

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of May 9, 2012

Attendance: Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Sharon Scorso, Jonathan Van Dine, Dorli and Lou Cloutier, Bonnie Benevides, Tom Manning, Sharon Snuffer, Joel Cohan, Mike Harney and Patti Cinea.

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:03 p.m. the following agenda was discussed:

- 1.** The minutes of the meeting of April were reviewed with one change. The plantings under the church signs were changed from annuals to perennials.
- 2.** Josh Meyers presented an update on his Eagle Scout project. His plan is to provide a walkway from the back parking lot to the lower level entrance into the church. His plan, including necessary materials, projected number of 70 volunteer service hours and cost, were reviewed. Josh is confident that he will be able to secure assistance from his peers. Jim Cropley will provide guidance and machinery for heavy lifting. The Christmas Fair Group has offered to donate \$500, and Josh will approach the Knights of Columbus for further financial support. The parish will finance the balance. Issues of timing with regards to starting and completing of this project were discussed.
- 3. Faith Formation:** Classes have concluded for the year. On the last day of classes, families received forms for registration and basic rules of conduct for the 2012-2013 year. A gift of a porcelain statue of the Holy Family was given to each family. Confirmation candidates received a book on catechesis.
- 4. Finance:** Mike presented an update on parish finances. He provided an overview of the parish operating budget, which included liquid assets, a memorial donation to the parish, and a \$70,000 loan assumed with 5% interest to pay for the replacement of the flat roof sections on the Church. He stated that the parish is operating at a breakeven of ordinary income and expenses. The general plan of the Finance Council is to establish an operating budget that allows projections on future expenses. The Finance Council will supply parishioners with the Annual Report on income and expenditures following the end of the fiscal year, June 30th. He stated that this Council has a good working relationship with the Property Management Committee. A majority of expenses incurred the past year has been covered by insurance reimbursement, volunteers, and the generosity of contractors who have provided work at reduced or no cost to the parish.
- 5. Property Management:** The repair to the ceiling in the Church worship space damaged from the winter storms of 2010-11 will not occur until autumn or beyond. An estimate to install new carpeting in the sanctuary and vestibules was \$10K. The parish office is being relocated from the Rectory to the former Faith Formation office. Issues of enhancing security to this building for Theresa were reviewed. Advised was to contact other commercial security companies for suggestions and cost estimates on various technologies to augment our present security system. Cracks in the parking lot will be filled when the weather is consistently warmer. CL&P will assess illumination of the back parking areas near the cemetery. The checklist of items to be reviewed before exiting the Parish Center has been completed and will be posted.
- 6. Pastoral Restructuring:** Last night's meeting held at St. Bernard's was more productive. St. Bernard's and St. Matthew's outlined a strategy for clergy coverage should they lose a pastor or parochial vicar. Areas of collaboration between all five parishes (St. Bernard, St. Matthew, Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, and St. Maurice) have been proposed: RCIA, Faith Formation (Youth and Adult; Missions), Youth Group, Pulpit Exchange (priests exchanging parishes for one weekend to promote visibility and increased level of comfort for parishioners), and team coverage by extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to Rockville Hospital. Highlighted was to maintain independence but foster occasions of interdependence. An example would be to have an occasion where Youth Group members from all 5 parishes could participate.
- 7. Facility Usage:** Tom rewrote the draft Policy on Usage of Parish Facilities Agreement. This document was then reviewed and approved by Tom Marrion. Of note, the Council has unanimously accepted this policy without further change, effective on this date, May 9, 2012. Public relation venues include Facebook, Twitter, and the parish website.
- 8. Bingo:** No new volunteers. The admission fee is increased slightly to improve income generated.
- 9. Phone Project:** Parish mailings that have been returned and approximately 20-30 more persons/families on the parishioner inactive list have been removed from the office rolodex. This indicates these persons are no longer considered parishioners due to death, relocation, personal request or prolonged inactivity in the parish.

The meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Cinea