

ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2007

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

Guests: Mike Hoffman, Alice Hatzenbeller, Mike Kuick, Maria Schulner.

- **Meeting Minutes:** The April council meeting minutes were approved with the following change: In the Open to All section, the first bullet point was changed to read - "A. Hatzenbeller announced that A. Bissel will be working with members of the Southern Cross parishes to put together a prayer service for Respect Life".

Chair's Report:

- At the last meeting, council members were asked to review the ten critical issues outlined by the Planning Commission and select three issues for St. Matthew Parish to focus on. Matt presented the top three critical issues that council members cited as focus areas for our parish:
 - 1) Support for Equitable Distribution of Parish Priests – We need to be able to plan and envision now for the future when we know there will be only one priest for multiple parishes. We are encouraged to see a support piece included since all priests are our spiritual leaders and they will need to be able to focus on this.
 - 2) Supporting Families in Faith Education – We have many children in the Religious Education program, Youth Ministry and the school. However, many of these families do not participate in Sunday Mass celebration. We need to educate them and help them realize that faith learning does not stop for a child at a classroom door and it does not stop for a parent when they step outside the worship space. It is important to continue the education of Generations of Faith and our current culture. We can also educate about social issues. Since the teaching of our faith walks hand in hand with what Jesus taught us about social issues and helping the less fortunate.
 - 3) Evangelization – When people are searching to fulfill their spiritual hunger, they are sometimes unable to find programs in our parishes to fulfill that hunger. The RCIA program is great for people wanting to enter into the Catholic Church; however, we have difficulty reaching the fallen away Catholic population. If a parish doesn't have a program, shouldn't they know where the people could go to fill their spiritual hunger? (e.g. different parishes have different programs, books, websites, etc.). We have tremendous opportunity to comfort those who are hurting and show them God's love and mercy. Some of us can only take milk but others need a more nourishing spiritual meal.
- M. Knorr will submit this recommendation at the APC meeting in June.
- An explanation of these critical issues will be included in a future bulletin.
- Fr. Bill suggested that these critical issues could also be incorporated into our strategic planning initiative.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Steve:

- A meeting was held to schedule the parish calendar for 2007-2008. .
- The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2007. This is also a baptism weekend. A suggestion was made to consider moving the annual meeting to March 8, 2008 and also to change the format of the meeting to a town hall format.
- Another recommendation was made to have the annual meeting replace the Parish Involvement Day, which hasn't been well attended in the last few years. The Parish Council Agenda Planning Committee will discuss and make a recommendation on how to proceed with both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Involvement Day.
- Nomination weekend is scheduled for February 16th but this falls during lent. A recommendation was made to move the nomination weekend to January 19 & 20, 2008.
- The March Parish Council meeting originally scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2008 will be changed to Monday, March 31, 2007 since March 24th is the day after Easter Sunday.
- The Parish Council meeting scheduled for Monday, June 9th will be moved to Monday, June 16th because it conflicts with 8th Grade Graduation.
- A recommendation was made to hold the combined parish council retreat on Saturday, September 29, 2007. B. McQuitty will confirm this date with the parish council representatives from St. Mary's by the Lake, St. Louis and St. Stephens parishes. The retreat location and facilitator needs to be finalized.

Liaison Reports:**Southern Cross Update – C. Shelton**

- The group reached a consensus to focus on evangelization. A suggestion was made to bring in a speaker and invite the community to attend (within and outside of the parishes). The goal is to schedule an event for the fall.
- Fr. Bill to contact Archbishop Dolan to see if he could possibly attend. The archbishop is currently rolling out a major evangelization initiative and he has asked that all parishes be involved. His vision for this initiative is to invite people to come back to the church.
- Proceeding with the Southern Cross evangelization event in the fall would be a precursor to the evangelization event the archbishop is rolling out.
- The work to organize such an event would be divided amongst all of the parishes in the Southern Cross.

Finance Committee

- Report deferred.

Phase II Building Committee Proposal

- The council reviewed the proposal submitted by the Building Committee on May 15, 2007, which stated that the committee would like to pursue investigating the feasibility of adding another building to our Master Plan or converting some of the south wing space to explore a temporary gym.
- Given the fact that the current Phase II Generations of Joy campaign is moving along slowly (with approximately 10 years before there would be enough money to proceed with the building plans for the new worship space), the council determined that there is some value in investigating this proposal further.
- The Parish Council Agenda Planning Committee will draft a response to the Building Committee.

Formation:**Parish Council Discernment**

- Fr. Bill facilitated the discernment for the three vacant parish council member positions and the vacant Parish Trustee-Secretary position. The following parishioners were discerned for 3-year terms:
- Fr. Steve nominated Mike Hoffman for the Parish Trustee – Secretary position. M. Hoffman accepted the nomination.
- Maria Schulner, Cliff Shelton and Phill Unti were discerned as Parish Council members at-large.

Open to All:

- A. Hatzenbeller announced that this would be her last Parish Council meeting. Judy Wargin will replace her effective June 2007 as the staff member liaison to the council.
- Fr. Bill will facilitate the discernment process for council officers and liaisons. K. James will email the Parish Council Officer and Liaison Discernment Form this week. All council members to review the Parish Council Bylaws and Constitution prior to the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Blanche McQuitty
Parish Council Secretary