

ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – October 26, 2009

Parish Mission – *“We follow Jesus as a welcoming Catholic community of believers, fostering a life of active prayer and worship, sharing God’s word through education and action and reaching out in service to those in need.”*

Present: Cliff Shelton, Mike Kuick, Larisa Knorr, Alan Bronikowski, Jeff Menz, Karen Franckowiak, Tom Schneider, Laurie Stodola, Mike Hoffmann, Fr. Pat, Blanche McQuitty, Chris Adams, Troy Fields

Excused: N/A

Reflection/Opening Prayer: A. Bronikowski

Minutes: Laurie Stodola moved to approve minutes of 8-31-09 PC meeting with corrections and Alan Bronikowski seconded the motions. Minutes were approved.

Debriefing from Town Hall Meeting – Cliff Shelton

Members of Parish Council commented that the information was both helpful and presented in a concise and interesting manner. Ideas were generated at the meeting and a venue was provided for committees to indicate needs and concerns. It was determined that Council should retain this approach to communicating with committees next year.

An attempt should be made to get a date on the calendar for this event as early as possible so all are aware of the earlier timeframe.

Guest Speaker – Tom Schneider

Using September, 2009 St. Matthew’s Financial Statements, Tom Schneider, discussed/explained the accounting approach that the Finance Committee applies to the preparation of these monthly statements. Using an overhead, the presentation was thorough and questions were answered. This presentation was provided to give members of the Parish Council a clear understanding of how to read the financial statements. This understanding will assist the Council during the budgeting process.

Liaison Reports:

- (1) **Christian Formation Committee (CFC)** – Chris Adams commented that the next meeting of CFC meeting is scheduled in November. Home & School Association is still finalizing their by-laws.
- (2) **Prayer & Worship** – The decision was made to table the discussion of a possible change in the Sunday mass schedule until the newly built St. Stephen’s Parish mass schedule is finalized and available.

- (3) **Southern Cross** – Laurie Stodola indicated that major points of discussion were: (1) another workshop with Fr. Pable doing the same course, (2) doing a follow-up course with Fr. Pable; (3) doing the “Invite” program; (4) doing the “Awakening Faith” program; (5) doing the “Catholics Returning Home” program; and (6) a mailing. It was felt that if a mailing was going to be done, the best time would be before Christmas.
Advice is requested on whether monies have been budgeted for parish collaboration and how can it be obtained?
- (4) **Social Ministry** – Troy Fields indicated that many sub-committees could use more volunteers and some sub-committees are uncertain as to what direction to move forward and are looking for guidance including the Bereavement committee, Voices for Justice, Respect Life, Reaching Out and Prison Ministry/
- (5) **ASCB Finance** - Jeff Menz commented that the concerns of the Finance Committee include: (1) approval of the parish budget by November; (2) should PC request that standing committees put budgets together; and (3) big ticket items that would be a budget breaker should be presented to PC by November meeting.
- (6) **ASCB Building & Grounds** - Allan Bronikowski deferred as he will be presenting Building & Grounds proposal later in the meeting.
- (7) **Stewardship** - Larisa Knorr indicated that the projected stewardship for next year to be \$650,000. This projected amount is the same for the last two years. It was suggested a follow up be done with the Faith in Our Future campaign regarding monies that could come back to parish for education. Fr. Pat would be requesting this funding.

Chairman’s Report

Discussions took place regarding investigating the issue of calling inactive members regarding stewardship. Another suggestion was made regarding the possibility of calling inactive or new arrivals to our community and inviting them to join us for Christmas services. Resources and an action plan will need to be put together.

Pastor’s Report

Fr. Pat reiterated that enough funds from Faith in Our Future have come back to the parish to fund the project of lighting the lower corridors of the school building. This will provide some visibility for what is being done with monies received from the FIFO campaign.

Old Business

Boiler Proposal – Allan Bronikowski

The Building & Grounds Committee has reviewed the WE Energies Heating Systems Incentive and savings calculation. It projects that the parish could save \$7,832 per year in efficiencies with an additional \$7,669 incentive to make the switch to a new more efficient boiler.

The projected cost of the new boiler for our main building would be \$75,683. There is another potential \$4,000 cost for asbestos abatement. With the incentive and projected savings received from the more efficient unit, there would be an estimated payback within 9.5 years as the cost of natural gas increases. Some savings could be additionally gained by using volunteers to help perform some of the HVAC work.

Both the Building & Grounds and Finance Committee (who has reviewed the proposal) recommends that we pursue this boiler replacement at this time.

The Parish Council by Consensus vote approved the proposal to purchase the new boiler and move forward on the project..

Update on Alarm – Cost of Intrusion System –Alan Bronikowski

Building & Grounds have been reviewing several systems including a larger project suggested by AT&T that would include Simplex cameras. It was decided that a simple intrusion system with an alarm would be appropriate for parish needs and the committee expects to select a firm at their next meeting.

New Business

Evangelization – Allan Bronikowski

The question was posed: “How do we grow the parish?” We need to have a vision of where we are going. We look towards growing our school and increasing parish membership to the level of 2,000. There needs to have concrete steps in place to see the growth that we are looking for. Groups/committees who have been working on this issue separately need to consolidate with one message. To grow the parish needs to encourage and not inhibit. Council will be focusing more on this issue.

Closing Prayer - J. Menz