

**ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 27, 2006**

**Council Members Present:** Karen James, Markene Kaminski, Micki Klappa-Sullivan, Matt Knorr, Michael Kuick, John Lee, Tom Marciniak, Blanche McQuitty, Clifford Shelton, Fr. Bill Stanfield, Fr. Steve Stratinger, Phill Unti.

**Guest:** Alice Hatzenbeller

**Excused:** Sharon Tehan

**Meeting Minutes:** The October council meeting minutes were approved.

**Formation:** The council reviewed and discussed Implementation Commission Report (2005-06):

- 1) Fr. Bill announced Bishop Sklba has just been appointed the Vicar to oversee the collaborative clusters.
- 2) The general directives set forth for all districts include: 1) Grow in Holiness: Improving Sunday Mass attendance by increasing attendance of registered members by 20% in the next year, 2) Strengthening Catholic school education, and 3) Upholding our mission of charity and justice.
- 3) A discussion was held regarding the Southern Cross collaboration. It was the consensus of the group that the collaboration between St. Matthew and St. Mary's by the Lake parishes continues to strengthen and is being embraced very well by the parish staffs and parish councils. It was the consensus of the council that this collaboration will serve both parishes well as we prepare for the future.
- 4) Our parish staff, parish council and committees have taken a lead in our Southern Cross collaboration efforts. It is challenging to keep the momentum of continued collaboration and increased collaboration going. M. Kaminski advocated for the continued growth of the Southern Cross collaboration. Discussion took place about how the parish council could promote the Southern Cross collaboration. All parish council members are responsible for promoting the events scheduled at each of the parishes within the collaborative.
- 5) The council reviewed a report that highlighted the District 15 parishes, their membership numbers compared to the average Mass attendance for 2005. C. Shelton suggested contacting the parishes whose Mass attendance was higher to see if there is anything we could learn from them in order to boost Mass attendance at St. Matthew parish.
- 6) A suggestion was made to have all four parish council's in the Southern Cross collaboration meet together on an annual basis. M. Knorr will make this recommendation at the upcoming meeting of the chairs of the parish councils.

**Chairperson's Report:** M. Knorr asked for volunteers to serve on the Nomination Committee. A sign-up sheet was routed to the council members. M. Knorr will give an update about the recent APC meeting at the December council meeting.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Fr. Steve gave an update about the recent proposal to close three Catholic schools in the Racine area. St. Sebastian's, St. Richards and St. John Nepomuk will be closing after this school year.

**Liaison Reports:**

Southern Cross Committee – M. Kaminski shared an update on the status of the collaborative efforts:

- The Evangelization Committee is looking for additional members. Anyone who is interested in joining this committee should contact M. Kaminski.
- The cost of mailing the post cards, which would serve as an advertisement for all parishes in Southern Cross and note the Mass times for Christmas services, is much higher than anticipated. The goal was to mail over 4,200 post cards throughout the region these parishes serve, but the cost would be approximately \$9,200.00, which if felt to be too costly.
- St. Louis has a potential renter for their school building.
- St. Mary's by the Lake and St. Matthew have been working together to do Generations of Faith.
- St. Stephen's is in the second phase of their building campaign.
- A recommendation was made to make a suggestion to the other parishes in the collaborative to plan a joint Parish Council retreat in the next year. M. Knorr will bring this idea to the meeting he will be attending with the chairpersons of the parish council's in the collaborative.

ASCB – T. Marciniak shared an update on the status of the committees represented:

- Finance Committee – Stewardship is 2% behind budget. The projections the Stewardship Committee is putting together will be very challenging for the parish.
- Stewardship Committee – The committee is in need of more members. To date, 374 pledge cards have been received. If we are able to achieve the goal set by the Archdiocese to increase Mass attendance of registered parishioners by 20% over the next year, it will likely assist with improving the goals of the Stewardship Committee.
- Personnel Committee – The committee is reviewing the costs of the K4 teacher position.

- Technology Committee – The server was moved to the basement and many computers have been updated with new software. Computers from the 440<sup>th</sup> Tactical have been received.
- Building and Grounds Committee – Funds are needed to begin new projects, such as paving of the parking lot and work to be done in the bathrooms on the upper level in order to make them handicap accessible.
- Phase II Building Campaign – Members are contacting those who did not contribute to the campaign. With the current donations received and pledges made, we will not be able to start a new church in the next five years. The committee is busy putting together a proposal for next steps.

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

Parish Council Bylaws & Constitution – K. James and C. Shelton

K. James and C. Shelton used the template of the Archdiocese and proposed several revisions to the bylaws and constitution. The proposed revisions were reviewed in detail. After discussion, a number of recommended changes were made. K. James will make the necessary revisions and the final draft will be submitted for approval at the December meeting.

Mission Statement – M. Klappa-Sullivan, T. Marciniak and B. McQuitty

The proposed revision to the current Parish mission statement was presented and reviewed. After discussion, a few recommended changes were made. The mission statement will be revised to incorporate the recommendations and will be submitted for approval at the December meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Blanche McQuitty  
Parish Council Secretary