

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of March 13, 2012

Attendance: Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Sharon Scorso, Sharon Snuffer, Dennis Eslinger, Lou Cloutier, Janusz Herasmowicz, Tom Manning, and Patti Cinea.

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:05 p.m.

The following agenda was discussed:

1. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of February were reviewed with one change. The term, Facility Rental, will be changed to **Facility Usage**. The minutes then were accepted.
2. **Property Management:** With respect to the Sanctuary, the Quiet Room construction is completed. Carpeting was added with installation fees waived by Jason Smith. Curtains were added for privacy if this room is needed for use during Penance Services. The Christmas Fair Group has paid partially for this renovation. The interior walls in the Sanctuary were painted in 3 days time. The statue of the Risen Christ was cleaned, repaired and realigned in position on the wall. Installation of air circulating fans and filters for the radiators in the front pews has been completed. The walls on the back of the church formerly suspending the bulletin boards were repainted. The window sills were refinished. The seat cushions on the pews were shampooed at no expense. The statue of St. Maurice was cleaned. It was mounted in its current location in the worship space by parishioner Jim O'Brien. The altar and baptismal font, both made of limestone, required special attention to cleaning. All stands were repainted. The main crucifix will be mounted in the tabernacle area. Estimates will be obtained on replacement of the sanctuary carpeting. Carpets in the vestibules are showing signs of wear, a solution is being researched. The motion sensor light switches in the lower level bathrooms were replaced with conventional switches. As to the Sacristy, ceiling tiles were replaced with sheetrock, and one closet repainted. The countertop was replaced, courtesy of the Fair Group. Closets and cabinets were reorganized, with assigning a list for content location. The altar server vestry was carpeted courtesy of the Fair Group, with installation fees waived. The altar server robes were washed. The crucifix from the Old St. Maurice Chapel was cleaned and mounted in the Sacristy. With respect to the Rectory, the living room was fitted with an energy efficient replacement window, with replacement planned for additional windows in the upstairs bedrooms. In the Parish Center, shelving was constructed for Bingo supplies and equipment. Books donated by the Rev. Cronin Family will be sorted in the Library. Motion sensor light switches in restrooms were replaced with conventional switches. An energy survey has been completed for both the Church and Rectory, and is pending for the Parish Center. This will help guide improvement recommendations in terms of energy conservation and provide for cost savings. The phone system for all 3 buildings requires assessment and intervention.
3. **Faith Formation:** A meeting was held with parents of the Confirmation class. First Holy Communion will be Sunday, May 20th at the 10 a.m. Mass. The last day of classes will be May 6th. The combined Youth Choir/Band will perform Sunday, May 13th during the 10 a.m. Mass.
4. **Safe Environments:** Pamphlets concerning Protection of Children need to be posted by each phone. We need to be in compliance with this diocesan protocol. It is required that any adult outside our parish that is involved in any ministry program that will involve contact with children necessitates confirmation that this person has completed training in Safe Environments.
5. **Pastoral Planning:** The second phase of the Restructuring of Parishes in the Vernon Deanery had its first meeting on March 6th. Although Bishop Cote issued in November that St. Maurice Parish would not be assigned to a cluster, he cited that this parish is expected to collaborate with its neighboring parishes in all appropriate areas. Sister Elissa Rinere was in attendance and explained the necessity to begin the process of collaboration to prepare for eventual yoking. No deadline for this process has been established. Due to the size and resources identified by the parishes of St. Bernard and St. Matthew, they are now assigned in cluster with St. Joseph and Sacred Heart. Therefore, this cluster now consists

of these four parishes. St. Maurice was requested to participate in discussion with this cluster. Each parish representative in attendance gave a brief verbal report on the approximate number of families, recent October attendance count at Mass, number of ministries, and number of children in the faith formation program, any outstanding debt, and areas of present collaboration with neighboring parishes. Recommended was to have the same representatives from each parish participate in this second phase to ensure continuity and prevent regression. The next meeting is tentatively set for April 10th.

6. **Phone Project:** Kathy will meet with both Theresa and Irene to review the list of inactive parishioners. Recommended is to better define who is a parishioner.

7. **Pictorial Directory:** The draft of the new directory has been proofread. Kathy will work with Sybil to finalize and review with Father Wojciech.

8. **Bingo:** Father Wojciech will reassess in June the status of Bingo, whether this activity is productive. Ideally there needs to be 4 independent teams of volunteer staff to provide for rotation of duty-once every 4 weeks. Also a volunteer is sought as an assistant coordinator to help Susan Brock with her responsibilities as coordinator and provide relief when necessary. Recommended is to continue with strong advertisement, including signage in various areas of town after permission is granted, as well as with local businesses, newspapers, and community venues.

9. **Facility Usage:** Tom created and submitted a draft agreement contract for use of parish facilities for review. Recommended is to have a special meeting of the Parish Council on March 27th to review this further and contact Tom Marrion for both legal recommendations and availability to attend this meeting.

10. **On-line Donations:** Reviewed was the possibility of allowing for offertory donations via the parish website. Tom submitted a form from Vanco Services, which provides for the transfer of electronic funds. This company is recommended by the Diocese. Service fees were reviewed. The Council will review this again in the near future.

11. A memorial book has been made available which will include those persons who provide for material donations, such as a religious article, to the parish.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Cinea