



**Minutes of
Parish Council Meeting
September 17, 2009**

Dean Kick, Council Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- Present:** Father Bob Betz, Father Steve Varghese, John Bordak, Jeff Drzadinski, Angela Hamilton, Larry Haskin, Dennis Irwin, Dean Kick, Kathy Mattke, Brian O'Lena, Elaine Tessmer and Jen Trask
- Excused/Absent:** Joe Dulka (Excused), Chris Kujawa (Excused), Matt Lemens (Excused), and Rich Lussier (Excused)
- Guests:** Alice Berezinski, Jeanine Kuettel, Gregory Meka, Kris Nowak and Ralph Windler
- Opening Prayer:** Elaine Tessmer distributed a prepared Prayer Before a Parish Council Meeting, and it was read aloud by all.

Welcome/Review Agenda:

Dean Kick welcomed the council members to the meeting and briefly reviewed the agenda.

Open Forum/Welcome of Guests/Visitors:

The above guests were welcomed to the meeting by Dean who asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Because of the predicted H1N1 swine flu outbreak, Alice Berezinski questioned whether people would still shake hands before and/or during the offering of the sign of peace during Mass; responses were that it would be up to the individual as to whether he/she wished to extend a hand for a handshake or choose some other manner in which to acknowledge another's presence at Mass.

Another guest, Ralph Windler, stated that in the couple meetings he has attended in the past he has never heard any dissent among council members regarding any topic. Responses were that members of this Council are respectful of others' opinions, which may not always have been the case in the past and had resulted in some very heated meetings; that many of the topics on the council's agenda are discussed in greater detail at committee meetings; and, that all topics are discussed in a thorough and respectful manner at council meetings.

Approval of Minutes of the August 2009 Meeting:

There being no additions, corrections or deletions to the proposed minutes, upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of August 20, 2009 were approved by the Council as prepared.

Pastors' Reports:

After welcoming everyone to this meeting, Father Steve stated that a letter from the archdiocese was received reminding everyone about the Faith in Our Future campaign. So far about \$87 million or about 83% of the total archdiocesan goal of \$105 million has been pledged. Further information regarding the campaign can be obtained from their web site.

We are now getting ready for the Fall Festival. Father Steve said the tickets that had not been picked up by parishioners in the church lobby were now mailed out.

Regarding the school, Father Steve said the opening of the school year went very well. A school blessing was held on September 11th. There will be a commissioning service tomorrow. There will soon be a teacher's in-service night.

Father Steve said the Christian Formation program resumed last weekend. He said the 16th Avenue church was almost packed with families and children; 221 families are registered with about 400 children. There will be a confirmation retreat on September 26th in Racine.

A couple other notes, according to Father Steve, the adult choir has about 45 members. He said Joe Dulka is convalescing at home and doing well.

Father Bob stated that servers will now be recruited from the fourth and fifth grades, and will have training sessions in early November.

Contemplative Break:

The question of the week appearing in the current parish bulletin was: "Who do you say that Jesus is?" The discussion was led by Elaine.

Committee Reports/Updates:

Copies of minutes from the following committees were mailed to all council members prior to this meeting: Building Committee of 8/25/09 and 9/8/09; Building & Grounds Committee of 9/9/09; Human Concerns of 9/3/09; Life Long Formation Committee of 9/3/09; Parish Life Committee of 9/3/09; and Prayer & Worship Committee of 9/3/09. Also mailed to all council members was the Finance Committee's Weekly Collection Report for the month of August 2009 with comparison contributions for the same period of the previous year. Also mailed was the report of the Faith In Our Future campaign as of September 11, 2009 showing amounts received from the FIOF office including contributions for the months of June 2008 through July 2009 and the amounts applied to the parish's benchmark, to the parish and to the archdiocese. Also received immediately prior to this meeting were minutes from the Long Range Planning Committee of 9/10/09.

Supplementing the above minutes, Jeff Drzadinski, the council liaison to the Prayer & Worship Committee, said he had received an e-mail from Chris Sepersky who advised that Dennis Horbinski requested that a liturgical environment and design committee be formed. Its responsibilities would include details of the renovated worship space and choosing items from all the sites. He said the first meeting of that group is scheduled for September 28th.

Kathy Mattke, liaison to the Human Concerns Committee, reminded everyone that the mum sale for the benefit of Interfaith is going to be held this weekend.

Elaine Tessmer circulated a sign-up sheet for presenting the Council's announcements at Masses the first weekend in October, and also asked that if a council member needed a name tag that he/she also should indicate that on the list.

OLD BUSINESS:

Building Committee Status. Father Bob referred everyone to the committee's minutes of August 25th and September 8th which had been mailed to all council members before this meeting.

Long Range Planning Update. Minutes of the committee's meeting of September 10th were distributed to council members immediately prior to this meeting. Because of Larry Haskin's delayed arrival, Father Bob began the report by advising that parish forums are scheduled for Thursday, October 29th at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Marquette site. The committee is still obtaining factual information pertaining to all the sites and will give its recommendation to the Council in December. Larry will continue this report later on. **[Out of order.]** In addition to the foregoing comments, Larry stated that the forums referred to will consist of a power point presentation of information presently available, then an opening for questions or comments. They received an estimate of \$800,000 for converting the College church into a gym, and they are still getting estimates of costs for upgrades of both the 16th Avenue and the College sites. After all information is gathered, after a fiscal analysis is made, and after the parish presentations are concluded, the committee expects to have a recommendation to the Council in December.

Dean Kick heard through the grapevine that the TOTs program would be moving to the College site in the fall of 2010. Father Bob said Judy Kalinowski and Kathy Wroblewski would be working together and studying the feasibility of that action because it would save money for the parish, some of the same before and after school programs are held at each site, and the TOTs would be a good feeder for the day school. A comment was made that the matter was not brought before the Council first; a further comment made was that the directors of the school and the TOTs program are professionals and know what is best for the parish. The Finance Committee has talked about the matter, has taken everything into consideration, and there would be no expenditures. Father Bob further said nothing is finalized, and another member said the Council does not have to weigh into every decision made but it is just important that the Council is kept informed. We are still trying to get down to two sites, and when we receive the recommendation from the Long Range Planning Committee in December, there will be plenty of time to make a final decision about TOTs.

Brian O'Lena brought up the possibility of having the parish offices incorporated into the new addition at the Marquette site. Larry Haskin replied that Chuck Kendall from the Building Committee is going to check with the architect to see if that would be feasible with the square footage required. Previous thoughts were to move the offices to the location of St. John's Manor, but the Manor is not now interested in selling its property. Moving the offices may not be done for three or four years. A further comment made was that there is more interaction between the school and the office rather than the worship center and the office.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIOF Restart. Father Bob stated that this weekend, September 19th and 20th, there would be about a fifteen minute session following each Mass to detail the plans for the building project. The restart of the pledge drive is set for the weekend of September 26th and 27th. He distributed packets of materials, the contents of which are identical to those that will be available in the lobby of the church for pickup by parishioners that weekend or that will be mailed to the other active members of the parish the following week. Those contents included a letter from the pastors, diagrams of the renovation project, a list of liturgical furnishings and special gifts, a pledge card and return envelope. There are about 2600 active families in the parish and about 700 inactive members. People who have not contributed financially to the parish for three years and who have not responded to letters of inquiry from the office are considered to be inactive members. Responding to an inquiry, Father Bob said parishioners who have previously made pledges to the FIOF campaign would receive these same packets and the enclosed letter from the pastors in which it specifically requests that that pledge be honored.

Marketing Ideas Presented to the Building Committee. Jeff Drzadinski met with Chris Sepersky. It was suggested that the 16-month fundraising period be broken down into three different phases and thus hopefully reach every parishioner during at least one of them. One could be to stress sacrificing something, e.g., during Lent, and donating that money to the building campaign. Another could be to recognize people who have already made donations. Still another suggestion was to conduct a verbal survey, perhaps about half way through the campaign, to learn of parishioners' opinions or questions about the project, if they have or have not contributed to the campaign thus far and their reasons. An additional suggestion was to contact other parishes to learn of their methods of fundraising.

Fun Fest Recap. Brian O'Lena stated he had attended the Parish Life Committee meeting where they had discussed the Fun Fest, and they believe the profit is about \$19,000 or \$20,000. There will be some changes made for next year's event, e.g., elimination of the carnival rides with possible substitution of other types of amusement for youngsters. There were some "bugs" that must be worked out. The fish fry and chicken dinners were sold out. Father Bob said they actually made about \$48,000 at the festival. Everyone talked about the heavy rains and storms which hampered attendance.

Retreat Ideas. After discussion of topics, speakers and possible locations for a retreat, it was decided that Jennifer Christ would conduct the retreat on Saturday, November 14th, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Xaverian Missions located near 51st Street just north of Rawson Avenue in Franklin. Jennifer writes articles for the *Catholic Herald* and is otherwise involved in the Milwaukee archdiocese; according to Brian O'Lena, she is also an instructor at Cardinal Stritch

University. Her topics will be something in the spirituality field. Jennifer's agreed-upon fee will be \$325; we will provide our own lunch.

Council Picture in the Chapel. Immediately following this meeting, all members of the Council are requested to proceed to the Chapel to have a photograph of the entire group taken.

OTHER NEWS, NOTES, COMMENTS AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kathy Mattke reminded council members who did not bring their donations for the Fall Festival baskets that they may bring their items to the parish office. She will pick them up at a later date to prepare the baskets for display at the festival.

We Give Thanks.

Closing Prayer: Elaine Tessmer led the Council in reciting the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi that was previously distributed.

All council members proceeded to the chapel next door for a group photograph.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Gramza, Recording Secretary
September 30, 2009