

St. Vincent de Paul Parish Council Minutes

February 10, 2015

In attendance. Fr. Richard Lawrence, *Pastor*; Chris McCullough, *Pastoral Associate*; Audrey Rogers, *President*, 9:30 Mass Rep; Bethany Gregg, Vice President, 9:30 Mass Rep; Peter La Count, *Secretary*, 9:30 Mass Rep; Denise Hamilton, 11:45 Mass Rep; Joe Yingling, 9:30 Mass Rep; Peggy Meyer, *Co-Chair, Social Action Committee*; Peggy Shouse, *Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee*; Graham Yearley, *Corporator*; Bob Betta;; Kieran Ruppert, *Jesuit Volunteer Corps*; Jack Schmidt; *Finance Vice-Chair*; Michael Kelly, *Park Working Group*; Matt Hill,

Absent. John Kober, 7:15 Mass Rep; Anne Freeburger, *Corporator*; Mark Palmer, *Chair, Finance Committee*, Valerie Rolandelli, *Chair Liturgy Committee*; Dan Rolandelli, *Co-chair, Facilities Committee*; Laureen Brunelli, *Chair, Communications and Outreach Committee*.

Meeting began in prayer at 7:35.

Audrey welcomed the four guests to the Parish Council Meeting Mary Lynn Myers, Kevin Daly, Jack Bonner and Al Riechet.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Dick announced (the decision to increase Laureen Brunelli's new position as the Director of Evangelization. She will now work 30 hours per week, up from 20 hours per week. She will allocate an additional 7 hours per week for evangelization and 3 hours for communication. She began these additional responsibilities on February 1, 2015. These additional hours will be focused on proclamation of the Good News. Michael Keating has agreed to chair the Outreach and Engagement Committee.

Fr. Dick also said that the Estate of Lou Vadorsky left us \$10,000 which can be used for any purpose.

Pastoral Associate

Chris stated that during Lent the liturgy committee will emphasize the prayer of discipleship.

There will be a banner for side of building up for Lent. The banner will state 'Be Open and Surprised by God'.

Hersh Electric has completed the in-kind upgrade to electrical plant. The only step needed for completion is for BGE to inspect and give the OK. The church will need to shut down entire plant for one day for BGE to complete the inspection. A notice will go out to inform the parish of this date. Mr. Dimmer has done much work to get this done.

Chris noted that Anne Gibson informed him of the status of – Shield the Vulnerable – (the web site training for all parish volunteers). As of 2/10/15 she has identified 137 volunteers who need the training. Forty-one (of 42) of these are individuals who have substantial contact with minors. Ninety-six other volunteers have completed the training. We are 50% compliant on this front.

Fr. Dick added that it is important that this be done. We MUST have the training – we may need this training in any situation at home, work, school and informs us what to do when one sees something awry in your circle. This training guides you with what to do and how to do it regarding child abuse and neglect. Fr. Dick emphasized that for the sake of cause, ourselves and Parish, complete the training. Fr. Dick will emphasize this during his next homily.

Sunday the 22nd of Feb. representatives from the Archdiocese will come to do the presentation on child safety and child abuse. They will conduct this training between the two morning masses. All are welcome and urged to attend.

Chris gave an update on Louise Gregg's recycling proposal to Council. Chris has talked to City representative regarding recycling. At this point we have two cans designated for curb side pick on Tuesdays. The Council is grateful to Louise for her initiative and work on this. This will help our community to stay Green.

Audrey Added Prior to Finance Committee Report

For the fiscal year 2016 budget, committee members should look at what each needs, wishes for and can do without. This is a task of prioritization. All committees should think how they can include evangelization as part of their overall task.

The Book for Lent: Life on Mission is out – Chris can give out copies.

Finance Committee

Month of January to last year down about 4% in attendance; however per person average donation up 16%.

30 weeks through the end of January attendance is down 7% but giving up 11%.

The question was asked about attendance differences in the three weekend Masses. Committee will break down numbers to see if there is a specific Mass that is declining in numbers.

The Christmas collection was over \$6,000 almost \$3,000 more than last year.

January income \$3500 above budget and expenses were below budget.

Fiscal year to date: income over by \$25,000 and expenses \$24,000 under budget. \$49,000 variance. When monies are given for a specific purpose, they can only be used for that specific purpose. Much of the increase in income is designated for the charities supported by the parish and thus unavailable for general operating expenses.

The Parish Council determined that the parish has been paying the administrative costs of the annual audit for the St Vincent Historical Endowment Fund from our operating expenses. Fr. Dick has reasoned that this payment increased the fund's capital appreciation, thus benefitting the parish in the long run. The Fund made close to \$600 K last year from investments. Given our own community needs in program and maintenance, the Council reasoned that having \$2,000 to use each year for operating expenses was a better use of parishioner donations. Audrey asked Fr. Dick to inform the Historical Trust members of this decision.

Old Business

Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation #1

The Parish Council agreed with unanimous consensus, the Ad Hoc Park Committees recommendation # 1 to regain control of the park and manage it effectively. The report outlines specific activities. The Parish Council outlined items A-L in the report and assessed each. A synopsis of what was discussed is as follows:

- A. Create a Park Sanctuary Committee to coordinate the efforts of St Vincent's parish, including the Park Workgroup and others working to address homelessness in the St. Vincent park.
Noted: We already have this as an active committee
- B. Change the norm in the park on trash and excess belongings stored in the park and along our fence to prevent the park from becoming an encampment.

Noted: efforts have already been made to clear park of permanent place for those using park to store materials.

- C. Assign St. V's Maintenance Superintendent to assist in park maintenance and for the Park Sanctuary Committee to engage the park residents and other sources of volunteers in our efforts to maintain the cleanliness of the park on a daily basis.

Noted: This will be an on-going endeavor. The superintendent already has done such actions as discard unused clothing, pick up trash, wake people up in doorways, etc. The biggest challenge for cleanliness is on Mondays after donations have been left in the park. The superintendent currently cleans these materials. Once the superintendent is finished his backlog of maintenance Mike Kelly would like to call on the superintendent to offer assistance with park clean when needed. Michael would also will need volunteers to help, also.

- D. Educate the parish on the causes, and consequences of homelessness.

Noted: Michael Kelly will to organize this effort.

- E. Create a relationship and maintain the ties with the volunteer groups who distribute food and clothing in the park to see our point of view and maintain a sense of order and self-cleaning, i.e., don't drop off palletes of box lunches and expect that folks will clean up after themselves (particularly on Sunday mornings).

Noted: Michael Kelly is spearheading this effort.

- F. Create a relationship with Baltimore Department of Public Works and volunteer groups to enforce the new cleanliness norms.

Noted: Michael Kelly is spearheading this effort.

- G. Repair and provide regular maintenance of the physical environment (i.e. repair the benches and general grounds)

Noted: Michael Kelly is spearheading this effort.

- H. Create formal linkages with park outreach workers (currently Bon Secours) and the City's outreach coordinator (Gabby Knighton) and the parish (through the **Sanctuary Committee**) to make sure we are coordinating our efforts, identifying problems and not working at cross purposes.

Noted: Michael Kelly is spearheading this effort.

- I. Train a small number of volunteers in the parish to engage the park regulars in one-on-one relationships.

Noted: Michael Kelly is spearheading this effort; however, it was noted that this will require considerable training and focus to ensure safety and to avoid mixed messages regarding mission

- J. Formulate procedures involving those who work in the rectory and those who volunteer or do outreach in the park that strengthens security benefiting residents and the parish

Noted: Michael Kelly is spearheading this effort.

K. Create and implement a staffing (volunteers and outreach workers) and a finance model to implement this strategy.

Noted: Michael Kelly is spearheading this effort.

L. Consider adding more lighting and/or security cameras to enhance security

Noted: The Facilities Committee will discuss the need/budget available for more lighting in the park

Final comment: The council agreed that all ideas A-L on the Ad Hoc Park Committee recommendations #1 can and should be embraced.

The Council decided to expand the scope and responsibilities of the existing Park Working Group rather than follow the recommendation to form another committee. It will retain its current name because of concerns with the use of the term 'sanctuary' and its connection to church efforts with illegal immigrants.

Parish Council Guest Presentations

Mary Lynn Myers wished to address the Parish Council regarding some ideas to address homelessness. They were as follows:

- create a day of reflection within the Parish for homelessness prevention
- share stories of interactions with people who experience homelessness
- offer the parish surveys regarding people who experience homelessness
- offer classes or other methods of education regarding people who experience homelessness

No specific action was taken on these ideas; however, the Parish Council voice appreciation for her concern and willingness to share her ideas and asked her to work with Michael and the Park Working Group which has responsibility now for parish education..

Kevin Daly wished to address the Parish Council regarding possible funding opportunities. His ideas are as follows:

Kevin offered to apply to the Open Society Institute to become a supported fellow. This foundation addresses local Baltimore City issues that address the community and funds a person who belongs to an organization. Kevin is willing to be that person who can work with Michael Kelly to assist with many of the Park activities. The proposed project must benefit the community at large and the foundation offers 8-12 grants of up to \$60,000 to do this work over an 18 month period. This can also be seen as an evangelization opportunity. The Parish Council supported Kevin's proposal which should be coordinated with Mike Kelly. The application is due by March 2.

Chris circulated a letter offered by Harold Burns regarding the Park. No action was taken however, its contents will be discussed during the March Parish Council meeting.

New Business

None

Addendum (move this under SAC below)

Committee Reports

Outreach and Engagement Committee
Michael Keating, Chair

The committee last met on February 2. Michael Keating has agreed to chair until May 2016. Lauren Brunelli was introduced as the new Director of Evangelization and time was spent in delineating the roles and responsibilities between her and the committee in order to promote a good working relationship. The immediate outreach/marketing plan is to have the banner hung by the beginning of Lent on the Fallsway façade. The committee discussed and made some decisions on the reorganization of the Gathering Space to arrange information more effectively, improve traffic flow, and provide better signage. Other projects to increase our visibility include trying to obtain media coverage for the Children's Good Friday Service and the Holy Saturday Vigil experience. Next meeting is on March 16.

Social Action Report to Parish Council February 10, 2015

The Resource Exchange: We supplied 8 Health Care for the Homeless clients with furniture and starter kits in January. Our spreadsheet indicates more than 90% of our clients still housed. Social action committee noted that they had assisted an individual who had been homeless for twenty-three years through The Resource Exchange.

Peace & Justice Committee: We encourage you to attend "The Throwaways", a documentary on racial justice on 2/21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's. We included the info in the bulletin. Sunday was the first international day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. The House passed H.R. 515, the International Megan's Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking and we ask you to write to Senators asking them to pass it. We collected religious

Christmas cards to send to Limay, Nicaragua. We will join Pax Christi for the Social Action Way of the Cross through town on Good Friday and ask you to join us. We prepared a Social Action Report for 2014 that we will distribute next week. On March 23, Dr. Rosann Catalano of the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies will address a synagogue about our challenges 50 years after Vatican II. She and a Lutheran, Muslim and Rabbi will respond to questions. We also invited our Jonestown neighbor and Rabbi. RSVP by 3/16 and we have registration forms. \$15 includes lunch. BRIDGE formed a transition team to look for a new Executive Director. We attended their one day retreat with Alvin Herring and are working with them to get paid sick leave for employees. Last week marked the two-year anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program. Special status of the DREAMers is about to expire. We contacted our State representative but there is nothing to do yet.

Emergency Services: The food program gave groceries to 23 families in January and spent \$35. They closed for the holiday. The men's program gave clothing in January to 20 men on a bitter cold day and spent \$500.

Friday Dinner: Ed Stoops brought 3 birthday cakes and all the guests sang and celebrated his birthday last Friday. We continue to serve between 150 - 360 each week.

Jonestown Planning Council: Officer Tracy from the Southeast District Police Department gave an update on two targeted shootings, retaliation for their occupations. Ronald McDonald House plans passed CHAP, Mayor's memo and zoning and moved one step closer to ground breaking at Aisquith and Fayette Streets. Dr. Rhonda Rochetta, Principal of City Springs Elementary/Middle School, said their enrollment went from 355 six years ago to 749 now. They are overcrowded and need funding for renovation. They received National recognition for their great achievements and we will support her requests to the Governor and Dr. Thornton of the School Board for funding. They have child first after school activities and many sports programs. Ipads or laptops are 1 to 1 student. Jack Pannell also presented his plan for a new charter school for boys of color, The Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys. We also discussed the Master Planning Vision for Jonestown.

Helping Up Mission: HUM men are cleaning the park the first and third Saturdays of each month.

Liturgy Committee Notes 1-24-15

Attendees: Peggy, Audrey, Janice, Don, Chris, Geri, Amber, Matt, Anne Maura, Joe Organ, Fr. Dick

- Shield the Vulnerable Still Needed by Lent: Geri, Anne Maura, Matt, Don,

- Two St. Vincent DePauls but don't worry about it. Both created for us.
- Advent
 - Announcements
 - Before Mass?
 - After closing prayer?
 - Hybrid?
 - Objection is to parade of people and non-parish-relevant announcements
 - Rabbit effect of announcements, once one starts, everyone starts
 - Could have one announcement with brief summary of all announced
 - Could have a board in the gathering space where people could post announcements, information. Outreach committee is already working on bulletin board/information space.
 - Are we talking about just Advent/Lent or all time?
 - Chris could make announcements at end or at beginning?
 - But need to consider visual and auditory learners... others need to be taken by their belt
 - Most dislike but it also has value in being very participatory and easy for newcomers to get to know other parishioners and identify who is working on what activity.
 - Could we have Chris do announcements but have people in charge of various announcements stand up as announcement called?
 - Problem with in-jokes or clicks
 - For Lent: Have Chris make announcements and ask people to stand up who are in charge
 - **DECISION: As trial balloon for Lent, have Chris make announcements and triage announcements to 15 seconds... announcement guru! Only parish-relevant announcements and will ask persons in charge of various activities to stand up as announcement called**
 - **Need to put something in bulletin announcing the new announcement policy. Chris will set policy on how announcements should be sent to him.**
 - 8:00pm Liturgy on Christmas Eve?
 - Would drain service at midnight and take additional resources/energy from childrens and midnight. Midnight had 62 participants this year. Childrens service was packed. Childrens went up, midnight went down on participation.
 - One criticism of childrens': Getting off work by 5:15pm.

- Drop midnight in favor of 8pm mass? Older parishioners may not be able to midnight and may just start going to other churches.
 - Corpus Christi has mass at 10pm;
 - **Will table and reconsider in Summer 2015**
 - Lessons and Carols reflection
 - Dropping WH Auden? May want to consider dropping next year because it is cynical and not in keeping with general theme and tone of service
- **LENT PLANNING**
 - Theme: This is the time of fulfillment... Delio modified by Audrey
 - “This is the Time of Fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand.” Our faith journey must be more than self-centered activity. Christianity was never intended to be simply a religion of the book, an intellectual exercise, or a private affair. The good news of Jesus Christ is not so much what happens to us but what must be done by us. Being Catholic needs to be what we do and how we act. If we call ourselves Catholic, we declare that we are about encountering the other, opening our heart in relationship, healing the wounded of the world, and making everything whole and blessed. Being Catholic is the way our love gives birth to God.
 - Life on a Mission book – about seizing opportunity to invite people in. Book for discussion in Lent in study group – theme will reflect discipleship/evangelization in book and broader goals of parish
 - Broader dissemination beyond book and study groups, i.e., non-study-group members?
 - How do we distribute book? Could set up account with Amazon with kick-back to St. V’s—“Amazon Smile” or possible publisher discount? Chris will determine best method of book distribution
 - Do we want to read Fulfillment reading as theme statement every week as CtW? No.
 - Theme Statement is in the bulletin, possibly edited version on powerpoint, but different CtW each week.
 - Chris will create index card with visual, theme statement and discipleship prayer with Audrey to pass out to parishioners.
 - Colleen: Have Youth doing Prayer of Faithful since they are doing the banners. YES.
 - Peggy: Different item brought up every month at offertory, or maybe even top 4—bring parish into service mission more. Bring up at offertory. Would need someone at back of church... During Lent, Youth could work on bringing up items – Peggy will talk to Colleen. After that altar dressers could coordinate who is collecting and bringing up items. Make this regular event outside Lent
 - **DECISION:**

- Theme statement in bulletin and first CtW
- CtW different each week but focused on general theme and beginning with “This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand.”
- Index card handed out with one line from theme and then prayer of discipleship and image – Chris
- Pray prayer of discipleship after communion –Chris will put in TSC, bulletin, announcement. May want to print prayer of discipleship in Bulletin itself so it is accessible everyone at Mass
- Prayer of Faithful done by Youth – delegated to Colleen and youth
- What is discipleship?
 - Disciplines to reach God or part of evangelization? Maybe both
 - Both passive and active: watch and listen and also speak what you have heard and do what you have seen
- Holy Week
 - Palm Sunday
 - Mike and Kate? – Janice will ask if they want to plan...
 - Amber will help with planning – practice with readers, choreograph, reading that starts in the park. Janice will send Amber guide to assist
 - Planners will do petitions
 - Ash Wednesday – Janice will work with Jim Lochner
 - Wednesday. Peggy will talk to Graham about Tenebrae
 - Holy Thursday – Peter and Susan will coordinate. Anne Maura will talk to Peter and Susan re: reflective music for end of Thursday.
 - Good Friday – Anne Maura
 - Anne Maura will coordinate evening service. Fr. Dick will read, not sing. Veneration optional at the end – will continue. Anne Maura would like reflective music at time between communion and Fr. Dick walking back to repository – could sing Lamb of God.
 - Children’s liturgy will be done again
 - Peggy will coordinate with stations through town with Pax Christi
 - John led stations last year. Audrey will ask John Helie to repeat last year’s setup.
 - St. Ignatius will be doing reconciliation service on March 4 or 18.
 - Easter Vigil – has not met yet, but will be meeting next week

- Summer Series
 - 50th anniversary of V2?
 - Chris: Pope Francis talking about evangelization – what it is, what it means, strategic planning process. Could be good moment to reflect on evangelization
 - Overkill bringing it into Summer Series?
 - Ministry fair?
 - Part 2 of fulfillment in terms of discipleship
 - Pope Francis Encyclical on environment released soon?
 - Francis-themed series? 3 themes from what Francis is saying.
 - Presentation/homilet focused on Francis's teachings
 - Could have skits or monologues?
 - Could substitute Francis reading for second reading and then coordinate Gospel or use Gospel already scheduled
 - First three weeks of July – 12th, 19th, then 26th is vacation bible school Sunday, and then first Sunday of August
 - Could pick three themes involving the environment, collegiality, evangelization and/or others
 - Create practicum after each week to live out teaching?
 - Danger of attitude of preaching to the choir?
 - Maybe focus on inward-lookingness/evangelization
 - Could vacation bible school be folded into the summer series theme? Probably not
 - **DECISION: Summer Series Subcommittee will take all of this into consideration and devise a plan:**
 - Matt, Janice, Geri, Don
 - Anne Maura – would do handout on themes for three masses and compilation of quotes on Francis but cannot likely be more involved.
 - Will work in May/June
 - Consider: “Be Opened and Surprised by God” on side of Church
 - Peggy and Social Action will coordinate on environmental theme
 - Practicum after each Sunday mass?
 - Write to Rome, political parties?
 - Elizabeth Johnson: Ask the Beast? Bunting has DVD of 40-minute talk on Johnson's talk at Call to Action. Could we put it on website? Or could move this to education for the Fall... move this to book discussion group for the fall and do more in-depth dive on book itself.

- **For late summer/fall: Reconsider teaching masses – bringing back sacred space and educating folks about St. V's and mass.**
- **Postpone cluster group feedback until March 14, 2015 meeting: Everyone should read cluster group feedback and be prepared to share feedback. This will be item 1 on the agenda.**
 - Anne Maura cannot make meeting on March 14.

Next Meeting: March 14 from 10am to 12pm in

Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes January 27, 2015

In attendance: Bob Betta, Bob Ball, Chris McCullough, Jim Dimmer, Dennis McMullin, Rita McMullin, Bob Reuter, Audrey Rogers, Mike Kelly, Dan Rolandelli

Absent: Pat Ball, Jerome Bird

The meeting began with a prayer at 7:00 pm.

Superintendent Report

Jim Dimmer reported that the electrical upgrade is in progress and should be completed in the next 3 – 4 weeks. Also, he reports that his rat control efforts have shown positive results.

Business Discussions

Jim Dimmer reported that the rework of the kitchen is proceeding. He is looking for someone to remove the old commercial refrigerator.

Nothing has been done to refinish the church floor between the bathroom and maintenance closet.

Chris reported that the second floor accessibility project is scheduled to start at the beginning of February. We will have to put together a crew to remove the cast iron tub from Father Chuck's bathroom.

Concerning the undercroft noise suppression the easiest first step would be to install acoustical tiles on the ceiling. Another alternative is to install a double layer of sheet rock on the ceiling. A more effective step would be to install acoustical panels or curtains on the walls around the stage. It was also suggested to install an accordion door to divide the area and give us more flexibility. Cost for these additions need to be determined and worked into next year's budget.

The addition of directional signs in the church gathering space is being handled by the Outreach and Engagement Committee

The refinishing and line painting of the parking lot will be put off until the next fiscal year.

Audrey Rogers recommended that if we intend to install exterior security cameras it should be done in conjunction with the police department.

Plans to trim the ivy which is doing damage on the north side of the rectory centered on whether to rent a lift and do it in house or have someone come in and do it. Considering the cost and liability issues of doing this ourselves and the reported cost of hiring someone else, \$1300, it was decided that the latter option would be preferable. This work will need to be postponed until the next fiscal year.

Mike Kelly was present to report on the plans he has made in conjunction with Dave Myers to repair the park benches. He has the material to do the work on two of the eleven benches. It was suggested that he write up a detailed step by step report of what needs to be done. This report should also include what hardware and tools would be needed. After submitting this report to Bob Betta, a crew of workers will need to be recruited and time be determined.

It was also noted that the cast iron fence on the north side of the parking lot has several areas of damage that need to be repaired before they get worse. This will require further investigation.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for March 24, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Betta.

**Report to Parish Council
Education & Enrichment Committee
February 10, 2015**

The Education & Enrichment committee met on January 8, 2015.

Dinner for 8 is resuming. There are 9 groups this round.

A half-day retreat is planned for February 28 at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City, conducted by Dr. Robert Wicks. A copy of his book, *Riding the*

Dragon, will go to each participant. As of this part Sunday, 40+ people are registered.

A subcommittee is meeting with Gerry Fialkowski on February 15, 2015, to determine the theme for this year's parish retreat.

LOW leaders and some others in the parish are reading/discussing *Reading Mark for the First Time* as we are reading Mark in the Sunday Gospels.

The Lenten discussion book is *Life on Mission* by Tim Harlow. In response to a number of requests from the pew surveys, cluster meetings, and the strategic planning process, we chose this particular book because of its illustrative stories and examples of personal faith-sharing. A number of books by Catholic authors were examined, but were handbooks or theological works rather than "hands-on" faith-sharing and thus did not meet the expressed needs of our parishioners. The value of the faith-sharing material outweighs the issues we will have with some of his theology.

The Committee reviewed the summary of the Custer Meetings.

The tentative date for the Cape May Enrichment weekend is October 16-18.

Our next meeting will be March 19th.

Meeting ended in prayer at 9:11

Respectfully submitted by Peter La Count