

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
of St. Vincent de Paul Church
January 14th, 2014**

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Audrey Rogers at 7: 35pm 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.*; John Kober, Sr., *7:15 Mass Rep.*; Denise Hamilton, *11:45 Mass Rep.*; Laureen Brunelli, *Communications and Outreach Committee Chair*; Peggy Meyer, *Social Action Committee Co-Chair*; and Anne Marie Freeburger, *Corporator*; Peggy Shouse, *Education and Enrichment Committee Chair*; John Helie, *Liturgy Committee Chair*; David Potts, *Facility Committee Co-Chair*; and Dennis Flynn (*Finance Committee*).

Excused Absence: Dan Rolandelli, *Facility Committee Co-Chair*; Maureen Fitzsimmons, *Finance Committee Chair*; and Graham Yearley, *Corporator*.

Pastor's Report:

The post audit meeting occurred; there were a number of suggestions discussed. Fr. Lawrence is awaiting their final recommendations. He then called on Chris McCullough to make his significant announcement: We have our Jesuit Volunteer Corps volunteer for next year! This will open new opportunities for the parish's programs. The Council expressed their gratitude to Chris for moving ahead on securing this important additional staff.

Status Report on Catholic Churches of Central City:

There was nothing to report locally. However, it is important to note that Pope Francis created 16 new cardinals. Of the 16: 4 are from the Korea; 3 are from the first world; 9 are from the third world including Haiti, St. Lucia, and Burkina Faso. This is very encouraging for the direction of the church.

Finance Report:

Filling in for Maureen Fitzsimmons, Dennis Flynn reported on the budget. Utilities costs have been down. The new boiler should be much more efficient so we hope to see continued savings; these could be enhanced substantially when we can identify funds to replace the air handler as well. Happily, offertory donations have increased since the October Town Meeting.

Old Business

Report on Issues in the Park:

Deferred to February.

Fundraising Events:

Deferred to February.

Parish Recycling:

Deferred to February.

New Business**Report on Data Collection Phase of Strategic Planning:**

Audrey Rogers presented the draft slide show that will be shown at the Town Meeting for review and discussion with Council. She will make their suggested changes.

Dissemination of Data and Town Meeting Planning:

The announcement of the January 26 Town Meeting has been running in the bulletin and on the website for the last month. After this Council meeting, the handout for the Town Meeting and the full data collection report to the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee will be made available the weekend prior to the Town Meeting through website links in the bulletin, through the email tree, and in hard copy for those without computer access. Audrey will meet with the 7:15 Mass community to answer questions on January 25 for those who are unable to attend the Sunday morning Town Meeting.

Committee Reports**Liturgy Committee (*John Helie, Chair*)**

The Liturgy Committee just met on Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 10:00 -12:00. The formal minutes have not yet been completed. The following report will provide parish council members with an overview of the process of the meeting. Questions, concerns, critique are welcome either at the meeting or online. The meeting began with prayer and reflection. Don Henderson was welcomed back after an absence due to corrective surgery. The committee reviewed our objectives for this liturgical year. Don expressed willingness to continue the training of lectors. The committee had challenged itself to recruit and mentor new liturgy planners. It was announced that five new liturgy planners had volunteered to serve. The committee is continuing its efforts to form a “bridge” between all the three weekly parish communities. A subcommittee had been formed to begin to examine the reconstruction of the Lenten and Easter Triduum Services. Anne Maura presented its results regarding the Good Friday Service. A lively exchange allowed for some positive changes that will hopefully be more meaningful to a larger segment of the community while guarding its essential liturgical structure. The Stations and the Easter Vigil will be discussed at the next meeting. The Advent/Christmas Liturgies were reviewed for comment and evaluation. Members seemed to believe that they were rich and meaningful. A special appreciation was expressed for those members of the parish who coordinated and contributed to our Advent Booklet. It served as a wonderful source of reflection and prayer throughout the busy days of the holiday season. Also recognized was the rich simplicity of the Advent Wreath Ceremony which allowed our young pre confirmation group to participate throughout the Advent season. Janice Bonner was thanked for her beautiful banner which reminded us that the call of Advent was an invitation to the Light. Due to the importance of our continuing efforts to engage

in a review of the Triduum Services, it was agreed that another meeting would be held on Saturday, February 8, 2014.

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

The Education and Enrichment Committee has not met since the last Parish Council Meeting. Our next meeting is January 27. We have only one bit of news to report: We have a retreat director for 2014. He is Brother Julio Martinez, a Franciscan.

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

Emergency Services: The food program gave groceries, including turkeys, to 100 families in December and spent \$400. The men's program gave clothing to 48 men in December and 41 men in January, spending \$822 and \$218 respectively.

The Resource Exchange: We supplied 6 individuals, whom Healthcare for the Homeless placed in apartments, with furniture and starter kits in December. We have a few new parishioners helping us now and many faithful long-time workers.

Donations: As clothing and goods come to the rectory, we distribute them to the men's program, the food program, St. James & John School or Friday night guests.

Friday Dinner: We continue to serve 140-320 guests each Friday evening. Here too we have a few new parishioners volunteering.

Helping Up Mission: HUM men have been cleaning the park the first Saturday and will also do the 3rd Saturday beginning this month.

Christopher Place: The men at Christopher Place began cleaning the park on the 2nd Saturday of the month beginning in December.

Peace & Justice Committee: We have not met since last Parish Council however, we distributed post cards asking for continued support of Adult Education, for mailing to the Governor. We continue to help plan the Candidates' Night on 2/13 for those running for Governor. We are participating in a rally tonight in Annapolis in support of raising the minimum wage.

Jonestown Planning Council: Did not meet in January.

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

The January meeting has been rescheduled. The last of the north side church windows are being repaired and repainted.

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

The committee has not met since the last Parish Council Meeting. There has been considerable attention to our Facebook page where selections from Pope Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel* has received good response and interaction.

Meeting Closed with Prayer at 9:30 pm.

Reminders: The Next Parish Council Meeting is February 11th at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by
Rosie Graf, Secretary to the Council