

ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2007

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

Guests: Alice Hatzenbeller.

Meeting Minutes: The January council meeting minutes were approved with changes.

Formation: “See Your Church Through a Visitor’s Eyes” – Fr. Bill led the group through a brainstorming session in an effort to see our church through a visitor’s eyes. He indicated that one of our challenges is that we are in a suburban community that has lots of new people moving into the area.

The following questions were posed to the group:

1) As a new person to the area, how do you find St. Matthew Parish? Responses included:

- Phone directory
- Referrals by a neighbor
- Archdiocese web site
- St. Matthew web site
- Advertisement on radio
- Find the parish through search for a school
- Many people can be cautious – may have had a bad experience in another church/parish and don’t want to repeat that again.
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2) As a new person who arrives at St. Matthew for the first time, what is your experience?

- Not clear where the entrance of the church is. Need better signage.
- Need better signage for the parking lot to indicate where the entry and exit points are.

3) As a new person, once you enter the building, what is your experience?

- Not clear where the church is located in the building.
- If entering through the lower level of the gathering space, it’s not clear whether the church is located upstairs or downstairs.
- Banners often times block the view into the gathering space from the lower level entrance.
- The best scenario would be to have a greeter present at each entrance to assist in directing people.
- Currently, most of the greeters do not direct people to the worship space unless they are asked.
- It appears that many greeters are unsure of what their role is.
- Need signage to point out where the church is located.

4) As a new person, now that you are in the church, what is your experience?

- Most of the time, it is very loud and social inside the church prior to mass.
- People participate during the mass.
- We have a kid friendly environment.
- The music is great.

5) As a new person, how do you get connected to our parish community?

- Call to register with the parish.
- Volunteer
- Stay to socialize after mass during one of the hospitality weekends.

Liaison Reports:

Southern Cross Update – M. Kaminski

- The group discussed evangelization and also went through the questions and answers from “Spreading the Holy Fire” document.

- M. Kaminski announced that she is resigning from the Southern Cross Committee effective immediately. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact Fr. Bill.

Social Ministry – A. Hatzenbeller

- Three of the four parishes in the Southern Cross collaborative have been meeting together about social ministry issues. There is interest in having a respect life prayer service in October 2007. Plans are underway for this event.
- St. Mary's by the Lake parish will be hosting the next gathering.
- Good progress is being made and there are some connections that have been made between the parishes that have been meeting and working together on social ministry issues (e.g. the bereavement teams from St. Matthew and St. Mary's by the Lake).

Chairperson's Report:

- At the APC meeting, an update about the restructuring/relocation of offices due to the closing of the Cousin's Center was reviewed. Information about the capital campaign for Catholic education and formation was presented. The challenge for St. Matthew is that we are already in the midst of our own capital campaign. All parishes will maintain a percentage of funds they raise for the campaign.
- An invitation was extended to all parish leaders to participate in a fact-finding meeting at St. Charles Borromeo on March 12th.
- Mark Peters was very pleased to hear about the efforts that are ongoing within the Southern Cross collaborative.
- M. Knorr distributed a tool that was demonstrated at the APC meeting to determine where parishes spend the most time, talent and treasure. Approximately 80% of parishes find that they spend most of their time, talent and treasure in local/direct service while needs are great in the areas of justice education, advocacy and empowerment.
- The school auction was a wonderful evening and attendance was great. M. Knorr challenged the group to make an effort to show support for other events sponsored by other ministries in the parish.
- Parish Involvement Day will be Saturday, March 10th from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. M. Knorr asked the parish committee liaisons to strongly encourage committee members to attend this day.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Steve:

- We have received the renewal notice of Deacon John Stodola's covenant.
- The school principal has announced that she will not be returning as principal next year. A search committee has been formed. Nine applications have been received to date. This could have significant implications for next year's budget.
- Last weekend, African Cardinal Christian Wiyghan Tumi presided over the wedding of his niece at St. Matthew church. It was a wonderful celebration. The Catholic Herald will feature an article about this event in the near future.

Discussion:

Finance Committee Meeting Update

- The proposed 2007-08 budget has been received.
- There is a proposal to have no wage increases for personnel next year.
- Since 1998-99, the school budget has increased by 52% while stewardship has only increased by 20%.

Phase II Visioning for Parish

Parking Lot

- The parking lot needs to be redone. Discussion took place about how to pay for this expensive project.
- The council charged the Building and Grounds Committee with putting together a proposal for review in the near future.

Stewardship

- Need to continue discussions about how to increase stewardship.

Social Ministry

- A suggestion was made to do a needs assessment for this ministry in order to provide better service to the community.
- Need to develop ways to involve more members in the community.
- A suggestion was made to try to utilize resources from the Southern Cross in this ministry.

Nomination Committee Update

- K. James reviewed the list of nominees for the Parish Council at-large positions and the Parish Trustee Secretary position.
- The responsibilities of the Parish Trustee Secretary were reviewed in detail.

- The training session for nominees will be held prior to the next council meeting on March 26th from 6-7 p.m. Nominees will be invited to attend the council meeting that evening.
- M. Klappa-Sullivan volunteered to assist with the nominee orientation session.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Blanche McQuitty
Parish Council Secretary