

Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne

## Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 11, 2014, 7:00 pm

**Council Members Present:** Father Erik Lundgren, Julie Bennett, Don Beno, Anna Brekke, Tom Dyrhaug, Brian Kane, Kathy Kupfer, Brian Luce, Roxanne Pieper, Carter Sharp, Greg Stoks, and John Weckman

**Trustees:** Fred Jurewicz, Dick Stoks

**Absent:** Father Peter Wittman, Mark Bury, Marco Soto

**Guests:** Randy Regan, Jim Weiland (Finance Council Chair), Farmer Marschall, Bill Jaffa (CDA), Dan Wilson (Wilson Development) and Steve Dunbar (Dunbar Development).

**Opening Prayer:** Father Erik

**Approval of Minutes:** Don Beno made a motion to approve the minutes from October 7th, 2014. Greg Stoks seconded the motion. Motion carried; minutes were approved.

**Marketing Proposal:** Randy Regan

Randy is a fairly new parishioner to Saints Joachim and Anne and has a background in marketing with an emphasis on fundraising. When he saw the letter requesting funds to complete needed repairs, he felt he could help the parish reach its goal. He presented his "Magi for Christ" fund raising campaign proposal. This campaign would be a parish-wide initiative. Greg Stoks noted that such an initiative must be well planned and executed. The council agreed and suggested a small committee be formed to guide and support Randy's proposed campaign. Randy suggested a five-week rollout for this initiative.

**Action:** The initiative will need to be approved by the Finance Council and parish staff before moving forward. The next step is for Randy to meet with Jim and the Finance Council so they fully understand the proposal. Randy will send his presentation to Julie Bennett so she can forward to the entire Parish Council.

**St. Mary's Land Sale/CDA Project Update:** Farmer Marschall and guests

Farmer Marschall and members of the Scott County Community Development Agency (CDA) updated the council on what has been a six-year project to determine the best use of the vacant land at the St. Mary's church site. The CDA submitted plans to the city of Shakopee for a three-story, 55 unit living facility with underground parking. They will meet with the city planning commission on December 4, 2014, to present the plan. The proposed facility will house residents 55 and older with a mix of independent and assisted living units. If approved, construction will take place over a 12-month period. The facility will be owned by the CDA.

**Action:** Kathy inquired about plans for communicating this update to the parish. Farmer Marschall committed to writing an update for the parish bulletin.

**October Communications:** Communications received during the month were reviewed:

- A specific concern was received regarding the current placement of Mary at St. Mark's church. The fact that the statue of Mary was placed behind the choir was discussed; council members consulted Father Erik for advice. Father offered to work with Father Wittman on a possible solution.

- A parishioner suggested that Parish Council meeting agendas be published in the bulletin. The council agreed that agendas in the bulletins would often be inaccurate as they are frequently revised, often just prior to the meetings. Council meetings are always open to all parishioners.
- The council reviewed updates from Deacon Bill including:
  - Project Community Connect (PCC), which takes place on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Our parish is a primary sponsor of PCC and numerous parishioners are volunteering before and during this event.
  - World Marriage Day, which is scheduled for February 8, 2015. Information will be communicated regarding planned parish activities for this special recognition event.
  - The newly sanctioned Shakopee Community Assistance (SCA). The initial focus of SCA is to fulfill the nutritional, hygiene and clothing needs of families with limited resources who have children aged 0-5 years.

### **Old Business:**

- Parish signs: John Weckman continues to gather bids for Saints Joachim and Anne signs to be placed at each church location. Discussion was deferred to the December meeting pending the receipt of additional bids.
- St. Mark's school building: Brian Luce reported that upgrades/repairs are on schedule to be completed by December.
- Faith Formation Programs: It was confirmed that Father Erik is the contact for RCIA and Deacon Bill is the contact for Adult Faith Formation and Bible Study.
- Building Concerns:
  - Multiple Rectories: The council briefly discussed the potential of moving Father Wittman into the St. Mark's rectory and renting the St. Mary's rectory. No decision was made since Father was not in attendance.
  - Parish Office Space: The council discussed the possibility of moving parish offices out of SACS and back to St. Mark's. Several parishioners have expressed their dislike of the current location because they have to enter the school to visit the office. The school may also benefit from the additional space. Julie Bennett noted there are a number of services the parish shares with the school and a move could mean added expenses.  
**Action:** A separate meeting will be held to discuss both building topics. Julie will discuss with staff and compile a list of pros and cons. Anna suggested obtaining feedback from a larger portion of the parish after this initial meeting. Kathy recommended a January meeting date for this specific topic and will consult with the Finance Council in advance of this meeting.

### **Administrative Updates:** Julie Bennett

- Since the request for repairs was initiated, a total of \$33,500 has been donated.
- Envelope revenue is currently \$450,000 against a budgeted amount of \$505,870. The Finance Council is reviewing possible initiatives that would hopefully increase weekly giving. It was suggested that if more parishioners used EFT for giving, revenue would increase.
- The calendar raffle profit was \$30,000 in 2014; the plan is to repeat this fundraiser in 2015.
- The resignation of Garrick Comeaux occurred with very short notice. Georgia Baer has committed to lead this ministry, especially for funerals, until a replacement is named.

**Parish Festivals Update:** Carter Sharp and Brian Kane

Carter and Brian attended the Julifest wrap-up meeting and reported the outgoing chairpersons will mentor new chairs for the 2015 festival. The outgoing chairs informed them that changing the festival dates was not possible for 2015 due to commitments already in place. Dates could be revised, however, for 2016, and the council reiterated that having more time between the two festivals would be optimal. Carter and Brian then blessed the council with the news that they will co-chair Julifest in 2015. In addition to chairing the festival, they will create a succession plan similar to the process used for the Marystown Festival. Although the dates are set for 2015, council members noted that additional activities can still be considered (e.g., youth dance, etc.).

**Cemetery Update:** Dick Stoks

- The recent issues at the cemetery were discussed. Dick stated that the article in the local newspaper was helpful in explaining why things happened as they did. It was suggested signs be posted for future notifications of cemetery cleanings. Improved communication is a necessity.
- Kathy noted that when plots are purchased, no receipt or other type of documentation is provided. Julie noted that a new software program was purchased to better document current and future plots. Office staff has been entering plot details to improve organization of the cemetery and related communication.

**New Business**

Brian Kane expressed concern that the Gloria is not being said at all masses. He will address it at the December council meeting when Father Wittman is in attendance.

**Closing Prayer:** Roxanne Pieper

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Council members welcome any interested parishioners to attend parish council meetings at St. Mark's at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of the month.

December 2, 2014

January 6, 2015

February 3, 2015

March 3, 2015

April 7, 2015

May 5, 2015

June 2, 2015

July 7, 2015

August 2015: Summer break

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Dyrhaug