

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

TUESDAY, April 2, 2013, 7:00 P.M.

Council members present: Fr. Wittman, Greg Stoks, John Lang, Brian Luce, Dave Mulcrone, Mike Kittock, Patty Schmaltz, Jim Fiedler, Don Beno, Brenda Henning, Diane Lee, Kathy Kupfer, Donna Lane, Fred Jurewicz and Dick Stoks.

Absent: Jim Weiler, Deacon Bill Heiman, Garrick Comeaux

Guest: Marco Soto and Alma Moreno

Guest Speaker: Karen Thull, Communications/Public Relations Committee

Opening Prayer: Fr. Wittman

Fr. Wittman: invited anyone interested to attend the Stewardship Day on April 20th from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM at St. Peter, in Mendota. Patty Schmaltz indicated she may attend.

The building issues with the old St. Mark's school are still under review.

Approval of Minutes: Greg Stoks motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Kathy Kupfer seconded. Motion Approved.

March Comments

Jerry Ince invited members of the Parish Council to participate at Loaves and Fishes either as a volunteer, observer, or participant. Loaves and Fishes are hosted by our parish the first Monday and third Thursday of the month. If you plan to volunteer, please give prior notice to Jerry.

Tim Whitcomb sent a note to council members requesting a long-term commitment to Loaves and Fishes. We are looking into keeping the kitchen; no details to announce at this time. Greg will respond to Tim's email.

Karen Thull: Karen introduced herself. She joined Marystown four years ago, has three children at SACS, developed the SACS/ Faith Formation and Tri-Parish websites and works with Scott Breimhorst on communications and community relations.

Karen distributed several samples of a new, contemporary logo that would represent the Shakopee Catholic Community and all its entities, which was received with very positive feedback. When Diane and Fr. Wittman visited with the lawyers regarding the merge, they stated we could not use the name Shakopee Catholic Community, but must use the new parish name: "Parish of Ss. Joachim and Anne." Karen thought it was possible to take the proposed logo and adapt it to work with Ss Joachim and Anne.

Karen provided an overview of other communication initiatives taking place including organizing a small group of volunteers with a range of talents to develop communication tools including detailed information for both the website and print. One of these tools is the new Wedding Brochure which she distributed for the council's review and comments.

The volunteers she is working with from Youth Ministry have a good grasp of communication and are very familiar with social media including Facebook and Twitter. This talented group is currently developing apps, videos, posters and business cards explaining who they are and who the Shakopee Catholic Community represents. Karen would like to conduct an email campaign and keep people engaged by posting more information on the web, which is being used more frequently by parishioners. She would like to eliminate duplicate information. Because the web will be the main conduit for information regarding the merge, Diane and Greg will decide what information will and will not be posted. She stated she will need more volunteers in the future and possibly a small printing budget.

Karen will meet with the Legacy Committee on April 18th where they will draft options for a parish mission statement. Options will be presented to the parish council for review.

The branding of our Catholic community is still being discussed including how we incorporate our new parish name.

Greg Stoks: envisions a fresh and new purpose for this council. He would like to define the council's purpose and guidelines. The council should create an overview or purpose statement along with objectives that can change annually based on parish needs. This year's main objective could be the reorganization of the parish with a focus on unifying staff and ministries and continuing to move forward in one direction. He believes the council has the responsibility to gather information, study it, investigate and present suggestions to Father. Members should talk/listen to parishioners and bring concerns to Father, who is the decision maker.

Greg Stoks, Kathy Kupfer and Brian Luce will meet to create a parish council purpose statement, draft objectives and discuss what value this council brings to the Catholic community.

Administration Updates: Diane Lee

Easter contributions were \$48,000 which is over budget by approximately \$1,600.

Parish finances are closer to becoming merged; there are still minor glitches with Logos, the Finance software.

Financials will be ready to distribute to parishioners in the near future. It was suggested that Father communicate parish needs through the bulletin in hopes of improving weekly contributions.

A new entrance to the parish office at the CEC was being considered but the cost would be approximately \$42k so this proposal will not move forward. The cost of improved signage at the CEC entrance will be evaluated instead.

Father and Diane met with the attorneys regarding the name change and how it will affect the parishes and school. Diane will be on leave from April 11-May 15 but can be reached by phone or email starting April 22nd.

Greg Stoks stated there are 4 or 5 positions on the council that will become available this year and he would like to create a recruitment process to fill these openings. He stated we should focus on getting the best talent vs. an even number of people from each church. Current members are encouraged to personally approach people they feel would be a good fit. The council should ideally consist of approximately 12 members. Greg will create member requirements to use in the recruitment process. Alma Moreno and Marco Soto will recruit from the Hispanic community once they receive the requirements. Jim Fiedler stated he will stay on for one more year. Don Beno-Marystown, Donna Lane-St. Mark's and John Lang- St. Mary's will form a "finding" committee. Greg will draft a bulletin announcement to include instructions on how interested people can submit a statement of why they are interested in becoming a parish council member and what talents and background they can offer.

Kathy Kupfer mentioned the ministry fair as a resource for interested members and wondered if anyone had checked "council member" as an interest they may have. Judy Rein may still have those forms so this can be researched.

Greg mentioned that festival sign-up sheets should be posted and will also submit a bulletin announcement. Currently, each church will hold their respective, traditional festival and anyone can volunteer to work at any/multiple festivals if they wish to do so. Marystown is already in the planning stage for their festival.

Closing Prayer: Greg Stoks

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Council members want to welcome any parishioners that would like to attend parish council meetings. Below are the upcoming meeting dates, times and location.

- May 7th , 7pm @ St. Mark's Meeting Room
- June 4th , 7pm @ St. Mark's Meeting Room
- July or August Meetings TBD.