

St. Paul Parish Council Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2008

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the chapel.

Roll Call: Present: Lucille Contorno, Lisa Bixby, Roger Varner, Fr. Ralph, Jim Dunlap, Mike Schoendorf, Peter McFadzen, Bob Larson, Lillian Miller, Eileen Belongea, Deb Gresser, John Morgan

Excused: Julie Davies, Art Scheuber, and Al Kluz

Introductory Remarks: Mike Schoendorf started the evening with information about the chapel and Eucharistic adoration.

Opening Prayer: Mike Schoendorf and Eileen Belongea led us in prayer and Eucharistic adoration. Thank you!

Break: The break was handled by Roger Varner. Thanks!

Approval of the Agenda: Agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved after Lillian was added to the roll call as present.

Guest speakers: Earl Bauman explained to council the restrictions for use of our current parish unused space. He brought up many important considerations. The permits currently in place for our unused spaces is for storage use only. The sprinkler systems, air exchanges, or heating and cooling in place would all have to be brought up to code in these areas before we could use this space for any other use than storage. There have been plans drawn, and put in place for future expansion of these spaces including needs for HVAC. Thank you Earl for this important explanation.

Jerry Sutkiewicz and Rosemarie Etzel reported on the exploration of a science lab. In light of what Earl has pointed out, use of a room in the lower level of the parish life center is being considered. The room would need to be “co habitable” with other needs that we have. A committee has been formed to explore the feasibility of this. School board, faculty, administration, and parish council will all work together to determine if we should move forward with the plan.

A private donor has come forward to provide stained glass windows and other artifacts for our chapel. We are hoping to have those items in place by this summer. We are blessed!

A handout with an explanation of our personnel and search committee was given to all. Some highlights:
It is the responsibility of the parish pastor/parish administrator to hire a principle.

The parish personnel committee works under the direction of the pastor.

They review job descriptions, recruit candidates, etc.

The parish pastor appoints a search committee of 3-5 members to assist in the interview process. They gain input from interested parties, review applications, choose and review the most desirable candidates, and recommend at least two candidates to the parish pastor. The pastor then makes the final decision and contacts candidate with job offer.

A plan is being put together to address the use of both our new gathering and worship spaces. Deacon Larry and Peggy Kolonko are working to put together policy on what groups can use these spaces, guidelines etc.

Finally, Rosemarie and Jerry reported on the state of the parish finances. Short term things are not great right now. With the increases in electric, heating, building and grounds up keep, we are running a deficit. Administration has presented a parish stewardship challenge. We are all praying that the generosity of our parish members that we have been blessed with will continue and get us through this tough time. Longer term things look a bit brighter. Thank you Rosemarie and Jerry for coming to the council meeting with your presentation.

Voice of the People: John Huenik is a school parent that attended our parish council meeting. He expressed interest in observing how our parish works and how it interacts with our school. He would like to get involved at some level. Thank you John for attending, we know you will be an asset wherever you decide to donate your time and talent!

Secretary's Report/Correspondence: None

Consensus: Parish council has reached consensus and ratified our parish profile.

New Business:

1) The parish consultation meeting went well. Fr Brian Mason facilitated the meeting. We all broke into groups and answered questions about the type of pastor we would like and the type of parish we are. A copy of the results was sent to all council members.

2) Peter and Julie reported on plans for the nomination weekend. Peter is finalizing an outline to hand out at the March 10 common meeting night, with a brief explanation of what we would like to accomplish. This will be e-mailed to Council before the March 10 presentation for possible input from Council.

3) Human concerns would like to create a welcoming committee connected with the Evangelization Committee thru nomination weekend. Rose Schreiber will put together.

4) Discussion on creating a conciliation committee. This may fall into the parish personnel committee. More discussion needed. St Margaret Mary has a terrific resource

for this. Jim Dunlap will bring this information to the personnel committee and bring back their input to Council.

Old Business:

1) Art was not able to make it to the meeting; therefore the cornerstone subject was tabled.

2) Lisa informed us that Donna has agreed to facilitate our parish council retreat again this year. We will now have to begin formulating ideas and goals for the upcoming retreat.

Committee Reports: We have a new school board member. Her name is Cindy Gaudion. School board is very excited to have her as part of the team.

We have not yet been able to find a Spanish teacher replacement.

John Morgan told how the Evangelization Committee thru the Christian Formation Committee in response to Council's goal to increased mass attendance has made an appeal through our youth religious ed. program to bring a friend, relative or parent to mass. Discussion followed on how all committees can work to increase attendance at masses.

Pastor's Report: Fr Ralph reported how impressed he has been with the St Paul's parish community. We are all very blessed.

The Holy Father has declared a jubilee year for St Paul! (Not the parish) It starts with the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, June 28, 2008. This would be an opportunity for our parish.

Open Topic: Jim Dunlap brought up the suggestion of naming someplace in our parish for Fr Bob. This will be something we will discuss in the future.

Mike Schoendorf would like all of us to invite just one person for adoration. This way we can grow this at a grass roots level, which eventually could lead to perpetual adoration.

Roger Varner commented on what a wonderful event the Men of Christ day was. It was held at State Fair Park and over 3000 men attended the day of prayer and worship.

Motion to Adjourn: Lucille seconded by Jim D

Final Prayer: Final prayer was led by Mike Schoendorf

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Peter McFadzen