

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Of St. Vincent de Paul Church
June 12, 2007**

The Parish Council of St. Vincent de Paul Church met on Tuesday, June 12, 2007. The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 by Chris Kreeger who filled in for Colleen McCahill. Prayer was offered by Dennis Moore. In attendance: Ray Heil, Jerome Bird, Nancy O'Neill, Pat Ball, Anne Marie Freeburger, Chris Kreeger, Barbara Murphy, Maureen Fitzsimmons, Brian Loughlin, Kathy Brown, Dick Lawrence, Joan Campbell, Teresa Payne, Dennis Moore, Graham Yearley.

Pastor's Report:

- Dick reported on the death of Dr. Judy. He said the funeral would probably be Saturday.
- The housing bill passed. At the City Council meeting he estimated that 20 % of those in attendance were probably from the parish.
- Dick's leg went out on him recently but he does not intend on going to the doctor.

New Business

Social Action Committee Mission/Charter (Ray Heil):

1. The committee will have a description of the scope of work by September
2. Ray reported on the activities and future suggestions for activities.
3. The parish raised about \$1750 for the Bridge fundraising event.
4. The committee is still working on developing an inventory of activities in the parish. It will include the money spent and contributions.
5. As a future activity, the Social Ministry Committee would like to have a fair on the feast of St. Vincent De Paul. The Fair would raise awareness of all the parish social action activities and provide an opportunity for people to get involved in the activities. It would focus on groups already active in the parish.
6. Jerome requested information about all the groups so he could

include them on the web page.

7. The committee would like to address other issues, such as leadership training and Catholic social teaching education.

8. The parish council agreed to the Fair on St. Vincent de Paul day. The committee was asked to not forget the 7:15 Saturday night mass. The information needs to be included in the parish bulletin.

Social Action Committee on Charitable Giving:

1. There is an increase in requests for money from the parish for peoples' projects.

2. We need due diligence about researching projects.

3. There was discussion about previous decisions by the Parish Council and it was agreed that we need a process. We also discussed if we want a grant committee.

4. We agreed we needed both criteria for giving and a process.

5. Ray Heil agreed that his committee would come up with something and get back to the council in September.

Review of Outreach Committee (Chris Kreeger)

1. Chris reported that he is the only one on the Outreach Committee. He put together a purpose statement which raised considerable discussion.

2. Chris was asked to reword the purpose statement. In its current form it reflects a narrow focus on recruiting new members, while the true purpose of the committee is to conduct much broader outreach effort.

3. Chris will attempt to incorporate the suggestions of the parish council into the second draft of the committee charter.

4. Chris also said that he is planning on inviting others to join the committee.

Budget Process

- Maureen Fitzsimmons talked about the process of making the budget each year. She and Dick project the income for the coming year based on previous years. They then list all regular expenses and come up with a budget. They bring it to the Finance Committee and they discuss and amend it. The proposed budget is then brought to the Parish Council for discussion and approval.

Committee Reports

- **Financial Report:** Revenue is about \$20,000 over budget due to a large donation. However, our expenses also are over budget for the last eleven months due to several large repairs for the church. There was some discussion regarding the historic trust fund and its positive growth. The tower project will use some of the trust fund from next years' income.
- **Art and Architecture:** Jerome distributed a list of projects, some of which would come from the Historic Trust Fund and some will be paid for out of regular church funds set aside for maintenance. At the top of the list is the cross repair estimated at a cost of \$350,000 followed by new windows on the south side of the church. The list also includes sanctuary furnishings, undercroft, solar units on the rectory roof, and a roof deck over the garage. Other repairs that would come out of regular maintenance funds are included on the list including new downspouts, plaster repair, refinish church floor and pews, and re-carpet balcony. Council discussed the list and agreed with the priorities that the committee has indicated.

Jerome then discussed the proposal of fans in the sanctuary. The committee believes the fans would be intrusive and pointed out that there are sophisticated linear diffusers that have been installed which would do the same thing. The committee will learn more about the diffusers.

Ben Podowski brought a sample chair to the parish council for consideration. He requested permission to purchase several hundred of them from Second Chance where he was able to negotiate a deep discount. Pastor and Council agreed that they would be great for the new and improved undercroft and thanked Ben for taking on such huge task.

- **Education:** The retreat was very successful according to informal reports. Committee will meet to review written retreat evaluations. Fr. Joe Rossi was very well received. The summer session of Faith,

Fun, Fellowship will take place July 23rd to 27th, followed by the annual pool party given by Cathy Bunting and Terri Rizzo on Saturday, July 28th.

- **Liturgy:** Preparations are underway for the summer psalm series. There is also a pilot program going on for liturgy planners who will use it to critique and evaluate the liturgies. The committee is also drafting a purpose statement and procedures. Audrey has done a lot of work on documenting how liturgies are planned during the various liturgical seasons.
- **Pastoral Care:** 22 people have signed up to join the committee in addition to the 15 already on the committee. Plans are underway for providing services.
- **Peace and Justice:** next meeting is July 20th. Committee is working on immigration issue. Plans are also working on the Tent of Abraham gathering on October 14th. This is a meeting of Jewish, Christian and Muslim faithful. Maureen will be going to Limay, Nicaragua next week and will be meeting with the pastor at St. John's in Limay to strengthen our relationship with the parish there. Maureen will be bringing \$1,000 of coffee money to the parish there. She will report back to the parish council when she returns.
- **Parish Council Officer Elections:** Colleen McCahill was nominated and re-elected as President, Pat Ball was nominated and elected Vice President, and Barbara Murphy was nominated and re-elected as Secretary.

Meeting adjourned with the Our Father at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Murphy