

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Of St. Vincent de Paul Church
Tuesday, April 8, 2008**

The Parish Council of St. Vincent de Paul Church met on Tuesday, April 8, 2008. Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 13, 2008. The meeting was brought to order at 7:35 pm by Colleen McCahill. Colleen offered a prayer. In attendance: Fr. Dick Lawrence, Audrey Rogers, Pat Ball, Joan Campbell, Nancy O'Neill, Colleen McCahill, Graham Yearley, Molly Hyatt, Barbara Murphy, Kathy Brown, Dennis Brown, and Dennis Flynn.

Pastor's Report: Easter services went well. There were many people working and planning to make it come together.

Sick Parishioners: Ken Berger is still not doing well and has been in and out of the hospital. Dick also visited Mr. Kane who is getting infirm but his mind is still sharp. He is not able to get around without help. He is happy to get cards. Theresa Wolf continues to need prayers as doctors have found an aneurism and are placing a stent.

Parish News: Judith Sheagren has resigned and a process is being implemented to hire a new cantor.

Neighborhood News: A new emergency shelter has opened nearby on Fayette Street across from the Post Office with 270 beds. It will be open for 90 days. Police presence has increased as a result. Dick worries that this will negatively affect the park. Sanitation department has increased rat patrol. The plan is to move the shelter near to Our Daily Bread. Healthcare for the Homeless is moving into the neighborhood as well.

Financial Report: Dennis Flynn delivered the parish financial report. Parish Council reviewed the income statement through the end of March. Sunday offertories continue to be very good and parking income is up. Utilities are high but church maintenance was a little lower. A large annual donation came in during this month. The insurance company has agreed to pay for \$160,000 of the cross restoration, which leaves a shortfall of \$25,000. Part of the large donation will cover this shortfall. We will use as much of next year's income from the Trust Fund as necessary to supply the balance due on the tower renovation.

Town Meetings: Colleen discussed the need for better communication that was expressed by parishioners during the Listening Project. Colleen suggested turning the coordination and agenda-setting over to members of the parish rather than only being organized by the parish council. There was some discussion about whether and how to do this. It was suggested that parishioners be asked to suggest agenda items and also parishioners could take responsibility to facilitate. Council discussed having regular times throughout the year for Town Meetings. Council also discussed ways to organize the meetings and allow everyone the chance to speak.

Park Working Group: Audrey Rogers discussed progress on the park. On March 27, the PWG met with Baltimore Homeless Services (St. V's is on schedule for the housing program to start initial evaluations in mid-late April and can expect a 60-90 day processing period before first placements). The PWG also met with Officer Talley (who visits the park 2-3 times per week) as well as Sergeant Bennett (who coordinates patrol operations and will enlist more support from Southeastern District in which St.V's park lies). The PWG is working with the Downtown Partnership who will assist in training a park superintendent. A job description has been written and will be in this week's bulletin. It will be a 12 hour per week position.

There was a meeting organized by the PWG for those who had concerns, criticism, or who wanted to help. People appreciated the opportunity to ask more questions. They seemed appreciative of the work that is being done in the form of capacity building and developing relationships with city and private organizations. The Letter of Inquiry was submitted to the Goldseker Foundation on March 27 for its April 1 deadline. Next up is the Abell application on May 1. Baseline photos have been taken which will serve as a benchmark for how the park is progressing. The parish started accepting donations for the park projects. Bulletin announcements and monthly meetings after the 9:30 have begun.

Council talked about how the deconstruction of the structures in the park will happen. The city will be contacted to see if they can bring a dump truck to haul away any debris from the deconstruction.

Parish Council Election: Colleen and Dick made a list of the number of representatives needed for each mass for the next election. There are three spots for the 9:30 a.m. mass and one for the 7:15 p.m. mass. Nominations

will be the last two weekends in April. Biographies of nominees will come out on May 11th and elections will be the weekend of May 18th.

Committee Reports

Peace and Justice: The Committee attended the Commemoration of Dr. King's death at Wayland Baptist Church on April 4 in place of their monthly meeting. There was a very inspiring sermon. BRIDGE will be having a "Get out the Vote" meeting on May 27, 2008 at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. The next meeting of the Committee will be May 9th at Cathy Bunting's home.

Outreach Committee: A greeting ministry is being proposed in order to welcome people into the church. There is also a monthly coffee hour for new parishioners being proposed. There is a tentative date for the first coffee hour scheduled for the second Sunday in June. There will be three representatives to greet people after the 9:30 mass who will be identified with a rosette. There was a suggestion that new parishioners could be given the brochure of the various committees made by the Social Action Committee last fall. It was also suggested that a follow-up invitation is made to new folks for ways in which they want to be involved.

Liturgy Committee: There will be a liturgy survey on the acceptability of current liturgy practices. It will be given on April 19/20 and April 26/27. Audrey Rogers is stepping down as Chair and Brian Loughlin and Peggy Meyer will be Co-Chairs next year. May liturgy dates: First Communion May 4, Seniors May 11 (Pentecost), and Mass of Healing May 18 (Trinity Sunday- readings will be changed).

Art and Architecture: Committee suggested that there be a tower dedication when the weather is nice. The next project will be the south side windows needing to be replaced including frames. Work might be done next year when funds are available. It could be a very expensive project.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Murphy