

ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 28, 2008

Council Members Present: Karen James, Micki Klappa-Sullivan, Matt Knorr, Mike Kuick, Michael Hofmann, Tom Marciniak, Blanche McQuitty, Clifford Shelton, Fr. Bill Stanfield, Fr. Steve Stradinger, Phill Unti, Maria Schulner, Judy Wargin.

Excused: Sharon Tehan.

Formation: Planning for March 8, 2008 Town Hall Meeting

- An all parish town hall meeting will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
- The parish strategic vision document will be presented at this meeting.
- Each Chair of the parish committees (or their designee) will give a report on their accomplishments in 2007, highlights of their goals for 2008 and how they link to the strategic vision.
- A question and answer session will follow the presentations to give parishioners who attend an opportunity to dialogue with the committee chairs and the parish council members.

Next Steps:

- B. McQuitty to email the final draft of the strategic vision document to all council members.
- Council liaisons will be responsible for disseminating the strategic vision document to the committee chairs and asking them to review it and obtain feedback from their committee members by February 25th.
- Committees to compare their goals to the strategic vision document to see if they align with the proposed strategic vision and forward any recommendations for changes to the Parish Council via their liaison.
- The strategic vision document will be published in the bulletin and/or St. Matthew Buzz prior to the March town hall meeting so that parishioners have an opportunity to review the document.

Chairperson's Report:

- The next APC meeting will be held on February 19th. The focus of the meeting will be related to discussing Fr. Jim Connell's vision for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's planning initiative.
- M. Knorr will email the link to this document to the council members.
- M. Knorr thanked the council members who helped out at Winter Fest.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Steve:

- Fr. Steve reported that he recently received a newsletter identifying changes to IRS regulations entitled "Challenge of Forming Consciences of Faithful Citizenship". The document is a guideline of what parishes can and cannot do in related to IRS regulations.
- We are still in need of a person to chair the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

Fr. Bill:

- Fr. Bill announced the liturgical changes that were recently approved to be rolled out to all parishes.
- The bishops will begin a process of visiting each parish in the diocese beginning with the oldest parish in the district. Since St. Matthew is the oldest parish in our district, Archbishop Dolan will be coming to St. Matthew on the weekend of September 13-14, 2008 to meet with parishioners, celebrate Mass and hear confessions. Fr. Bill asked the parish council to assist with the plans for this weekend.
- If the parishes in the Southern Cross Collaboration want to enter into a Welcoming Back Program, a group needs to be pulled together to plan this event.
- Archbishop Dolan has received notification that there will be more negative press coming out this week regarding the sex abuse cases. A decision was made to have the courts release all documents related to these cases. A proposal will be coming before the Wisconsin state assembly and senate to discuss whether the Wisconsin statutes should be changed to say that the Catholic Church could be prosecuted. This would put the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in a grave financial situation. Fr. Bill distributed a copy of the letter Archbishop Dolan has written which will be sent to all parishioners to explain the situation.

Liaison Reports:

Prayer and Worship – J. Wargin

- One more volunteer is needed to distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Southern Cross – C. Shelton

- C. Shelton shared the feedback received from the table discussions and surveys distributed at the Living Your Faith Again event. 142 surveys were collected. 25% of attendees are not attached to a specific parish. The top three responses to the question “Are there programs or information you would like to hear about from local Catholic parishes?” were as follows:
 - 53% of attendees expressed a desire to learn more about prayer and bible studies.
 - 22% expressed a desire to learn more about religious education programs.
 - 21% expressed a need for support groups
- The chair of the Southern Cross Committee has stepped down. The committee is looking for a new chair. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5th.
- The next Evangelization Committee meeting is scheduled for April 2nd.

Christian Formation Committee – P. Unti

- A meeting was held on January 2nd. The composition of committee membership, as well as the responsibilities and activities of the committee were discussed. A decision was made that committee membership must consist of at least one non-staff person for each staff person involved. Liaisons/committee members will need to be provided by the following areas: Board of Education, School, Youth and Children Formation, Adult Formation, Parish Council and Athletic Association.
- Youth and Child Formation will be represented by Janice O’Connor.
- Adult Formation will be represented by Eileen Hobbs.
- Other topics discussed included access to dial in conference calling for meetings, the viability of setting up chat space as a discussion forum, and standardized e-mail accounts for distribution of information.

Next Steps:

- P. Unti will be reviewing requirements for a mission statement and bylaws. He will also notify sub-committees of liaison/membership requirements.
- The next meeting will be March 17th. A potluck dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. with the meeting to follow.

Agenda:

- Officers will be selected.
- Frequency of CFC meetings will be determined.
- Major objectives and timelines will be discussed.

Phase II Building Committee Proposal for Raising Funds for a Gymnasium – M. Klappa-Sullivan

- The committee is proposing, as part of our current Phase II Capital Campaign, raising funds for a separate gym building to be built south of the existing school building.
- This proposal is an adjustment to the master plan – not a new plan. It is being proposed because we are faced with a very real possibility that it will likely take more than 5 years to accomplish the master plan.
- Two bids were received and presented.
- The plan includes securing funding from outside sources, alumni, and parish families, especially those who have not given to the current campaign. In addition, St. Matthew’s School auction, Home and School Association and Athletic Association will be asked to contribute money toward the campaign.
- The Board of Education, Building and Grounds Committee and the Finance Committee have reviewed the proposal. Committee responses will be forwarded to each council member for review.
- Questions were raised and a discussion took place. It was the consensus of the council to defer a decision about this proposal until the February meeting so that council members would have adequate time to review the material and give it serious consideration.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- The December meeting minutes were approved as written.

Open to All Discussion:

- K. James presented items to be placed in the council’s auction basket. The theme of the basket is “Believe”. Council members who would like to make a contribution toward the basket should send their item or money to Karen as soon as possible.
- Nomination weekend was held last weekend. There were at least two nomination forms submitted by a council member; however no nomination forms could be found after the Masses. The Parish Office will be contacted as it is likely the forms were turned in to the office.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Blanche McQuitty

Parish Council Secretary