



Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne

Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

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

Trustees: Fred Jurewicz, Dick Stoks

Absent: Don Beno, Mark Bury

Guest: Molly Dose

Opening Prayer: Father Wittman

Opening Comments: Father Wittman, Fred Jurewicz and Dick Stoks

Update on the Senior Housing Project:

Father met with the Trustees and Farmer Marschall regarding the Senior Housing Project. Due to limitations with current funding, the project is eliminating the 21 assisted living spaces. This reduces the space by 13,000 square feet. The final building will consist of 52 senior independent living apartments. Reducing the size of the building will enhance its overall appearance and add 16 additional parking spaces. The housing will be opened in late 2016. Parish and project officials have agreed upon the price of the property.

Approval of Minutes: Tom Dyrhaug made the motion to approve the minutes from February 24, 2015 and March 3, 2015 with one suggested change to the February 24th minutes. Brian Kane seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes were approved.

Parish Communications: Kathy Kupfer

- Kathy thanked the priests and staff for the beautiful Easter Liturgy Services.
- A communication from Deacon Bill thanking SCA leaders Keith and Amy for their Easter Loaves and Fishes meal was reviewed. Carter Sharp and Tom Dyrhaug talked about Loaves and Fishes and the SCA program. They stated it was a great experience volunteering at this program. It was noted that additional communication in the bulletin and other places regarding this ministry would be helpful to educate the community on this work and attract additional volunteers. A volunteer site is available to sign up for SCA opportunities. Guest Molly Dose also promoted SCA as a wonderful ministry for our community.
- Deacon Bill communicated a reminder about resources our parish can use for pastoral emergency financial assistance.

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

Council members discussed how the rent paid to the CEC for the parish offices should be identified in the budget. Are these funds a subsidy for the school? If so, a suggestion was made that the school reevaluate the cost per student so the monies could be used elsewhere in the parish. The budget for the parish and school will be discussed at the May meeting if the draft budget is ready to review. Greg noted the organizational charts for the parish and the school would be helpful to review with the budget. It was also suggested that someone who can represent the school sit on the Parish Council.

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Kathy noted that Diane Lee and Julie Moran have been invited to an upcoming meeting and the question of council membership can be discussed at this time.

Action: Julie will review the draft 2015-16 budget at an upcoming meeting. She will also bring organizational charts to facilitate the discussion. The question of how the current rent funds should be categorized in the budget will be discussed with the Finance Council.

The council further discussed potential uses of space at the St. Mark's School Building. Could we expand our ministries? Is there additional income opportunity? Greg suggested a subcommittee be formed to explore options and present recommendations.

Action: Subcommittee members are Greg Stoks, Tom Dyrhaug and Father Erik. Greg agreed to chair this group. They will initiate this process prior to the May meeting.

Hiring Process for Youth Ministers: Julie Bennett

Council members expressed concern about the departure of two of the Youth Ministers. Carter noted what a positive impact they have had on our lives. Anna asked if we are doing exit interviews with these and other staff so we can learn from their experiences. Julie did not know if exit interviews were planned but said she would inquire. A third party could do the interviews, if that would prove helpful. Julie noted that three part-time employees would be replaced with two full time positions. We currently have nine applicants for these positions.

Parish Administrative Updates: Julie Bennett

- For the month of March, the parish was \$6200 above the previous year. We are \$38,000 under budget at this time. The Easter collection is currently at \$51,800; \$56,000 was budgeted.
- Approximately \$73,000 has been received thus far for our Urgent Repair needs. Marco noted that proceeds from the Hispanic food sales are being donated to the repair fund.
- Bids for the steps at St. Mark's Church have been obtained and work will start later this month.
- To date, 119 parishes have contributed retainer fees for legal representation related to abuse cases. All claims will be reviewed and parishes will be contacted regarding any pending claims. Our parish has not received notice of any claims.
- The installation of new software should be completed by May 1. Once the data has been verified, it will be available online. The software will be used for parish membership and accounting functions.
- It was noted that a visitor on a bicycle has recently attended many parish functions. He wants to be part of something and means no harm. If a parishioner ever feels threatened by anyone, however, the police can be contacted.

Parish Festivals Update: Brian Kane and Carter Sharp

- Brian and Carter met with Marystown Festival leaders to learn more about their process and organize festival activities. Festival activities will be launched in mid-May.
- Carter noted only the top three prizes need to be listed on the raffle tickets. This means they can be distributed to parishioners before all of the prize donations are secured.
- Volunteer signup sheets for both festivals will be mailed to parishioners in the near future.
- A used car will be raffled off this year in a separate drawing. The drawing will be held at the end of the Marystown Festival.
- Brian and Carter thanked Greg Stoks for his assistance with minutes and general project organization.

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New Business: Molly Dose noted that as a new parishioner, she was told there would be some type of welcoming function. This did not occur. Council members gave a brief history of past initiatives for new members and explained that turnout was usually quite low. The council thought it would be a good idea to revisit ways we can make the parish more welcoming for new members.

Action: Julie will request that Judy Rein explore options. This item will be added to our Communication Log.

Closing Prayer: Anna Brekke

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

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.

May 5, 2015

June 2, 2015

July 7, 2015

August 2015: Summer break

Respectfully Submitted,

John Weckman