

Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne

Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 3, 7:00 pm

Council members Present: Father Peter Wittman, Greg Stoks, Julie Bennett, Mark Bury, Jim Fiedler, Brenda Henning, Brian Kane, Kathy Kupfer, Donna Lane, Brian Luce, John Weckman and Jim Weiler.

Trustees: Fred Jurewicz, Dick Stoks

Absent: Don Beno, Marco Soto

Guests: Roxanne Pieper, Jim Palmersheim, Joe Schiller, Ruth Schiller

Opening Prayer: Father Peter Wittman

Introductions: Council members introduced themselves to Roxanne Pieper, who was present to observe council proceedings, and three adult faith formation guests.

Adult Education and Faith Formation: Jim Palmersheim, Ruth Schiller, Joe Schiller

Joe, Jim and Ruth shared the impact adult education and bible studies have had on their lives:

- A new desire to praise God
- The knowledge that God has a plan for their lives
- Learned what the Catholic Church really teaches and what it means to be Catholic
- The importance of practicing and professing our faith
- They shared their experience with Life in the Spirit Seminars and noted they offer an opportunity to experience a personal journey of giving one's life to Jesus.

Their experiences could benefit many others in our parish and to accomplish this, they recommended the Adult Faith Formation Committee be reconstituted. Greg noted this committee could build a tiered approach to faith formation with basic beliefs serving as the foundation. Many faith formation programs are very reasonable in cost. Several programs also emphasize active care for marriages. Funds from the SACS Endowment could be used to support committee needs. With adult education identified in the GROW survey as a high priority, the council strongly supported the request to reconstitute this committee.

Actions: To activate the committee, a core group of volunteers is needed. Joe, Ruth and Jim will recruit members from those they know are interested. A staff liaison is also needed. Father will work with Deacon Bill to assign a liaison and discuss potential funding options. Greg asked this group to inform the council when this core group of members has been formed.

Approval of Minutes: Donna Lane made a motion to approve the minutes from May 6, 2014. John Weckman seconded the motion. Motion carried; minutes were approved.

May Comments: Greg Stoks. The council discussed the following comments:

- Several people have expressed interest in the parish council. John Weckman noted one of our youth parishioners had inquired about becoming a member. The council endorsed having at least one member from our youth population. John will contact this person to see if there is still interest. Other names were presented and Jim Weiler and Kathy Kupfer will follow-up with these individuals.

- Marco submitted a comment noting how excited the Hispanic community is to know we will have a Spanish speaking priest at our parish.
- Several comments were reviewed concerning the ongoing progress of St. Mark's school. Additional information was discussed later in the meeting.

Parish Pastoral Plan: Julie Bennett

Julie presented an overview of the Parish Pastoral Plan strategies. The strategies were compiled by the GROW committee, which is now disbanded. Four key strategies and related initiatives were outlined in this Year One plan:

- **Finalize the disposition of St. Mark's school:** complete analysis of options and related costs. Present a recommendation to Father Wittman. Move forward with funding and action plans.
- **Engage Communication and Marketing Resources:** Hire a professional marketing firm to establish a brand and future direction. Build on this foundation by adding a communication/marketing person to the parish staff.
- **Enhance the Worship Experience:** Periodically celebrate all liturgies at one location; enhance music and hospitality.
- **Increase Adult Education Opportunities:** Establish a basic faith series.

Mass Schedule: Donna Lane and subcommittee members:

As decided upon at the previous meeting, a subcommittee, headed by Donna Lane, was established to review options for a revised Mass schedule. Changes are needed due to the fact only two priests will be available starting in mid-July. Donna outlined the assumptions the subcommittee used to create four Mass schedule options:

- Only two priests will be available.
- Each location should have a Sunday morning Mass.
- Mass times should be on the hour, if possible.
- A Spanish Mass must be offered.
- The CEC is not a church but it remains a large worship space option.
- Marystown will continue to have a weekend priest for Saturday evening Mass.
- No matter what scheduled is decided upon, changes will need to occur.

Donna presented four possible Mass schedule options along with current Mass volumes. After much discussion, the council recommended Option Four with several modifications. Jim Fiedler made a motion to approve this recommendation and Kathy Kupfer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Action: The parish staff will create a communication plan to disseminate the revised Mass schedule to parishioners. The revised schedule will be evaluated after several months to determine if modifications are needed based on Mass volumes.

St. Mark's School Building: Greg Stoks

Greg summarized the discussion that occurred at the special meeting held in May to review Greystone's report. He distributed a document that outlined current building conditions, uses of the space and the options recommended at this meeting. The meeting group, comprised of parish staff and members from the Parish and Finance Councils, outlined two options for moving forward:

- Sell the building with the option to lease back portions of the building for parish use.
- Upgrade portions of the building to retain current activities and mothball remaining sections.

Father Wittman and the parish trustees will decide if a contract will be signed to put the building up for sale. If this occurs, this action will be communicated to the parish. The option of upgrading a portion

of the building will also continue to move forward. Bids will be gathered to evaluate investment options.

Action: The Finance Council meets on June 17 to discuss funding options related to the school building. Greg will send out an announcement for the next special meeting to discuss funding and progress with the selected options.

Administrative Updates: Julie Bennett

Julie noted farewell receptions will be held for Father Boedy after selected Masses on the last weekend of June. She requested parish council members assist with serving. On Sunday, July 13, a combined farewell reception will be held for Father Merrill and a welcome to the parish celebration for our new associate, Father Erik Lundgren. Details will be placed on the website and in the bulletin.

Parish Council Charter: Will be reviewed and updated at the July meeting.

Closing Prayer: Brenda Henning

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:

- July 1, 2014
- August 2014: Summer break

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Kupfer