

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
of St. Vincent de Paul Church
December 10th, 2013**

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Audrey Rogers at 7:43 pm and started with a group prayer.

In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence, *Pastor*; Chris McCullough, *Pastoral Associate*; Audrey Rogers, *President*, 9:30 Mass Rep; Sara Kelley, *Vice President*, 9:30 Mass Rep; Rosie Graf, *Secretary*, 9:30 Mass Rep.; Bethany Gregg, 9:30 Mass Rep.; Lauren Brunelli, *Communications and Outreach Committee Chair*; Peggy Meyer, *Social Action Committee Co-Chair*; Dan Rolandelli, *Facility Committee Co-Chair*; Graham Yearley, *Corporator* and Anne Marie Freeburger, *Corporator*.

Excused Absence: Peggy Shouse, *Education and Enrichment Committee Chair*; and John Helie, *Liturgy Committee Chair*.

Missing: Maureen Fitzsimmons, *Finance Committee Chair*; John Kober, Sr., 7:15 Mass Rep.; Denise Hamilton, 11:45 Mass Rep.; and David Potts, *Facility Committee Co-Chair*.

Pastor's Report:

Bishop Lori has received 3,000 responses already about the family surveys. Father urges all to do this as soon as possible. It is an honest request for feedback. Chris put out the advent booklet. Joe has lessons and carols at 6pm Sunday night. The creation of the endowment for operational maintenance is still in progress. Lauren will be setting up the direct deposit.

Archdiocesan Audit:

We were audited by 4 people lasting 3 days and have not received their feedback yet.

Status Report on Catholic Churches of Central City:

Chris met with the CCCC while Father Lawrence was at SBL. At the last meeting, the intent was to invite young professionals to the meetings regarding evangelization and implementation efforts that would invite others to partner. Joe Yingling was a representative; no other young professionals could make the meeting. The Basilica suggested holding a prayer vigil on the 15th for the Philippines' Tragedy. Father Waters met with his group and they said they were busy but interested in Theology on Tap. No one was willing to lead. Joe promised to bring info to our community and generate some ideas. The CCCC discussed the Pope's questionnaire- Fr. Waters had printed out questions and held forums to discuss the questions. Everyone said it was written by Bishops for Bishops however, it was apparent they were trying to make an effort to get opinions. The CCCC will meet in January. Regarding the evangelization document, the suggestion was made to include those who have lapsed in their practice of their faith in addition to those who do not claim a faith at all. Archbishop has steered away from the Boston plan to form parish collaboratives and is allowing parishes to work at the

grassroots level. We are trying to get more of an affirmation of our plans from the Archbishop.

Other Discussions:

We will use Baptismal lists to invite more folks to come back to church. We would like to hold a Baptismal Feast for the past years babies' families so that they can meet/talk and want to be involved in the future. Problem: Who would coordinate this?

We are in need of a volunteer coordinator. This person could make a list of volunteer opportunities. Then we could publicize these needs within our community and among local high schools for their students who need service hours.

Finance Report:

The report was accepted.

Old Business

Update 2013-14 Strategic Planning:

David Potts has joined the Strategic Planning Team.

Report on Strategic Planning Components

1. Demographics: update on registry (Laureen Brunelli)
2. Geographic Distribution

Steve McDaniel is mounting a map, Laureen is extracting zip code information.

3. SWOT Survey (information provided through email tree on November 19)

We sent the survey to 233 individuals identified through a number of venues (212 were emailed; 21 were sent via USPS). Four responded that they were not active. Six additional people asked for surveys after hearing the nagging announcements about returning them. So in all our denominator was 235 'active' individuals (active does not necessarily mean regular attendance) with a response rate of **43.8%**. The respondents represented 161 households. Looked at by household response (anyone of several living together responding) gave a rate of **53.4%**. There were **93 text surveys** returned.

16 from parishioners under age 50;
60 from parishioners ages 50-69;
17 from parishioners 70 years of age or older.

11 from parishioners in the parish 5 years or less;
27 from parishioners here from 5-15 years;
55 from parishioners here over 15 years.

All the responses have been formatted into the four SWOT areas by age-group and time-in-parish, themed, and tabulated. Analysis continues.

4. Pew Survey on Spiritual Journeys

This survey is being developed and will be distributed at all the Masses during December.

Report on Issues in the Park:

Park is moving slowly; volunteers are signing up. Every second Saturday Christopher's Place is cleaning the park and HUM the first and third Saturdays.

Michael Kelly is collecting contacts of those coming into the park who are giving donations. Supplies are going to be put in the shed for the park for those who are coming to clean. The shed has a combination padlock. The committee is contacting sororities, fraternities etc. for more coverage.

New Business**Fund-Raising Events:**

Discussion of Desirability/Feasibility/Leadership – The parish council agreed that an Ad Hoc Committee will be chaired by Mary and Jo Strassner to research this.

Criteria: Profit potential, community enhancement, no/minimal staff involvement, new volunteers, specify how funds used

Suggestion: need specific ideas; need to have fellowship be an outcome of this as well as funds,

Proposal for Smoke-Free Facility:

Parish Council discussed this and came to the Decision-We will designate our buildings as smoke free. It is permissible to smoke outdoors. We will not designate specific outdoor smoking areas but reserve the right to revisit if problems ensue.

Proposal for Smoke-Free Facility

Background Information: On Nov. 11, Dr. Peter Gregg requested that the Council adopt a policy to make the St V buildings a 'smoke-free environment' to protect the health of all but particularly young children since we were expanding programs for them. He supported his request with public health data on the deleterious effects of second-hand smoke. While Fr. Lawrence graciously offered to refrain from smoking in the buildings last month, Peter's full request was not presented to the entire council for discussion.

Outside of Council there was discussion about whom such a policy would affect. Of particular concern were the three AA groups who have been meeting at St V for years. I have since determined that all three AA councils voted 'years ago' to keep their meetings 'smoke-free'; they smoke outside the building. Several staff also smoke and I have discussed this policy proposal with them and they are amenable to smoking outside the building as well.

Future Town Meeting Scheduling:

Data Presentation: January 26th

Strategic Plan: March 23

Will have plan in place by April.

Committee Reports

Liturgy Committee (*John Helie, Chair*)

The next meeting of the Liturgy Committee will be in January. At that time the committee members will develop the Lenten Program for 2014. The committee members would welcome any comments about the Advent Program that is now in progress.

Education and Enrichment Committee (*Peggy Shouse, Chair*)

The E& E committee met on December 2, 2013.

1. Anne Gibson reported a slight increase in FFF numbers. Godly Play, a new education program, is being piloted with one group during Liturgy of the Word for Children. There are 6 children preparing for Reconciliation.
2. We have found a retreat leader who is available and affordable, IF he seems a good fit for our particular parish. If not, we have a back-up plan. Since so many of our choices for 2014 were already booked when we called, we will start searching for a leader for 2015 as soon as we can get the date for the retreat.
3. Chris has requested a volunteer from Jesuit Volunteers, to serve in part with youth ministry.
4. Tentative plan for Lent will be regional discussions of portions of the Pope's Exhortation.
5. We discussed ways to support newly formed groups that were not organized by the E & E committee, but grew out of activities that had been sponsored by the committee.
6. The committee is considering a survey of the parish asking what kinds of activities they would like and what activities they would support with their attendance. There was discussion of alternative ways of participating (webinars, etc.). Discussion on these two topics is still underway and no decisions have yet been made.

Social Action Committee (*Peggy Meyer and Ray Heil, Co-Chairs*)

Jonestown Planning Council: About 50 residents, businesses, developers, students and city reps attended our meeting last week. Exciting plans include a Ronald McDonald House on one of the properties, an urban garden and a park for the neighborhood. Trader Joe's expressed interest and the JHU students presented several options for a business they would like to start asking for our preferences.

Emergency Services: The food program gave groceries to about 100 families in November. The men's program gave clothing to 65 men in November.

Peace & Justice Committee: We worked with Gather Baltimore on a gleaning day and harvested food for the needy. Our plan is to do another day in the spring and invite other religions since our initial goal was to have an inter-faith activity. We are planning the Candidates' Night for those running for Governor, on 2/13, to let our voices be heard. We supported the Asylee Women Enterprise and they will sell goods 12/8 at St. V's. We hosted the regional Baltimore-Metro DC Pax Christi planning meeting, attended the annual Peace Dinner and held Vespers for the first week of Advent at Mission Helpers. We discussed solar panels for residences with a solar company.

We recommended a donation to SAHEF for education. We attended the Murphy Initiative retreat. CASA Baltimore Limay will also sell goods 12/8 at St. V's.

The Resource Exchange: We supplied 6 individuals, whom Healthcare for the Homeless placed in apartments, with furniture and starter kits in November. We have new volunteers and happy customers.

Friday Dinner: We continue to serve 140-320 guests each Friday evening.

Solar Panels: We are waiting for the solar company's engineers to get back with us for the rectory.

Our Daily Bread: Sad news: No more chopping vegetables on Sundays till next year.

Helping Up Mission: We took a "Thank you" cake to the guys at HUM who help clean our park on the first Saturdays of the month, and personally thanked them. HUM will clean the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month beginning in January.

Christopher Place: The men at Christopher Place agreed to clean the park on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Facilities Committee (*Dave Potts and Dan Rolandelli, Co-Chairs*)

The committee did not meet and has no report this month.

Communications and Outreach Committee (*Laureen Miles Brunelli, Chair*)

The communications and Outreach Committee has not met since the last Parish Council meeting. However, during this period Joe Yingling has taken on the project of having the website and domain transferred from Kevin Zembower's ownership to St. Vincent's. The Committee plans to meet in January.

Meeting Closed with Prayer at 9:34 pm.

Reminders: The Next Parish Council Meeting is January 14th at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by

Rosie Graf, Secretary to the Council