

**ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES]
September 25, 2006**

Council Members Present: Karen James, Micki Klappa-Sullivan, Matt Knorr, Michael Kuick, Tom Marciniak, Blanche McQuitty, Clifford Shelton, Fr. Bill Stanfield, Fr. Steve Stradinger, Sharon Tehan, Phill Unti.

Council Members Excused: Markene Kaminski, John Lee.

Meeting Minutes: The August council meeting minutes were approved.

Formation: The council reviewed and discussed the following Chapters in the Parish Council Manual: Chapter 8 “How the Parish Works” and Chapter 9 “Leading with Grace: Spiritual Leadership”. The following recommendations were made:

- The key role of the Parish Council is to focus on the mission of the parish. The Parish Council guides the parish committees to ensure their goals meet the mission of the parish.
- Issues of the parish should be taken to the appropriate committee for investigation, consideration and action. If there are issues that cannot be resolved at the committee level, then the Parish Council liaisons should bring these issues back to the council for review.
- The council needs to spend more time in prayer as a group during the meetings, especially when embarking on decision-making.
- The council needs to continue to work to enhance stewardship within the parish and in the community.
- Fr. Bill urged the council members to share skills and practices members use in their work places or at home that could be shared with the parish.

Chairperson’s Report: Matt expressed gratitude to Alice Hatzenbeller for her hard work in preparing and facilitating the Parish Council retreat. He also thanked those council members who volunteered at St. Matt’s Fest.

Pastor’s Report:

Fr. Steve

- A Generations of Faith planning meeting was held for the first Faith Fest. He encouraged all council members to attend the Faith Fests and also encouraged the group to extend an invitation to their friends and neighbors to attend as well.

Fr. Bill

- He thanked all council members who volunteered at St. Matt’s Fest.
- An announcement that was recently made about the plans the Archdiocese has to sell the Cousin’s Center and a few other properties to assist with paying the \$8.5 million settlement from the cases recently settled in California. He further explained that the settlement money would not come from parishioner contributions.
- The Annual Parish Meeting will be held immediately after the 9:30 a.m. mass on Sunday, October 8th. He encouraged all members to attend this meeting.
- The Leadership Convocation to be held on Saturday, October 21st from 8:30 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. Anyone who would like to carpool to the Cousin’s Center should arrive in the church parking lot by 7:45 a.m.
- He encouraged everyone to submit questions related to the parish for the 3-minute question and answer sessions following mass. Approximately one third of the parish stays to hear the answers to the questions. Questions can be placed in the collection baskets.

Liaison Reports:

Prayer and Worship – The details for the Ministry Fair were being finalized. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of changing mass times for the holidays. A decision was made to keep the mass times the same as they have been in the past. The committee will hold a discussion related to their 2006-07 goals at the next meeting.

Building Committee – A letter will be sent to all parishioners in the near future and will include a listing of the names of parishioners who have contributed to the Phase I campaign. The committee is forming a sub-committee to focus on the capital campaign for Phase II. There has been a lot of turnover on this committee recently. Work continues to develop a proposal to address various issues related to the worship/gym space.

Finance Committee – The parish experienced a 4% increase compared to last year for the first two months. The current contingency plan will be modified as the committee learns more about what the stewardship commitments will be. The parish needs an increase of approximately \$15,000 in stewardship for the next year to meet the projected budget.

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Actionable: A suggestion was made at the parish council retreat to schedule a social for members of the parish councils for both St. Matthew and St. Mary's by the Lake in October. A decision was made to hold the social followed by individual parish council meetings on Thursday, October 12th. The social and meetings will be held at St. Mary's by the Lake parish. Karen will speak with Celeste at St. Mary's about the October 12th date and email a confirmation of the meeting time to the group.

Discussion: Parish Council Retreat – It was the consensus of the group that the retreat was insightful and meaningful to all. Having the opportunity to meet and dialogue with the parish council members from St. Mary's by the Lake was extremely beneficial. It was the consensus of the group to look for future opportunities to share the vision of both parishes with one another.

Next Year's Retreat – It was the consensus of the group to hold an overnight retreat next year in September or October 2007. Matt and Blanche will work together to organize it.

Ad Hoc Committees – Karen and Cliff will work together to review the parish council bylaws and constitution. Tom, Micki and Blanche will work together to review the parish mission statement. Each ad hoc committee will present their recommendations for any changes to these documents at the November parish council meeting. Final drafts will be presented at the January meeting.

Open to All: A question was raised about the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting. John Lee is putting together the agenda. Micki will speak to Tom Schneider about having the hospitality served after the parish meeting on Sunday, October 8th.

It is time for all committees and the parish council to look at strategic goals. A suggestion was made to focus on the short term goals (e.g. 1-2 year plan).

Respectfully Submitted by:

Blanche McQuitty
Parish Council Secretary