

Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 7:00 pm

Council members Present: Greg Stoks, Mark Bury, Jim Fiedler, Brenda Henning, Brian Kane, Kathy Kupfer, Donna Lane, Diane Lee, Jim Fiedler, Marco Soto and Jim Weiler.

Trustees: Dick Stoks and Fred Jurewicz

Absent: Father Peter Wittman, Don Beno

Guest Speaker: Scott Breimhorst

Opening Prayer: Greg Stoks

Approval of Minutes: Donna Lane motioned to approve the minutes from October 1st, 2013. Brenda Henning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Greg Stokes: October Comments: No comments were received this month.

Saints Joachim and Anne Celebrations: Were well attended at all scheduled times and were a huge success. Many positive comments were received regarding the music and overall celebrations.

Archdiocese Disclosure of Sexual Abuse:

Council members discussed the sexual abuse disclosures and how they are being reflected in the media. Although our parish cannot affect what has occurred and how it is being communicated to the public, we can focus on the good our parish and the greater church is doing. Council members suggested this issue be addressed through the bulletin.

Action: Greg will contact Fathers Merrill and Wittman to discuss this recommendation.

Guest Speaker: Scott Breimhorst, Principal at SACS

- Current enrollment: 840 students in Pre-K through 8th grade.
- The key theme this year is SACS Strength which focuses on strength of mind, body and spirit (spiritual and personal wellness). This was the theme of the marathon and will continue throughout the entire school year. SACS Strength has been a great success thus far and has been strongly supported by parents.
- This year was the most successful marathon in school history. It raised approximately \$180,000; most of the funds were raised through pledges. The chair persons will be on a rotation system like the Marystown festival committee.
- K-Readiness has 3 sections and is very successful.
- All 6th graders received Chromebooks which allows testing to be done in the classroom.
- All 7th and 8th graders received FitBits to promote personal fitness.
- Middle school students are participating in Project Lead the Way, a program that focuses on engineering and technology. SACS is the first Catholic school to receive a grant to implement this program.
- SACS hosted, for the second year, the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association. Approximately 250 people attended. Attendees were very complimentary of SACS' facilities

and staff. Scott noted staff retention is very high. Not one teacher has left SACS for another school in the past ten years.

- There is some concern about losing students to the public schools because they are required to offer all-day kindergarten starting in 2014. To encourage retention, Scott and his staff are highlighting the initiatives and outcomes taking place in the higher grades.
- SACS resources are good, but need additional focus on marketing. Scott noted the county's Economic Development Director recently toured SACS due to the influx of new corporations. The intent is to motivate families to live in Shakopee, not just work there. This would benefit future enrollment.

Action: Scott noted the parish council's continued support of SACS is the best way to assist them at this time.

Communication Log: Kathy Kupfer, Diane Lee

Kathy and Diane reviewed the current council communication log and noted the following:

- The parish website has been updated with the new name. Enhancements to the website regarding ministries and other parish activities are needed.
- Additional servers are needed; this item can be discussed by the Liturgy Committee. Servers can include adults as well as students.
- The process to create permanent parish signage is in progress.

Ministries Update: There is a Liturgy meeting on November 19th. Garrick Comeaux created an excellent brochure for the Ecumenical Service on November 24th. Father Merrill held a training session for altar servers. Amy Kusber and Becky Hanel are doing a great job. Deacon Bill will be attending the December meeting to share updates with the council. It was noted that a number of parish members signed up for ministries but were never contacted regarding next steps.

Administration Updates: Diane Lee distributed a report that covered:

- Parish Budget and financial Report.
- Artist Dave Schmig on signage at each site: in progress.
- GROW process (5, 10, & 15 year plan for the parish); the first meeting will take place on December 3rd.
- Parish celebration Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne: complete success.
- Vicariate visit: went well, no issues.
- Marystown steeple project: should be completed week of November 18th.
- Calendar fundraiser: calendars are being mailed the week of November 11th.
- St. Marks building: Bob Pulk concerned about the boiler; need to discuss how this might affect tenants next year.
- Staffing issues: Faith Formation, adult education and marketing/communications need additional support. An additional position will likely be budgeted for the next fiscal year.

Facilities:

St. Marks needs a short and long term plan. There needs to be a unified vision for the building. The council suggested surveying parishioners regarding the options for the building. Parishioners would first need to be educated on the state of the building by communicating proposals and associated

costs. Considerations need to be made for existing ministries including Loaves and Fishes, Youth Ministry and funeral lunches.

Future Business:

- We are still in need of one council member; Greg is working on recruitment.
- The parish may need to hire staff in the areas of marketing and communications. Enhancements and maintenance of the website will be an ongoing process.
- Potential agenda items for January and February: review the parish council charter and invite festival chairpersons to discuss distribution of festival tickets/potential ticket committee.

Closing Prayer: Dick Stoks

Meeting was adjourned.

Council members welcome any interested parishioners to attend parish council meetings at St. Mark's at 7 PM on the following Tuesdays:

- December 10, 2013
- January 7, 2014
- February 4, 2014
- March 4, 2014
- April 1, 2014
- May 6, 2014
- June 3, 2014
- July 1, 2014
- August 2014: Summer break