

St. Joseph Fundraising Committee Meeting #4 Minutes - 11/24/25

Members Present: Pete Zenner, Nancy Zenner, Martha Jeffcoat, David Ehler, Dwayne David, Felipe Pacheco, Erika Rivera, Kenny Svercek and Father John. Members absent but had RSVP'd they could not attend were Jean Darby, Benito Costilla, Eugene Holub, Julia Cardona and Zeneida Kelley. Also absent was Candelaria Escobar. Benito had planned on attending the meeting via phone call. I texted him on Pete's phone but did not get a response from him before the meeting started.

Pete Zenner called our meeting to order at 6:30 PM. He asked Father John to start the meeting with a prayer. He asked if everyone had received the minutes and asked if there were any corrections other than the email addresses on the committee members sheet. No one had any corrections. Dwayne David made a motion that we accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Kenny S. Pete then asked that each committee chair/co-chair give an update.

- **Auction** - Benito Costilla was not present. Pete let the members know that we have a friend, Doc Pat Breen that is a professional auctioneer but that he is not free. His fee would be \$600 but he would also offer us guidance and suggestions. We asked who they had used or knew that might be willing to be our auctioneer. Dwayne David said that he would check with John Fisher, who has previously been the auctioneer for our festivals and did not charge. David Ehler will check with Kenny Mingus, who is the auctioneer at the Auction barn in Cameron and has done several auctions with other organizations and churches. Nancy stated that she had reached out to Zeneida Kelley to see if she and her husband might be willing to help Benito with the auction committee and to especially go out and solicit prizes for auction items, since Benito is chairing two committees without a co-chair. She stated that her husband works in Austin so he probably wouldn't be available to do that but she might have some other ideas.
- **Entertainment** - Erika Rivera said that she & Julia had some ideas but also had questions. They have thought about getting a DJ for the music, corn hole tournament, inflatables, mechanical bull, group from Guadalupanas that dress up in festive attire and do dances. Nancy asked about the Ballet Folklorico group. David Ehler also mentioned that we might want to have Czech Dancers. Nancy mentioned that she had seen a video of a group of dancers that looked to be teenagers at Holy

Trinity in Corn Hill recently. Pete said that he will talk to Father Stephen at Holy Trinity to find out about this group. She also asked if we could have a mini car show that might bring people to the festival site. Julia knows someone that does car shows. The KC members stated that we might could rope off an area in the back for this. They typically have the children's games outside under the trees and in the fenced in part in the back of the KC Hall. Nancy asked Kenny if he had been able to locate the wooden booths that the Holub's had built and the banner that they had hung across Cameron Avenue. Kenny will try to go out this week and see if he can locate them. Nancy also mentioned that some of the things such as inflatables and mechanical bull might present a problem with liability. Father said you can go on the website for the Diocese and look for particular laws for the diocese to see what you can and cannot do at a festival. We do need to purchase Event Liability Insurance.

- **Financial/Records** - Benito was not in attendance but Pete did relay that Benito had sent an email to Finance committee members and cc'd us to ask for their help in coordinating the financial aspects involved in the festival. Kenny mentioned that Tom Alejandro might be able to help Benito with records and auction since he is treasurer of the Knights.
- **Games** - Martha Jeffcoat reported that they had Bonnie's daughter and son-in-law (Kalli and Collin Key) to run the outside games and then she and Jean could do the inside games. I told her to get with Bonnie as she had lots of information about doing the children's games. She also mentioned Kristy Battles and Brenda Young. Idea of having a photo booth was mentioned and that Tiffany Llanas could perhaps build them a backdrop. It was asked if photos would be free or would there be a charge. If you intend to have a polaroid camera and actually give out pictures, you would need to charge. If it's just a backdrop and people take their own pictures, perhaps it could be free.
- **Meal** - Dwayne said that they had not really gotten together on the meal yet but would have plenty of time to work on that. He wants everyone to work together, though, in preparation of the meal.
- **Publicity** - Nancy stated that she and Eugene had met and laid out plans to get the word out about the festival - first to our parishioners, then community and all Christian churches in the area as well as outreach to Catholic parishes within an hours drive. They would help write out speaking points for members of the committee to share at

masses, compose a letter written on Church Stationary and signed by Father John to use as two or more people go together to businesses to solicit donations for the auction, raffle or perhaps sponsor a church t-shirt. T-shirts would be made in one color for committee chairs and would be free. Other t-shirts would be made for volunteers and then we would have extra T-shirts for sale. Bonnie had gotten t-shirts donated by finding 15 sponsors who paid \$100 each to have their business card put on the back of the shirts so that was \$1500 to cover the costs of the free shirts. Nancy will get with Porky Ormsby to get cost quote on purchasing t-shirts. We could also contact the Diocese on getting information about our parish festival in the Catholic Spirit as well as Texas Highways Magazine, the two radio stations, The Rockdale Reporter and various social media pages. Eugene has already set up on the church website a designated page for the Fundraising Committee. We know that we need to come up with the number of families that we have in our parish and that we need to have a weekend that we re-register members to get a more accurate count.

- **Raffle** - David Ehler/Felipe Pacheco - met with Pete last week. David spoke and said that they want to have all the information necessary to have printed tickets for sale by the first of February, 2026. He had examples of raffle tickets and asked for input from committee members about whether we just wanted strictly gift cards or whether we would have other prizes as well. Father stated that this would be a decision ultimately of the Raffle Committee. Nancy stated that she felt that a mix of gift cards and other prizes would be good and she felt that selling a ticket for \$5 or a book of 6 for \$25 would be good. David wondered if each family was given 4 packs of tickets (\$100) that they could sell or buy themselves, did that sound reasonable? We decided that tickets need to be numbered, they need to find someone for their committee that is proficient in setting up an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of ticket sales and that there needs to be a deadline for either turning back in your tickets unsold or the money for the sold tickets. Nancy mentioned perhaps we wanted to offer a prize to the parish family that sells the most tickets. Nancy gave David the print out of what Lexington had done for their raffle. When asked how many families we have in our parish, Father said that we have about 150 families that use the envelopes, probably another 50 give online so he guesstimates that we have between 150 to 200 families. The church could print address labels for parishioners for the envelopes to put raffle tickets in. David said we

needed to get a good phone number and/or email address for the family so we can contact them if we don't get tickets back. Nancy asked if we needed to set a goal for how much money we wanted to make. Father said don't think about the past - we're starting new., We definitely want to make money but more importantly, we want to learn to work together. We should contact surrounding parishes and see if we can come and sell raffle tickets before and after masses.

- **Risk Management/Security** - Pete Zenner/Kenny Svrcek - Kenny will work on getting security from MCSO. He said that they work in 5 hour shifts. We talked about perhaps 12-5 as our time frame. Pete mentioned about the Festival Risk Manager. He had received a paper from Father John that the Diocese had sent. He shared a copy with Kenny. In looking at the job description, Pete thought Tim Kelty, our City Manager, might be a good fit for that position. They will talk to Tim and see if he is open to undertaking that position. They also will have to have someone at each door to make sure that no one brings in beer or alcohol from outside and that no beer leaves the inside of the building.

We then discussed the need for subcommittees within our own committees. For example, we can sell desserts separate from the meal. You would want a committee to bake cakes or desserts, cut cakes, sell cakes. Auction would need people to solicit prizes for the auction, set up the auction, people to handle the recording of items and cash out of items, hand out and record bidder paddles, spotters and ring men. Entertainment might have a subcommittee for each area - dancers, car show, each tournament, set up and tear down. Since beer sales license is under the Knights of Columbus, they need to handle that. They will keep the money from beer sales, figure out how much net profit is and then make a donation to the church for a percentage of the net profit.

At this time, we are encouraged to recruit people to help us with our areas. Pete asked Father if we could have 10-15 minutes to speak at all the masses to explain to the congregation about our plans for the festival. It was decided that we would do this the weekend of December 13-14 at all masses. It was discussed that it would be very helpful if the members of the Fundraising Committee could attend all or as many of the masses as possible. People will then be able to see our faces and put a face with a name. It is also displaying unity of us working together for a common goal. We asked Father when in the mass this would happen and he said following the Homily.

Pete asked if there was any new business or questions that anyone had. He then turned it over to Father John. Father John shared these guidelines with us:

- 1). No one on the committee signs any contracts. He is the only one to sign a contract as he is the representative from our parish.
- 2). We will do everything legally and by the books.
- 3). The Festival Account has about \$5,000 in it. Only a chairperson can request funds by completing a festival request form. The Diocese gets upset if we pay sales tax. We can also get a copy of the church's Tax Exempt form. Nancy mentioned that with limited office hours and some of the chairpersons work full time, finding a time to come to the office to get a form and turn it in would be difficult. She asked if we could get copies for each committee chairperson of both the above mentioned forms and Father agreed that we could. Nancy offered to get with Maria to get these forms that we would make available at the next meeting. Nancy asked about the turn around time of getting a check once we had made a request and no answer was really given. Father again reiterated that we are not bound to the past - we can do different things. He made the distinction between minor and major decisions - the number of items in the raffle or the color of the raffle tickets or t-shirts is not something that he needs to have input on. Major decisions are something like changing the Mass schedule the weekend of the festival so that the workers can attend mass. Perhaps we have a mass at the KC Hall. Our goal is to raise money but more importantly it's to be people of faith.

Next meeting date is set for Monday, Dec. 8th following the 6 PM Mass (Immaculate Conception). Father John led us in a closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Submitted by Nancy Zenner

