

Minutes of the Parish Council Minutes  
St. Vincent de Paul Church  
April 9, 2013

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:36 PM with an opening prayer by Rosie Graf.

In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence, *Pastor*; Chris McCullough, *Pastoral Associate*; Jim Casey, *President and 9:30 Mass Rep.*; Jack Bonner, *Vice President and 9:30 Mass Rep.*; John Kober, Sr., *7:15 Mass Rep.*; Rosie Graf, *9:30 Mass Rep.*; Sara Kelley, *9:30 Mass Rep.*; Dennis Moore for Pete McDowell, *11:45 Mass Rep.*; Kathi Jeffra, *Education and Enrichment Committee Chair*; Audrey Rogers, *Liturgy Committee Chair*; Pat Ball, *Facilities Committee Chair*; Peggy Meyer, *Social Action Committee Co-Chair*; Anne Marie Freeburger, *Corporator*.

Absent: Graham Yearley, *Secretary, 12:15 Mass Rep. and Corporator*; Laureen Brunelli, *Communications and Outreach Committee Chair*; Dennis Flynn, *Finance Committee Vice-Chair*.

### **Pastor's Report**

1. The Holy Week services went well and were well attended. Both the Pastor and Council expressed gratitude for all the volunteers whose efforts made this happen.
2. St. Vincent's has been a leader in the fight to abolish the death penalty in Maryland. This legislation and legislation for gun control have both passed the General Assembly and been signed into law. Fr. Lawrence noted the role played by the Archdiocese in general and our own Social Action Committee through its Peace and Justice Subcommittee in particular. He noted with gratitude the efforts of Dennis Moore and Peggy Meyer, present at the meeting. Peggy praised the work of Maureen Daly who has been instrumental in arranging a presence in Annapolis; Dennis thanked the parishioners who gave such good support.

### **Finance Committee**

There was no report on finances presented at this meeting.

### **Town Meeting**

Parish Council president, Jim Casey, conducted Town Meetings after the 7:15 PM, 12:15 AM, and between the 9:30 and 11:45 AM Masses last weekend to discuss the administrative transition later in the summer when Fr. Lawrence moves out of the rectory. A report of the Town Meeting is posted on the St. Vincent website. Both Jim and Fr. Lawrence believed the meeting met its objectives.

## **Young Families**

Chris McCullough presented an overview of results from a survey of the families with young children who attended the February 24 focus group. The survey was intended to ascertain the level of interest in various program areas and the likelihood of participation. The meeting consensus was that with our limited resources we should start *small but well* and therefore the prioritization of what should be offered is important. The survey has provided important information to Chris for planning in the upcoming months. The survey summary can be found appended to the end of these minutes.

## **Parish Council Elections**

Mass community representatives who will continue on Council:

John Kober, Sr., 7:15 Mass Representative	[2012-2014]
Rosie Graf, 9:30 Mass Representative	[2012-2014]
Sara Kelley, 9:30 Mass Representative	[2012-2014]

Mass community representatives whose terms are complete this year:

Jim Casey, 9:30 Mass Representative	[2011-2013]
Jack Bonner, 9:30 Mass Representative	[2011-2013]
Pete McDowell, 11:45 Mass Representative	[2011-2013]

The election schedule set by Council:

April 28:	Nominations accepted [for two 9:30 slots and one 11:45]
May 5:	Nominations accepted
May 12:	Candidate biographies distributed
May 19:	Elections conducted

Anne Freeburger will oversee this process.

## **Old Business**

### **Service Contract for the HVAC System:**

Chris McCullough proposed that the Parish Council accept the proposal from Harford since they have familiarity with our system and have submitted a competitive bid. Council accepted this proposal. *[See Facilities Committee Report for details.]*

### **BGE Energy Audit**

This audit was completed for our electrical systems. BGE is offering \$9,000 in electrical replacements if we would match with \$1,800. Chris proposed we accept this offer. Council accepted this proposal. *[See Facilities Committee Report for details.]*

Peggy Meyer asked about the possibility of adding solar panels to the roof of the rectory/education building. (The Historic Trust would not permit these on the church roof itself.) Peggy will contact *Sungevity* to explore this. Sara Kelley added that we should explore wind power as well and will send information to Chris.

**Parish Directory and Re-Registration:**

Rosie Graf reported that the directory has been delayed repeatedly because St V has been unable to gather sufficient number of those 'un-photographed' for the company to send a photography team. Several dates have been set and cancelled. Rosie has recruited Steve McDaniel to finish the photography and move the process the along. Rosie expects this to be finished by the end of April; after the required month-long production process, the directories should be available for distribution at the end of May.

**New Business**

Jim Casey received a request from Colleen McCahill for Council attention to the state of the park which is not being maintained according to the plan approved by Council four years ago. Jim placed this on next month's agenda.

**Committee Reports**

**Communications and Outreach Committee [Lauren Brunelli, Chair]**

The committee

(1) has a survey of communications methods out to the parish right now and looks forward to the results;

(2) work continues on signage to attract walk-bys; and

(3) the editorial maintenance of the website will be re-evaluated.

**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 12 after the 9:30 Mass.

**Education and Enrichment Committee [Kathi Jeffra, Chair]**

**Parish Retreat:**

The committee met with Jack Buechner to discuss the retreat theme on Eucharist.

**Earth Day:**

Jim Lochner has agreed to work with Kathi on a presentation of the film "Journey of the Universe." The overarching question: *The ancients drew from their understanding of the universe to inform their theology, now that our understanding of the cosmos has expanded, what does our current cosmology saying to us about our creator?*

This 'supper and a movie' presentation is tentatively scheduled for Friday evening, April 26, at 6:30 PM *pending Jim Lochner's availability.*

**Liturgy Committee [Audrey Rogers, Chair]**

**1. Training: Lectors**

We hope to have the second training session finished before Pentecost and an alternative training program will be offered after Easter for those lectors who had schedule conflicts for the first.

**2. Lent**

We have noted the poor attendance at Lenten services other than the Triduum. We are developing the items to use Survey Monkey to assess parishioner assessment of what we offer in Lent to gain insight.

### **3. Eastertide Events**

We have finalized planning for these events which include Baptismal Exegesis (April 14, 21, and 28); our usual May services for First Communion (May 12); High School Seniors (May 19); and Marriage Vow Renewal (June 2).

### **4. 2013 and 2014 Summer Series**

Theme will be on the *Dimensions of the Eucharist*. The planning subcommittee is working on the weekly themes for July 7, 14, and 21.

Next meeting is Monday evening, May 20 at 7:30 PM.

## **Facilities Committee Report [Pat Ball, Chair]**

- 1 No progress on getting the heating system improvements cost estimates from Harford.
- 2 All exterior door locks were changed due to keys being stolen and used to break into St. V's.
- 3 The font project is complete! Thanks to the A&A committee for all their work.
- 4 The sacristy windows have been refurbished.
- 5 Painting of the Church. This was identified as the next capital project. Three bids were submitted. Baltimore Trade's Guild submitted the best bid, as it took measures to ensure all work complied with historic preservation requirements. Cost for all work including repairing of all masonry in bldg, stone in foundation, marble on steps, wood work on church, statue repair and painting, repair of gates around church and painting of church itself would cost just under \$200,000.  
  
Dick has asked for a moratorium on spending from the HTF until 2015. Chris is researching grants for historic preservation work to see what other sources of funds might be available to us to facilitate work before then.
- 6 Still waiting on bids for the uppercroft joist repairs from contractors.
- 7 No progress on the permit for the kitchen in the church basement.
- 8 Structural repair of joist under Fr. Chuck's tub will happen after Fr. Dick moves in July.
- 9 Harford submitted a competing bid to Dynastics' for twice-a-year maintenance of our HVAC system. Their bid was lower and included cleaning of the cooling/heating coils which were not included in Dynastics'. Upon Council's approval, we will award one of them the contract.

Dynastic's bid: \$4884

Harford's bid: \$4728

- 10 BG&E submitted their plan for the upgrades to the rectory and church. The total expense of the upgrade is \$9000+. Our cost would be \$1800. This bid was mostly for the electrical work. They will also arrange an evaluation of the heating and air conditioning system.
- 11 Rectory doorbell still does not work. It is a wiring problem that needs to be addressed.
- 12 The Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery will conduct their Spring Clean Day on April 20 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Help from parishioners is needed. See the website for details.

### **Social Action Committee [Peggy Meyer, Co-Chair]**

#### **The Resource Exchange:**

We received furniture and starter kit supplies from other churches and shopped for needed items. We supplied 7 individuals, whom Healthcare for the Homeless placed in apartments, with furniture and starter kits in March. Peggy noted that this program has doubled in the last year with 6-8 moves per month. She notes the tremendous support of parishioners in making this happen.

#### **Peace & Justice Subcommittee:**

We participated with *Pax Christi* in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, carrying a cross through the city and focusing on Social Action concerns. Several of our members did stations. Maryland passed repeal of the death penalty but we are waiting to see what happens with referendums. We had a large contingency at *Call to Action* Saturday which focused on hope for ordaining women as priests.

#### **Community Garden**

Please consider helping Caroline Umana with the garden at Roots and Branches on April 20th at 1807 Harlem Ave., 21217, 9:00 a.m. - noon. It will be a family affair.

#### **Jonestown Planning Council:**

Gallery church just opened in the 1840's ballroom down the street, another good presence in the neighborhood. Ellis Prince is the minister.

#### **Emergency Services:**

We gave groceries to about 100 families and spent about \$950 in March. The men's program gave clothing to 37 men in February and spent about \$575.

#### **Friday dinner:**

We continue to serve 150-250 guests each Friday evening.

**Expansion of Clothing Program:**

We would like to collect new or lightly used clothing for young adults ages 14 - 25 for the *Youth Empowered Society*, a drop in center for any youth without a home or at-risk of homelessness. Please consider saving such items.

The Parish Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by  
Audrey Rogers for Graham Yearley, Secretary

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## Report on the Survey of Families with Young Children: April 2013

The survey items were developed from voiced interests of parents attending the February 24, 2013 focus group. The survey was distributed via email to 14 families on March 10 with a return date of April 3. Twelve surveys were returned for a response rate of 86%.

### The families:

Two-thirds of these families have been in the parish over ten years; one-third (N=4) for less than five years.

None considers themselves 'short-timers' in Baltimore; two-thirds are settled 'for the foreseeable future,' the rest for good.

As a group they have 22 children. Only three of these (14%) are over age 9 years; 50% are under six years of age.

Almost all know about the St V Annual Retreat (11 of 12), although two-thirds have never attended. Some who did attend thought there was little for children (content seemed adult-focused) and too few children present for play. Others thought the experience was 'excellent.'

### Program Interests

Type of Program	Mostly-Very Interested	Likely or Will Attend	0-10 Scale Average
Social Events	58% [7/12]	58% [7/12]	6.7
Spiritual Enrichment	42% [5/12]	42% [5/12]	5.8
Service Projects	75% [9/12]	67% [8/12]	6.9
Parent Discussions	50% [6/12]	58% [7/12]	5.6
Book Discussions	17% [2/12]	8% [1/12]	3.1

#### Social Events

Picnics {75%}  
 Seasonal parties {67%}  
 Outings {50%}  
 Dinner for 8 {42%}  
 Game Nights {33%}  
 Movie Nights {17%}

\*Six not interested

\*Six want own group

#### Spiritual Enrichment

Seasonal Masses {58%}  
 Home Rituals {58%}  
 Email Ideas {50%}

	<u>Parent Discussions</u>	<u>Book Discussions</u>
Children's		
Growth + Development	25%	25%
Moral Development	58%	33%
Spiritual Development	83%	50%
Parental Skill-Building	n/a	42%
Theology	42%	33%
Biblical Studies	25%	17%
Spirituality	n/a	42%