

ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES – May 18, 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: Blanche McQuitty, Cliff Shelton, Fr. Pat O’Loughlin, Phil Unti, Larisa Knorr, Matt Knorr, Karen Franckowiak, Mike Hoffmann, Laurie Stodola, Mike Kuick, Jeff Menz, Chris Adams

Excused: Maria Schulner, Sharon Tehan, Troy fields, Alan Bronkowski

Reflection: Karen Franckowiak

Minutes: Minutes of 4-20-09 Parish Council meeting were approved as modified.

Liaison Reports:

- (1) **Christian Formation Committee (CFE)** –After review only minimal cuts to budget were found. CFC recommends we leave the budget as is. (P. Unti).
- (2) **Prayer & Worship** – Did not meet.
- (3) **Southern Cross** – Evangelization Committee is taking part with several other parishes in presenting “How to Share Faith Without Being Obnoxious”. Presentation will be done by Capuchin Father Martin Pable on Saturday, June 27th from 8:30 to 4:30 at St. James Parish, 7219 S. 27th Street, Franklin (M. Knorr).
- (4) **ASCB – Building & Grounds** – New insulation and ceiling tiles work is being completed in south wing. Security System was discussed at length. There is no funding for this project currently. A committee is working on a proposal.
Finance – Stewardship is \$9,558 (1.9% behind last year or \$15,601 behind budget. Discussion on the budget was sent back to PC. Discussion on Outsourcing of Tuition ended without conclusion. Finance Committee will await clarification. Janice O’Connor reported that twenty-two families currently have delinquent tuition in the amount of 24,600. Registration for 2009-2010 school year is 197 families (11 of which are currently delinquent). This number is short of the budgeted goal of 217 families.

Actionable: After additional review by committees, budget was returned to council for action. After discussion, it was determined that possible cuts suggested were minimal and would not be implemented at this time.

Recommending the budget to Fr. Pat would be done with much hesitancy, but Parish Council not many alternatives are available. It was suggested that the budget process be started earlier probably in fall. With this budget the Council is trying to keep true to our faith by putting people first.

After further discussion the Parish Council by consensus recommended a \$40,000 deficit budget to Fr. Pat which will be offset with the use of designated and undesignated cash reserves (the Athletic Assn will provide \$2,000; Home & School \$8,000; and School Auction \$5,000 from designated cash reserves). Phil Unti abstained from the voting and Mike Kuick voted no.

Chairperson's Report:

Cliff Shelton recognized that individuals who volunteer their time and efforts to the parish receive little reward besides personal satisfaction. It was suggested that the Parish Council begin to recognize these individuals by sending "Thank You" notes.

Chris Otto was responsible for organizing the "Family Movie Night" for school families, the "Sock Hop" for both school and parish families. The council signed a Thank You note for Chris to recognize all of her hard work.

It was noted that Social Ministry, one each month posts a Thank You to volunteers and posts on the kiosk in the Gathering Space. It was suggested that Social Ministry provide Thank You cards to Parish Council to personally sign.

Pastor's Report

Pledge cards for the "Faith in our Future" campaign were collected the weekend of May 16-17. The method used, having parishioners bring up their Pledge Cards during mass worked well. It was felt that mass attendance was down that weekend. The "Pizza Party" Saturday was successful. There was a good parish effort with the economy and other parish fund raising issues that were involved.

A special thank you to Karen James and Allan Czyka the Co-chairpersons of the "Faith in Our Future" capital campaign.

Prayer Log: Phil Unti provided a list of prayer log issues including: (1) Financial help for parish, (2) Safety for our Military, (3) Unity in the Parish, (4) Success of FIOF, (5) Priests health and well-being, (6) Arch Bishop Dolan, and (7) New members of Parish Council. Many prayers have been answered and others need our continued prayers.

Old Business

Outsourcing of School Tuition Collection

At the last Board of Education meeting John Lee and Julie Barber discussed "Tuition Management Systems". It was hoped that the issued could be resolved without going outside. A meeting will be scheduled with Fr. Pat, Tom Schneider, Janice O'Connor and members of the parish council to get a better idea of all of our options. There remains a willingness to meet with "Tuition Management Systems" to get a better understanding of the services they would provide.

Home & School by Laws were discussed and it was determined that it would be tabled until fall for an in-depth discussion and final resolution.

New Business

Discernment for three new members of the Parish Council for a three year term and two new members to serve one year terms. Fr. Pat led the discernment process, requested each individual being discerned to indicated their willingness to serve on Parish Council and led us in prayer.

The following individuals were discerned to serve for three years: (1) Chris Adams, (2) Laurie Stodola and (3) Alan Branikowski. Blanche McQuitty and Larisa Knorr will fill the one year vacancies.

Closing Prayer – Blanche McQuitty

All present & former council members are invited to the Parish Council Social at the June 15th Meeting. A sign up sheet for food is available and a reminder e-mail will be sent.