

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES - REVISED  
MAY 11, 2010  
7:00 p.m. – Room #205

Present: Jeff Trollinger, Michelle Mason, Andy Ferguson, Fr. Dan Brady, Fr. Francois Babulu, Barbara Burleigh, Jo Rohr, Bob Yondola Cathy Forney

Absent: Beth Zorn, Ivonne Gordillo, David Lowenhagen, Katie Lowenhagen, Richard Mayhew

Guest: Bonnie Campbell - Capital Campaign

OPENING: The meeting was opened in prayer led by Bob Yondola at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes were approved as read: motion to accept by Jeff and seconded by Jo, all ayes, no nays, so approved. Bob mentioned we discussed before posting approved Minutes on the web, we should go ahead and get this done.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/BUILDING: Bonnie Campbell addressed this, noted we officially kicked off the general campaign this past weekend May 8-9 with Fr. Dan preached at all the masses about the need to build. The next two weekends this will also be touched upon as well as the upcoming parish picnic on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> after the 11:30 a.m. mass on the church grounds. This weekend and the next two after mass there will be campaign materials available in the commons including the case presentation, pledge information, newsletters, etc. Parishioners asked good questions about the building renderings, recognized the need to build once they could visualize space we have versus what we would gain. The kiosk is now populated with campaign materials. The architects' colored renderings were available for review and drew many comments from parishioners as they looked at the proposal for complete build out. Many good questions were asked. Bonnie thanked Fr. Dan warmly and felt he did an excellent job of mentioning as many points about the building as he possibly could at all five masses. She noted this is a key month for the campaign and how important it is to keep the momentum building. She spoke to the staff this morning and encouraged everyone to be positive and optimistic about the building when queried as they are a true reflection of the parish. Tom Kaczmarek, head of Music Ministry at church, asked how we are to respond to negative comments; it was noted we could say that we respect everyone's individual opinion but could also share the reasons we are excited about this project moving forward. The next three to five months are critical to moving us along on the right path. Bonnie urged anyone to advise Fr. Dan, Andy or herself if there are concerns which need addressing.

Bonnie distributed a handout showing the total pledges from December 1, 2009 – April 30, 2010; inclusively there are 34 pledges totaling \$47,900 in cash and \$222,400 in pledges. (Less than 50 families have contributed approximately 10% of what is needed.) Fr. Dan noted the \$333,000. that the Parish currently has in hand is not reflected in the above amounts. We will continue to ask for large gifts and have had feedback from people indicating they do indeed plan to make a gift.

Michelle Mason asked if could we do a FAQ sheet and post as an internet link. This may be useful for the staff, Parish and Finance Council to have available when they are asked questions. It is important to accept both positive and negative feedback. The teens have given nearly \$600.00 to the campaign. Dave Tindall, head of Finance Committee, noted that in every phase there are people who question validity of building; this is not uncommon.

Fr. Dan noted he is not sure whether or not we will reach our goal by December but we will certainly try. The last phase was extended due to lack of financing; it is important to remember that the goal is not the building; it is our sense of community which engages us, is welcoming and inclusive. We need to remember the “fun” as community in fund raising. There are many sponsored events; Michelle offered to see if her CRHP sisters could sponsor one to alleviate anyone being from burn out.

It was noted that this campaign is more difficult in the sense that building a worship space is more glamorous with naming opportunities etc. as opposed to what we are proposing now. Admittedly, the silent campaign was not as successful as we hoped, but that does not mean we will not attract large givers or cannot ask for a second gift.

Bonnie noted a parishioner came forward who felt “called by the Lord” to use his fund raising talent to help the campaign; Bonnie will be contacting him. Andy will contact Bob McDonnell to personally invite him to attend the picnic on May 23, 2010; when he is in town he is present at masses here.

Bob noted the newsletters were received today after being mailed out yesterday; they were sent out first class this time as opposed to last mailing which was bulk.

Marshneil D’Souza arrived at 7:30 p.m.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Andy presented a liquidity report for review from March and April 2010. Everything but Haiti and scrip is included in the one checking account with an additional \$250,000.00 in a C.D. He did a line breakdown on several of the accounts for clarification. The Hibernians Scholarship money this year was directed to the building fund; this change was made the Hibernians organization.

Monthly collections normally more than cover the mortgage.

Over the last few weeks collections have been okay. Michelle noted mass attendance seemed lighter lately, Fr. Dan thinks the addition of another mass is the reason and it will eventually level off more evenly.

Expenses for paper, printing, mailing, etc. for the capital campaign came from a separate account; to date expenses are \$18,000.00.

WE WALK BY FAITH: Andy asked where we go from here following Bishop DiLorenzo’s visit and presentation here May 1, 2010. WWBF is an initiative of Parish Council and it is important to keep this in front of us perhaps monthly so we not lose sight of the objective. The Bishop basically said what we want for the parish is up to us. Fr. Dan noted before Bishop DiLorenzo came here, we were told by the previous Bishop that the land west of us would have another parish and take some of our Parishioners; this new Parish was not created. Administratively we should go back to the document and see if we addressed the issues including ethnicity of the parish, budget etc. Bob said we should pick one item and keep on agenda monthly. Fr. Dan noted we cannot do everything but Council can look to the future and keep advising him as we have been up until now; this Council is still only approximately two and one half years old.

Bob asked Karen Bowens, recorder, to note for the June meeting an action item monthly will be something from WWBF. Marshneil had an idea for an event involving Indian families providing food and perhaps a fashion show; this will be run past Stella Capocelli as a possibility.

BUDGET: Dave noticed there has been a minor adjustment since it was previewed by us last month. Sunday collections have been flat since 2008, no significant growth indicated. It is unclear if people are giving less and/or newer people not giving. Fr. Dan noted we were hit pretty hard economically with the closing of Circuit City and other large businesses in the Glen Allen area.

Dave noted a 2% salary increase was approved for the staff as previously discussed. Additionally, we will incur the expenses involved with Fr. Jim Arsenault, parochial vicar (75% living and 75% stipend shared with St. Mary's where he will live). Also, Deacon Brian Capuano will be here beginning in late May for the summer living at the rectory.

The capital expenses are down significantly since the installation of automatic doors and the video equipment; nothing major coming up. Our current debt service is \$25,000.00; current chart of accounts runs until June 30, 2011.

Andy mentioned we will need to find temporary space for some staff members during the construction. Andy noted there will be a potential savings due to faith formation fees going towards books being non-taxable.

The Cathedraticum fee has increased 1%; this is an excise tax for area Catholic schools. Discussion ensued about students wanting to attend Catholic schools.

MISSION STATEMENT: Based on last month's conversation about what Parish Council talked about at the retreat held in 2008, we worked up and distributed a new model for us to review. It is short, concise phrases, not a paragraph which incorporates ideas discussed and is easy to remember. Father Dan asked what Parish Council members thought about it.

“To be the presence of Christ...

In welcoming

In service

In worship

In faith sharing

In compassion

In fellowship

“To be the Light of the World !

Feedback was generally positive, liked the brevity of it, felt it encompassed what was discussed previously. Michelle asked what the procedure is to adopt a new mission statement. This would be St. Michael's third one and it is not a problem at all to change to reflect St. Michael current philosophy. Fr. Dan suggested council pray about this and we can talk about it again next month. Michelle will share this with her CRHP sisters this week.

Fr. Dan also wants to have this engraved on sheets of Plexiglas which parishioners can sign and can be hung in the commons; wall space is limited there is no appropriate place to hang. People generally liked the idea of possibly putting on Plexiglas or another medium, but did not want hung in commons. Perhaps there is a way to share this with the capital campaign, i.e., banners.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: Fr. Dan said Mike Mickle, parishioner/diaconate candidate stepped forward and will coordinate the scheduling of a pictorial directory to be done over the summer with photos taken after masses when people are already here rather than scheduling appointments. This could be done with digital cameras; Alison Eichler has offered to create fabric backgrounds for us. There are many unknowns at this point; i.e., will this entail a printed directory? Fr. Dan said not the fancy binding we had before; felt if we had 50 pages of photos that would be significant turnout at a cost of approximately \$.10 per page to print a color page. They could possibly be sold for \$5.00 and could be loose leaf or another simple type binding where pages could be added and possibly printed up on an as needed basis here in-house. We could add link on the website if posted and would need to be protected with a password. What are Parish Council's thoughts on this; more to follow in the next months

ROUND TABLE: Jeff noted we now have two adult geese and six goslings on the property that apparently walked here from a lake at nearby elementary school; some discussion about what to do.

Barbara asked if video in commons is on at all masses, answer was yes. She noted it is often very noisy in commons for the few people who are actually trying to listen, could we announce it is to be quiet area. She also asked for prayers for her son Steven who is entering the military service; Karen will add him to the prayer list. Andy noted the pink pews in the commons are being shipped to Haiti this weekend which should alleviate some of the crowding in the commons. We will work on roping off extra chairs until pews are full.

Cathy Forney asked who Warren Johnson is and why he warranted a plaque behind the church near the new monument the Knights of Columbus donated. It was explained that he was married to Mary Lou Johnson, current parishioner, was an active Knight, a founding member of the parish who did special Easter readings. Cathy wondered why the plaque warranted such a significant place.

Columbarium update – This is totally separate from the building project, next month Fr. Dan should have architectural drawings to show us. It will be on side lawn behind the ambo. Hopefully, ground breaking will be in June. Jan and Chuck Layne are in charge of the Columbarium Committee. It is anticipated that double niches will sell for approximately \$1,500.00; this is yet to be finalized.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bowens  
Admin Assistant