

Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne

Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday, July 2, 7:00 pm

Council Members Present: 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, Father Peter Wittman

New Council Members: Tom Dyrhaug, Roxanne Pieper, Carter Sharp

Guests: Kathryn Geis, Larry Geis, Dawn McQuillan, Mike Menke

Opening Prayer: Julie Bennett

Introductions: Members introduced themselves to new council members Tom Dyrhaug and Carter Sharp, and four parishioner guests.

Approval of Minutes: Donna Lane made a motion to approve the minutes from June 3, 2014. John Weckman seconded the motion. Motion carried; minutes were approved.

General Discussion:

New Mass Schedule: Several guests voiced concerns about changes in the Mass schedule. Specific concerns included the following:

- There is now only one non-Hispanic Mass at St. Mark's on Sunday.
- The Saturday worship time at St. Mark's changed from 4:30 to 5:00 pm.
- The need for a Sunday Mass at the CEC was questioned.

Greg Stoks noted the new schedule was necessary because we now have only two priests and they are limited in the number of Masses they can celebrate on a daily basis. We are only able to expand the number of Masses we offer by paying other priests, and this option is very limited. Dick Stoks added that we have been working with the Archdiocese to obtain additional priests, but there are shortages everywhere. Other decision criteria included the desire to have one Sunday morning Mass at each site, the need to offer a Spanish Mass, the desire to start Masses on the hour when possible and the fact that the CEC remains a large worship space option.

Julie Bennett stated the CEC Mass has traditionally had the highest attendance, is popular with young families and has the best facilities for the Children's Liturgy of the Word (20 – 50 children participate in this each Sunday). Many families with younger children live close to the CEC.

Additional Questions: Other guests raised questions regarding whether or not parishioners can choose their preferred church for funerals rather than having the site assigned. Council members assured everyone that parishioners have a choice in the parish site they want to use for weddings, funerals and other ministry functions.

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

- A communication was received from Lori Brandon, a volunteer with the Faith Formation program for grades 9-12. She noted the strength and success of our Faith Formation program and the many talents of its leader, Becky Hanel. The council is inviting Becky and Amy Kusber, leader for K-5 Faith Formation, to an upcoming meeting.
- Numerous emails were received regarding the new Mass schedule.

St. Mark's School Building: Greg Stoks

Greg noted the Finance Council recently discussed potential funding options for St. Mark's School building. One option is to conduct a capital campaign to raise funds for the school and other building needs. Projects are needed at each church site. Other options include the use of existing funds and a combination of capital campaign and existing funds. It has not yet been decided whether the building will be put up for sale.

Dick noted an inspection of the boiler system has been completed. Greystone is currently obtaining bids for the necessary upgrades, including replacement of the boiler.

Action: Once bids have been obtained, the Finance Council will make a decision on the best funding option. If needed, Greg will convene a special meeting to discuss next steps.

Communication Log: Kathy Kupfer

- It was noted the first two items on the log have been completed. Both involved festival activities.
- A question was raised as to when parishioners will receive their assignments for the Marystown Festival. Julie will clarify with the festival leads and ensure the timeframe is communicated. It was noted some parishioners expressed concerns about receiving tickets for both festivals. This process was initiated last year.
- Council members expressed the need to create permanent signage for each worship site. This item was previously tabled, pending our ability to obtain marketing resources. Council members agreed that if we wanted to accelerate this need, we should explore potential marketing/communication resources in the near future. The need to create parish branding and optimal communication pathways was identified as a Pastoral Plan strategy. Funding for an external marketing resource has not been formally approved; bids could be obtained to initiate the process. It is hoped the Finance Council will support this identified need.

Action: Jim Weiler is currently leading a marketing project at his firm and knows a potential resource that could be a good match for our needs. He will contact this firm to establish an informational meeting.

Parish Council Charter: Kathy Kupfer

Kathy reviewed the current charter with council members. The objectives were revised to reflect action items that were completed and items that are goals for the coming year. New objectives include supporting the Pastoral Plan strategies and discussing the future of our parish festivals. The membership chart will be updated to reflect changes for the 2014-15 year.

Action: Kathy will revise the charter and distribute it to council members. Members will determine if additional changes are needed at the September meeting.

Administrative Updates: Julie Bennett

- The preliminary budget was presented to the Finance Council on June 17. The 2013-14 fiscal year shows a net loss of \$113,000. Actual collections were \$54,000 below budget. Julie noted

the parish will be looking at budget cuts for the new fiscal year, including the use of volunteers instead of paid staff, where possible. The budget for 2014-15 is close to being finalized.

- As previously discussed, the Marketing/Communication resource remains a priority.

Closing Prayer: Jim Weiler

Meeting was adjourned.

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. The 2014-15 schedule will be made available after the September meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Kupfer