



Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne

Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Father Peter Wittman, Father Erik Lundgren, Julie Bennett, Anna Brekke, Mark Bury, Tom Dyrhaug, Brian Kane, Kathy Kupfer, Brian Luce, Roxanne Pieper, Carter Sharp, Greg Stoks, John Weckman

Trustees: Fred Jurewicz, Dick Stoks

Absent: Don Beno, Marco Soto

Guest: Molly Dose

Opening Prayer: Father Wittman

Agenda: Mark Bury

Mark noted that he added a column to the agenda template in order to list an objective for each item. The objectives listed reflect those of the Parish Council Charter. Council members thanked Mark and agreed that the agenda format was enhanced by his addition.

Opening Comments: Father Wittman expressed a concern regarding the council's desire to learn more about parish finances. Council members responded that when the Parish Governance document from the Archdiocese was reviewed several months ago, it stated the Parish and Finance Councils are separate but interdependent. The council is trying to ensure adequate communication with the Finance Council and deepen their understanding of the parish budget. As the Parish Council creates goals, some may require funding.

To improve this interdependence, it was previously suggested that a member of the Finance Council attend Parish Council meetings. Realizing this would be difficult due to time constraints, Jim Weiland will submit meeting minutes to the council. The minutes from December were distributed.

Action: The Parish Council will receive and review Finance Council minutes. The Finance Council Chair or representative(s) will be invited to provide updates 1-2 times per year. Julie Bennett will present the draft 2015-16 budget at the June 2 meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Greg Stoks made a correction to the minutes from the April 7, 2015, Parish Council meeting regarding subcommittee membership for the St. Mark's school building usage initiative. Greg then made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted change. Carter Sharp seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes were approved.

Update on Senior Housing Project: Fred Jurewicz

The architect will be creating a new blueprint of the project to reflect the changes that were discussed at last month's meeting. The drawing will reflect the additional parking gained by the smaller footprint of the building. A public hearing and a hearing to inform parishioners will be conducted in the near future.

Parish Communications: Kathy Kupfer

- A communication was received from Deacon Bill reminding parishioners and organizational leaders that if anyone ever feels threatened or in an endangered situation they should contact

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the Shakopee Police Department for immediate assistance. If the situation is more of a “difficult or uncomfortable” versus an emergency situation, the leaders of the program should approach the individual and ask them to leave if it is a “dedicated” event.

- There was a request to change the Wednesday Mass from 8:00 am to 12 noon to allow more people the opportunity to attend Mass other than on Sunday. Father Wittman stated he could not support this due to the fact that funerals are usually held at 11:00 am. Council members did not feel that changing the time would allow additional working parishioners to attend.

Action: Although the suggestion was appreciated, the request cannot be agreed to at this time. Kathy will communicate the decision to the requestor.

- The spring SCA newsletter was included in council materials. The newsletter highlights the ways in which SCA serves the needs of our community, items on the “wish list,” and future events.
- Council members discussed ways of making our parish more welcoming for new members. In the past, a dinner was held for new members. This was discontinued due to poor attendance. Suggestions for the future included hosting an event for working families that included childcare, offering coffee for the elderly, making a personal phone call to greet new members, and hosting a picnic.

Action: Julie will work with Judy Rein in the Parish Office to create a subcommittee to form suggestions for future welcoming activities. The Parish Communication Log will be revised to include this subcommittee. Molly Dose agreed to participate.

Follow-up on St. Marks School Discussion: Greg Stoks

Greg reviewed his document outlining St. Mark’s Campus potential uses. Suggestions included:

- **Helping Those in Need:**
Donate space for helping those in need, such as Feed My Starving Children, Meals on Wheels, Loaves and Fishes (existing program), food drives, and continued/additional support for SCA. Provide space for support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, grief, etc.
- **Parish Unity and Usage:**
Offer activities such as a senior center, parish craft activities, parish games and social function center, adult education, youth ministry, teen center, and regional Hispanic center.
- **Income Generation:**
Rent space, low rent for artists, rent rectory, sell rectory, sell adjacent land, etc.

After much discussion, council members advocated to start with exploring additional needs that SCA may have, the potential of creating a senior center, and the possibility of creating a Hispanic Center. Father Erik also suggested that the Knights of Malta might be interested in school space for their program.

Action: The pros and cons, potential costs, estimates for space and staffing needs must be considered before moving forward with the recommended priorities. Tom Dyrhaug will call Keith and Amy to discuss additional SCA needs. Greg Stoks will pursue the other recommended activities.

Parish Administrative Updates: Julie Bennett

- **Financial Report:** The draft parish budget will be reviewed at the June Meeting. Julie noted the school budget was completed earlier this year in order to release tuition for the coming year. Julie distributed the parish’s current organizational chart. Greg expressed concerns

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about unfilled staff positions and funding the positions we need to continue to move the parish forward. Father Erik noted they are evaluating how and if the Liturgy position will be filled.

The new software is up and running as of May 1, 2015. The school will be added to the new system at some future date.

- **Buildings and grounds:** At the church of St. Mark, the new cement steps are underway. They should be complete in a week or two. The railings will be installed in two weeks. Work on the gutters has been completed at St. Mary's of the Purification, Marystown. The repairs at the rectory are complete. The elevator at St. Mark's needs to be repaired. Dick Stoks requested that when bids are submitted for needed repairs and services, the parish should thank and acknowledge those companies in writing, whether they are awarded the contract or not.
- **Archdiocesan Update:** The Archdiocese has set a final date of August 3, 2015, for claims to be submitted.
- **Other:** The Faith Formation position has been filled for grades 6-12. Kaylee will start in July. An offer has been extended for the K-5 position. If there are parish members who would like to volunteer for any of the parish ministries such as Alter Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, RCIA Sponsor, etc., they should call the Parish Office.

Parish Festivals Update: Brian Kane and Carter Sharp

- Carter Sharp spoke at all Masses, except Marystown, this past weekend about the Julifest Festival. All chair positions are filled. Volunteer sheets have been mailed out. When volunteers submit their time for the Julifest through the parish website, the information will be forwarded to Carter and Brian's e-mail.
- Raffle tickets will be available at the end of the month. The top three prizes will be listed on the raffle tickets and a list of other prizes will be available for viewing at the Julifest. This saves on printing costs and allows the committee to receive prizes up to the day of the drawing.
- Raffle tickets for the car are \$20.00 each. This is a completely separate raffle from the two festivals.

New Business:

- Due to the fact that four council members will be ending their terms in July, additional members are needed. The council discussed the optimal number of members. A suggestion was made to decrease the number of members from 12 to 9 over a period of three years. The need for new members needs to be communicated. Father Erik suggested the process of discernment be used to select new members. Kathy requested that council members interested in filling leadership roles for next year contact her in the near future.
Action: Kathy will work with Judy Rein to submit an article for the web and bulletin regarding the need for new members. Each council member should create a list of potential members prior to the June meeting.
- It was noted that several council members have conflicts for the July 7, meeting. Kathy will send an email with suggested alternate dates so members can respond with their preference.

Closing Prayer: John Weckman

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

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Council members welcome any interested parishioners to attend parish council meetings at St. Mark's at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month.

June 2, 2015

July 7, 2015

August 2015: Summer break

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxanne Pieper