

St. Joseph Fundraising Committee

10/27/25 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Pete Zenner, Nancy Zenner, Father John Boiko, Martha Jeffcoat, Jean Darby, Zeneida Kelley, David Ehler, Dwayne David, Kenny Svercek.

Members Absent: Elvira Castillo, Candelaria Escobar, Felipe Pacheco. Javier Rivera and Eugene Holub (sent text messages to Pete right before the meeting that they would not be able to attend tonight's meeting).

Pete Zenner called our meeting to order at 7:02 PM and Father John led us in prayer. Everyone said that they received the minutes by email and minutes were approved as written. Pete welcomed Zeneida Kelley who was not able to attend our first meeting. She introduced herself and other members introduced themselves to her. Pete stated that he had talked to Candelaria Escobar after our last meeting and was unable to communicate due to limited English. Her daughter was there and Pete asked if she wanted to continue to be on the committee and the daughter said to take her off the list for now. He also talked to Elvira Castillo and she said that she wanted to talk to some of the other Guadalupanas. Pete talked to Felipe Pacheco and we got a corrected email for him. There has not yet been representation from the Spanish Mass or Guadalupanas at either committee meeting. Nancy Zenner suggested that we find out from Eugene Holub on how to send the flocknote messages in Spanish as well as English.

Pete stated that he would like to have a parish member representing the Spanish mass serve as co-chairperson with him. This would be beneficial in getting the entire parish working together on our fundraising events. It would also allow people from the Spanish mass to share ideas with the group through

that co-chairperson. He stated that our goal tonight was to brainstorm fundraising ideas. Nancy said that at the last meeting, there was talk of going through past fundraisers to see what had been successful. She asked if such records had been kept. Father John said that we would need to check with Maria about this.

It was brought up that since the Guadalupanas had changed the date to Nov. 9th for their Jamaica Festival, there was now conflict with the drive through BBQ chicken dinner that the KC's had planned on having on Sunday Nov. 9th. Time for this is 10 AM until sold out. According to the flier in the church bulletin, the festival will start at 9 AM and run until sold out in the Cooke House backyard. Father suggested that the KC's sell BBQ dinners on the grounds. He said that some people didn't want to drive out to the KC Hall. We talked about how we are struggling with communication within the parish. Dwayne David stated that if we want to keep the KC Hall going, we have to raise money. The KC representatives wanted to know if they should cancel their dinner and after discussion, it was the consensus of the members present, not to do that. Each organization is trying to raise money. In the future we need to communicate better. Nancy Zenner asked Father if we had a Master Calendar. He stated "yes and no". We have one in Maria's office but not everyone puts their events on the calendar. Dwayne stated that as long as we have a Spanish mass and an English mass we will always be somewhat segregated. Pete stated that we need to work on this in baby steps. He mentioned that maybe we could approach the Hispanic community about having a day for preparation of tamales where they teach us and we help them make tamales. We could then sell tamales by the dozen. Perhaps for our next festival we serve a Mexican dinner and we help prepare the food. Father stated that in West, the Ladies Society hosted a Taste of West that included foods from all different cultures - Spanish, Czech as well as others. There was an entrance charge to sample the different foods. Dwayne stated

that we need to include games that children will enjoy. He mentioned the fish pond, the cake walk, ring toss, lawn mower pulling train cars for the kids to ride, petting zoo, dunking booth, volleyball, washer pitching, etc. Some of the older kids could help man the booths. It's important that whatever we do, we keep records of what each booth brings in. Father said that we need to go to surrounding parish festivals and see what they have to offer and what is successful. Nancy stated that she had talked to Tonya Sulak, who now goes to Holy Family parish in Lexington and received lots of information from her. She and her husband helped run the raffle at their festival recently. Nancy passed around a printed copy of information from their 2024 Fall Festival Raffle. They will increase ticket prices for raffle tickets in the future. \$5 for a ticket or a book of 6 tickets for \$25.

Nancy suggested that we get the parish input of what they would be interested in helping with through a Google document. We could have copies for parishoners to fill out that don't use computers. Zeneida Kelley suggested that we have the catechists also get input from the RE students about what kind of games would they like to see us have at a festival.

We talked again about how to get the Spanish parishoners involved. I asked Father if he ever met with the officers of the various organizations together, such as the Knights, Ladies Society and Guadalupanas. It was asked who was president of the Guadalupanas and Nancy stated that according to the bulletin, it's Maria Tristan. Father said she is no longer the president. Martha Jeffcoat mention Sylvia Ramos as a possibility for this committee and Nancy mentioned Julia Cardona.

Kenny Svrcek stated we needed to set a date for the festival and suggested May 3rd. Father went and got his calendar and said that First Communion would take place on that date. It was asked if that date could be changed and he said that we would need to talk to Bonnie Holub, DRE. Father stated that there was a negative vibe with the Mayfest so maybe we should change the

name to St. Joseph Festival. Father suggested that we check with the Chamber of Commerce in Rockdale and surrounding cities such as Cameron, Lexington and Thorndale and see what other conflicting events are taking place on that date.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 10th @ 7 PM. Father John may not be able to attend but stated that we could go ahead and meet. Eugene has a key and can get us into the building.

Action items:

- Zeneida Kelley said she would talk to Sylvia Ramos about joining our committee.
- Nancy Zenner will talk to Bonnie Holub about the possibility of changing the date for First Communion. She will also talk to Maria Santellano about the whereabouts of historical records of previous festivals and fundraisers.
- Pete Zenner said he would reach out to Rockdale Chamber of Commerce and also Julia Cardona. He will talk to Felipe Pacheco and get with Eugene Holub to learn how to post the meeting dates/times in Spanish as well as English.

Father John led us in a closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

Recorded by Nancy Zenner