

St Paul of the Cross Board Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2021

ATTENDING:

Sandra Arnould
John Bodary
Father Pat Brennan
Roger Frank
Kari Klinski
Cindy LaFond
Jim McKelvey
Neil Sobeck
Faith Offman
Bob Salter
Toby Tabaczynski

ABSENT:

Greg Soule

1. **Welcome/Call to Order** – Toby Tabaczynski called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. He thanked board members for attendance and participation.
2. **Consent Agenda** –
MOTION – consent agenda
 - Jim McKelvey moved that the consent agenda be approved.
 - Bob Salter seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
MOTION- minutes
 - John Bodary moved that the minutes from June 28, 2021, be approved.
 - Cindy LaFond seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Charism Sharing Experience** - Charism committee presented information with a time for private reflection and group sharing.
4. **Board Education Experience- Laudato si**– Faith spoke about the worldwide Passionist community plan for studying and acting on the Laudato Si encyclical, called the” Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross”. After reviewing the overall structure of the plan, she discussed the opportunity for board members to read and become more familiar with this plan and noted that the program was a bit off schedule, with the official kick off slated for November 2021. Faith will send a link for board members to look at the 7 goals; this may provide more opportunity to engage more completely with Laudato si. When Cindy questioned if parishes were addressing this study of Laudato Si, Fr. Pat suggested that the retreat team may preach on this document in the coming year, thus enriching those retreatants who may not have shared in their individual parishes.
Father Pat noted that when looking back on this past year; there have been implications of COVID, the pandemic has made things more difficult. He shared “the passion of the earth... the wisdom of the cross” affects us all. We need to discover how to ‘recover’ our relationship with the earth.
Discussion of adding a specific session at each board meeting. Would it be acceptable to the board to add 15 minutes of time to our meeting time and add ‘education/growth’. If we determine to add this to our agenda, it is important to look at specific questions or specific

readings in advance. Should we develop a small committee – provide specific information on what board members could do at home, what tasks to accomplish at a board meeting. Would it be beneficial to work with the Charism committee to develop this and make it interactive?

Those interested in participating: Faith, Bob, Father Pat.

5. **HCP Update on Statement on Cultural and Racial Diversity** - The Province has been asked to lead the way on developing an ends policy for the community to embrace. Toby reported from the committee he has been involved in- looking to develop a statement to be reviewed by the Province then passed on to local communities. He noted this is not a 'statement' but rather a cultural shift; perhaps an extension of Laudato si, which would be developed and introduced appropriately. Toby shared the introduction letter from Father Joe, noting this is a draft and a living document on cultural and racial diversity. He noted that there have been focus groups identified to look at this and further discuss. More to come, simple and gradual – this is the mantra.
6. **Monitoring Report Review: Ends # 1 and 2 and EL # 4, 5, 6, 8, 11**– Toby asked board members for any questions or concerns. Father Pat noted highlights –St. Paul's is able to continue with retreats even through the pandemic. We are accessible to all; we want the retreat center to be a place that is holy and where individuals can come in and feel the spirit of the retreat center. How are people finding out about us – by searching on-line. For the months of July, August and September – normally very slow months – we were well over our 'norms' for attendance and donations. Continuing to explore social media – do we explore utilizing paid social media?
Other highlights – financial activities, communication with the board, strong connections. Jim asked to break down the data from hosting retreats – how many groups, youth retreats, how many attendees?
Update on hiring a new administrator – an ad has been placed. A request was made to send job description out to board members. Father Pat will be having a meeting with staff to reduce any possible anxiety. Discussion on employee salaries – total compensation package, make sure staff knows hourly wage and other benefits (health care, pension, etc.) It was noted that we did provide raises this year. Father Pat stated how pleased he was with the food service individuals and the good job they are doing.
7. **Board Affairs – Review Board Openings, re-election status** – John noted that the Board Affairs Committee would be doing prep work for the December board meeting . Currently there are 9 members on the board. By December, please think about your intentions – privately you will be asked where you are at with your services. Discussion was held on committee make up and extending officers terms through June 2022.
8. **Retreat Review** – Cindy discussed a recap and solicitation of comments about the retreat. Please feel free to email Cindy with any additional comments. The focus of the retreat was fellowship and spiritual sharing. Discussion – how effective was this format? Discussion included – it was valuable; loved the beginning song by Father Enno; it was a long day; breaks were good; being outside was nice. For future retreats would we include Laudato si materials?
9. **Round Table Announcements** –
10. **Closing prayer** - Father Pat lead the board in a closing prayer.
11. **Adjournment** – The St. Paul of the Cross board meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.