 St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat and

Conference Center

**St Paul of the Cross Board Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2023**

**ATTENDING: ABSENT:**James Bologna (on zoom) Paul Micallef

Fr. Pat Brennan John Bodary

Roger Frank Steve Mitchell

Matt Greenough Fr. Alex Steinmiller

Kari Klinski

Cindy LaFond

Mary Martin

Faith Offman

Brian Owens

Neil Sobeck

Greg Soule

Toby Tabaczynski

Apryl Voner

1. **Call to Order** – Matt Greenough called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.
2. **Consent Agenda**

Matt added to agenda: monitoring of GP 10

Motion to approve : Kari Klinski Unanimously approved

1. **Charism Sharing** – Fr. Pat invited all to the Solemn Commemoration of the Passion on Fri. Feb. 17, with Mass and lunch. He explained the meaning of the community feast. The Passion is the most overwhelming sign of God’s love and we celebrate it with joy. We must always be mindful of the contemporary passion of those suffering around us. We are not to lose hope; the Lord is present even in suffering. This feast is a kick-off to the season of Lent. The Passionist charism gives rise to our mission; connection to all of creation. Faith shared her experience of meeting in New York at the Thomas Berry place with the multi-cultural Passionist community. There she shared with others on the overwhelming influx of migration around the world. How can the Passionists be witness to the Passion of Jesus in these situations? She suggested looking at the needs of those seeking asylum in Michigan/Detroit area. Faith ended with a prayer/poem composed by a teenage boy entitled “Flow”.
2. **Monitoring Report Review: Jim Bologna reported on Ends 4; EL 7,8,10,11.12 (on zoom)**

**Ends 4 –** Jim reported that 3 out of 4 hosted groups are Catholic. Other groups fall within acceptable parameters. ( Neil reminded everyone that the Ends Policies have been recently amended, including ends 4. The updated ends policies will be used in the future. ) Matt

asked what we can do to bolster retreat attendance. Jim replied that the numbers are going up for weekend retreats. More qualitative research will be needed as to why people are or are not coming. Emily, the marketing coordinator, is currently on maternity leave and will work on this upon her return. We are now asking more questions: why, etc. There is a need to change our tool and work with new data. Jim said this process might take a year as there is usually a 20% response rate on a weekend. Board members offered other suggestions: retreat evaluations could ask a different set of questions; a survey could solicit responses from retreatants 6 months later; use of language on the surveys could focus on the Passionist charism; testimonials could be given as to how one’s faith has changed; follow up phone calls could come from staff. Board members agreed that more data is needed to help with increasing retreat attendance.

**Executive Limitations 7, 8, 10, 11, 12**- Jim reported that St. Paul’s was below budget. Fundraising, especially the Christmas campaign, was very successful. St. Paul’s cash flow and reserves is strong and there is no need to borrow from reserves in FY23.

1. **Update from Board Affairs –** Roger reported from Board Affairs in place of John. He reminded all that four board members will be leaving in June. Now is the time to surface new potential board members. We can add not more than 3 members. A question was asked about skills needed in potential members. Financial experience is a needed skill. Faith said it would be important to suggest someone who knows the Passionists and St. Paul’s. Diversity is also important. There is a need to reach out to younger people. Mary suggested that possibly a young person could serve as an ad hoc member, not a permanent board member. Board members are asked to email John if you have a name to suggest.

Roger also reported that GP 10 covers committees. All committee charters should be updated by now. An update would be given at the next meeting regarding this.

1. **Review of Action Items from December 5 meeting –** Most items were addressed in earlier discussions and will continue to be worked on. Neil suggested that the long term sustainability of St. Paul’s is based on revenue and on attracting future retreatants. Matt thanked Jim for the timely monitoring report.
2. **Selecting a Vice Chair–** Mary and Brian both agreed to serve as vice-chairs if elected. Matt suggested that they both co-chair the vice-chair position . A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed that Mary and Brian would serve as board vice-chairs.
3. **Open Forum -** Board members were asked to be more involved, in any way they can. It was suggested that members submit topics that can be discussed at future meetings.
4. **Closing Prayer -** Fr. Pat closed with a blessing on all .
5. **Adjournment –** The St. Paul Board of Directors meeting was adjourned by Matt at 8:00 p.m.

**The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023.**

Respectfully Submitted ,

Cindy LaFond

Board Secretary