	\$2,650.00
3% rebate	\$79.50

Check Fraud of \$550.00
 Online Scrip Fraud of \$2,420.00

1. Spoke with Deacon John & Lorraine about changing our procedures and/or enforcing security features we already established.
 - a. Show ID if ordering in the office.
 - b. Online Scrip and Presto Pay. No enrollment number advertised. Client must complete online application and a coordinator will call them to obtain further information. Also...Online buyers must be St. Thomas More Parishioners.
 - c. The \$2,420.00 fraudulent charges with Great Lakes Scrip Company will not be charged against our account. These charges will be absorbed by the company with an investigation into the incident. Police report made by Lisa Seufert and Andrea Sweeney to Oceanside Police.

2. Scrip sales on the plaza after all Masses on the weekends are switching to sales every other week during July and August.

Diana: **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM**

The current vehicle donation Program has received a grand total of \$70,422 from 110 vehicle donations.

This year has brought in four more donations so far, totaling \$2,720.00.

Chris: **STEWARDSHIP**

Planned Giving/Towers of Faith – We received one bequest for \$10,000 and one bequest distribution has been pending for 8-9 months. Chris has been in contact with the attorney to expedite this distribution for the current fiscal year. Estimated amount to be \$30,000 - \$35,000.

Stewardship – Moving along with the monthly four square bulletin insert highlighting most current opportunities at STM.

Gala raised \$44,000. 250 families participated. Gala wrap meeting was June 13.

Looking for new ideas for next year. It is time to change out the Gala and try something new and uplifting. Ideas such as concert, dinner/dance, or casino night.

Maybe raffle 1 – 3 large ticket items such as a new car or cruise at \$100 per ticket.

Check with our Knights of Columbus if they are doing a Casino Night. If not, Chris and Diana Diaz will connect for ideas on that. Next year's event will be held on Friday, April 27, 2018.

We are looking for help with Treasures as John Murphy is going to be stepping back after this year. A new parishioner has expressed interest in this ministry, so this is a possibility for John to train someone to take over next year.

Chris: **WELCOME MINISTRY**

As we continue to welcome new parishioners, we are always looking for new Welcome Ministers. Please let Chris know of anyone who might fit that ministry.

NEW IDEAS/BRAINSTORMING

All: None at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None at this time.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Erik (for Lisa): **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Sorry I am unable to be with you tonight, my husband and I were asked to speak at a Catholic Charities Event tonight on our parish's experience of sponsoring The Almustafa family.

The report for Pastoral Council from our meeting on May 3, 2017 is:

1. Evangelization and Faith Formation continue to grow and are very busy with new programs being added. There truly is something for every age group.
2. The Gala was successful and possibly the best ever, however the feeling is it is time for something new and fresh.
3. We have openings for a secretary for Pastoral Council and also an opening on Art and Environment and Treasures.
4. Marriage and Family Life Ministry is growing and now has a new chairperson Erin Barela.
5. Social Ministries is busy and will be looking for help with Angel Tree Ministry.

Ron: **FINANCE COUNCIL**

Doing our budget for next year. There is an audit on June 15, 2017 from the Diocese. We have told the accountant for the Diocese, Sister Vera that we need to be able to report the mortgage building fund and the operations separately.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

CLOSING COMMENTS: None.

CLOSING PRAYER: Glory Be

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 9 at 7:00 pm