

Parish Council Minutes
October 9, 2007
7:05pm

Members present: Robin Decker, Nick Carabon, Mike Zilinski, John Jeffers, Rodger Nelson, Lynn Larson, Ken Widenski, Judy Caruso, Christina Mascitti, Fr. Mark Payne, Patti Jeffers, Paul Klajbor

Members Absent: Monica Phillip, Chris Gibart

Parishioners present: Cathy Sourhrada (Chair of Human Concerns), Brian Gates (representative of Catholic Knights)

- 1) Opening prayer was done by Lynn Larson
- 2) September minutes were approved without corrections or additions.
- 3) Representative's reports were approved with additions. See attached reports
- 4) Committee Night:
 - a) To provide an opportunity for committee members to each other, and open lines of communication between the various committees.
 - b) The date is set for November 4, 2007. It will be held from 12pm-1pm in Johnson Hall. This information will be sent to Gerry Cofta to post in the Bulletin (done October 10, 2007 via email by Christina Mascitti)
 - c) All committee chairs must obtain minutes from all the meetings of their smaller groups. A copy of the minutes must be sent to Christina Mascitti (Agenda secretary). A summary of highlights must also be submitted for report.
- 5) Right to Life Monument:
 - a) Fr Mark led the discussion by first explaining that he believed the problem was in communications, stemming partly from his absence while he was in Japan. To prevent this in the future, we should enforce the policy that any changes to the physical plant of St. Veronica must be approved by the Parish Council.
 - b) Cathy Sourhrada, Human Concerns Committee Chair, made a statement also. Her belief as a professional social worker is that women who receive abortions do not think that they did anything wrong and need to be "convinced" that they have done something wrong.

c) Brian Gates, from the Knights of Columbus, made a statement also. The Knights of Columbus intend to pay for all costs associated with the monument. He also explained that the intent was pure and was not intended to offend anyone. Note: attendance part of the minutes says "Catholic Knights" and should say Knights of Columbus.

d) More discussion was held and Fr Mark passed around a picture of the new monument, which everyone agreed was very tasteful. The discussion centered on the inscription, and how it had been toned back to be less offensive. Everyone could see the original inscription and the new inscription. Every agreed that the new inscription was better, but not everyone approved of it. In any case, it is already set in stone and will be placed in front of Church at a ceremony on Oct 28, 2007.

6) Update on Project Manager

a) we offered the job to a candidate that we really liked, but he did not accept the job

b) we will begin the interview process over again.

7) Resignations:

a) Phyllis Logan resigned from the position of Trustee secretary as of Wednesday September 26, 2007, because of the inscription on the new Monument. Patti Jeffers has been appointed to the position on a interm basis.

b) Ron Dominski took a LOA of the position of Buildings and Grounds volunteer, partly because he was not offered the Project Manager job.

8) Closing prayer.

Parish Council 2007: October Reports

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy

Representative: Judi Caruso

Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Date:

Meeting Leader:

- a. There are nine committees; John Jeffers and Beth Mudlaff are our representatives. The committee they will belong to will be determined upon Beth's return from leave of absence (LOA).
- b. The school board met on October 6, 2007 to work on accreditation.
- c. Mary Stallmann (Principal STAA) requested service hours. This has been a controversial subject, which has even been brought to the Archdiocese.
- d. Signage has been posted in the school.
- e. See attached STAA Vision Sheet.

Archdiocese Parish Council

Representative: Monica Philip

Meeting Date: No meetings

Next Meeting: Oct. 27

Paul Klajbor is the new council representative to district 15

The has been no meeting, it is set for October 27, 2007.

Parish Life

Representative: Monica Phillip

Meeting Date:

Next Meeting:

Highlights:

- a. Preparation for the reception on October 28, 2007. This will be held after the blessing of the Right to Life Monument.

Prayer & Worship

Representative: Lynn Larson

Meeting Date: Sept. Meeting was cancelled

Next Meeting: Oct. 3

Meeting Leader: Kate Sponholz

Highlights:

Parish Council Action:

Calendaring:

Nov. 1-7:00 PM All Saints Day Mass

Nov.2- 7:00 PM-All Souls Day Mass

Nov. 21-7:00 PM Mass of Anticipation for Thanksgiving

Dec. 2 Advent begins regular weekend Mass schedule for Advent

Dec. 9-7:00 PM- Mass of Anticipation for the Immaculate Conception

Dec. 16- No Benediction and Adoration

Dec. 24-4:30 PM Mass

Dec. 25-Midnight and 10:30 Masses
Dec. 31-7:00 PM-New Year's Eve Mass

Christian Formation

Leader: Karen Buschman

Council Liaison: Rodger Nelson

Meeting date: September 19th

Next meeting: October 17th or 24th.

Meeting highlights

1) Confirmation orientation was held on 9/23. There are 36 candidates at this point.

Confirmation will be May 22nd, 2008. It will be held at St. Paul's & Archbishop Dolan will preside.

2) There are 4 people enrolled in the RCIA program. 3 from St. Veronica & 1 from St. Paul's,

2 are catechumens & 2 are candidates. Cat & Pat La Pointe have agreed to presenters for the RCIA program.

3) An Evening for Couples is booked for February 9th 2008 after the 4:30 pm mass. This program will be facilitated by Nancie & Tom Chmielewski. Nancie works for Our Lady of Lourdes & is adjunct faculty for the new St. Claire Center at Cardinal Stritch.

4) A Lenten series called: Living the letters, a Lenten journey will start February 10, 2008. The series will cover the letters & epistles in the order that they appear in the bible. The series will be at a different parish each week.

Human Concerns

Representative: Chris Gibart

Meeting Date: No meeting

Meeting Leader: Cathy Souhrada

Highlights:

a. Grief support meeting on Oct. 13th from 10:00-11:00

b. The Giving tree will be up in early November

c. Blood Drive on November 23

d. An abortion support group is going to be started by Cathy Souhrada. This service will be provided in conjunction with other similar groups in the Milwaukee area.

Stewardship

Rep: Robin Decker

Meeting Leader: Pat La Pointe

Meeting date: 9/20/07

Next meeting: 10/18/07

Highlights:

a. Fr. Mark sent in the endowment paperwork. When needed, Judith Schenk will put a policy together for the endowment fund.

b. The Managing Your Wealth Program will be held the weekends of October 6 & 7 and October 20 & 21, 2007. Christina will work off of Fr. Mark's articles on gifts for the bulletin prior to the weekends of the seminars. This will be done to

announce the program to the parish one week prior and Judith will speak at each Mass the weekends of the program.

c. It was suggested that we put out a stewardship appeal in February/March in order to capture tax refund recipients.

Parish Council Action: None at this time - attendance at the Managing Your Wealth Program.

Calendaring - none

Buildings & Grounds

Representative: Mike Zilinski

Meeting Date:

Next Meeting Date:

Meeting Leader: Mike Stahler

Meeting was cancelled this month.

- a. Currently trying to pay down what has already been spent.
- b. A fence will be put up in front of the retention pond. This will be gin in the spring when the work on the 'turn around' begins.

Finance

Representative: Patti Jeffers

Meeting Date: August 30, 2007

Next Meeting: September 20, 2007

Meeting Leader: Virginia Darrow

Highlights:

- A. A question was raised about credit balance in accounts receivable and debit balance in accounts payable. Patti will check with John.
- B. Utilities were accrued to even out the budget.
- C. Health Insurance account is significantly over budget. Check with John to see if double payment was made.
- D. Festival proceeds have helped the bottom line.

Pastor's Report

- a. I would like to mention that there is a huge misunderstanding and break down of communication involving a Right to Life monument that is being set up in front of church.
- b. The monument reads, "In memory of God's unborn and all who have been wounded by abortion. May they find peace in the loving hands of God's Mother." The monument itself is an image of The Blessed Mother, which has been entirely donated by the Catholic Knights. The monument will be blessed on October 28, 2007. It is going to be placed in front of church.
- c. Project manager position: position has not yet been filled.
- d. Resignation: Phyllis Logan

Group or committee to head item	STAA vision	Status
Physical Plant		
Building & Grounds and a newly formed committee	Reassessment and organization of library space—whole ground floor	
Building & Grounds and a newly formed committee	Additional classroom space—pods	
Home & School and Building & Grounds	Playground equipment and water on playground (spring?)	
	Heating/Air conditioning	
	Plumbing Ideas	
	Windows	
	Technology in the classrooms	
Spiritual		
Policy	Develop a service hour program for students	Turn into Policy (4-8 gr, 10 hrs per student in his/her parish)
	Integrate prayer into more school activities	Athletics/Student led prayers in the mornings
Faculty	Continue to stress values, discipline, respect, character. (develop whole person)	On-going
Principal/teachers/Priests	Encourage weekly Sunday Mass Attendance	On-going
	Continue traditional Catholic Courses	
Curriculum		
Sharon Tomski, Mary Stallmann, 3 teachers (Patty, Melissa, Lori) and group of engineers	Project Lead the Way	
Patty Schitz and tech group	Incorporate multimedia technology curriculum	long term (need space, equipment, grants...)
Art teachers	Artist in Residence	Art teachers to get information, help set up--H & S to spear head
Spanish teacher	Expand Spanish Program to include K-3rd grade	
	Create an Integrated Media Center, band, home ec, shop...	

	Extra-Curricular	
Mary Stallmann and Home & School	Create Parent Volunteer Coordinator Position	Will be done by Home & School Board
Policy	Requirement to enroll in 1 E.C. annually starting in Grade 2	Starting in 2007-2008 school year with 8th grade class
Principal and staff	Summer Program	Need to find space for it--St. Pauls?
	Strive for a balance between all E.C. areas--Mission to #1 and #2	
Building and Grounds	More Space Needed	
	More Tutoring Opportunities	
	Miscellaneous	
Priests	More Parish Involvement	
Building & Grounds, Principal and staff	Visual Aspect of the school--windows, signs, painting ...	
Principal and staff	Strengthen relationship with Catholic High schools	on-going
Marketing Coordinator?	Marketing--Recruit and Retain	