

**St. Vincent DePaul Parish Council Meeting Notes  
May 10, 2016**

In Attendance		Absent	
Dick Lawrence	Pastor	Graham Yearley	Corporator
Colleen McCahill	Pastoral Associate	Denise Hamilton	11:45 Rep.
Anne Freeburger	Corporator	Peter LaCount	9:30 rep (Vice-President)
Mike Jacko	9:30 Rep. (Secretary)	Bob Betta	Facilities Chair
Lee Krempel	9:30 Rep.	Peggy Meyer	Social Action Chair
John Kober	7:15 rep		
Joe Yingling	9:30 Rep. (President)		
Denny McMullin	Education & Enrichment Chair		
Rita McMullin	Education & Enrichment Chair		
Matt Hill	Liturgy Chair		
Michael Keating	Outreach & Engagement Chair		
Ray Hill	Social Action Committee Chair		
Jay Brown	9:30 representative nominee		

Joe Yingling called the meeting to order at 7:42 with a prayer from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

**Pastor's Report**

- to discuss in due course: Archdiocesan planning, budget, audit

**Archdiocesan Mission Readiness Plan (Part I of planning process)**

- on request, Archdiocese was able to provide statistical analysis on the survey results
- requests parish to create 2-3 page report on how parish would become more mission-ready (by September)
- in September, Archdiocese will provide instruction about (new) parish partnering
  - will include some direction about resource allocation
  - clusters to produce final plans implementing those directives by next spring
- Fr. Lawrence points out that if present clusters continue, our plan will be a refreshing of our existing one
  - on clergy shortage, Archdiocese is only ordaining one priest this year
- Fr. Lawrence proposes that Council create new planning committee to consist of approximately 9 members (representative of various constituencies)
  - members should...
    - be able to “face reality” in terms of digesting the statistical report
    - have an open theological mind
    - be in touch with the voice of the parish
    - be able to attend 1-2 meetings per month
  - proposed committee would include pastor, (new) parish council president, pastoral life director, evangelization director
- Denny McMullin asked what it takes to have a religious order take over a parish
  - Fr. Lawrence says that because of manpower, it is more likely that religious orders will give parishes back to archdiocese rather than the opposite

- the possibility of importing foreign priests is equally problematic (difficult cultural barriers, other vocations problems abroad)
- Forming the committee
  - Joe Y. proposes that people gather names of potential committee members to bring to next meeting
  - Dick proposes that ideally, the committee would begin meeting earlier than that
  - Colleen proposes that we invite those who were nominated but not elected to new parish council
  - Mike J. to send notes about committee responsibilities to Colleen, she will add some descriptions from the Archdiocese and circulate it to council
  - council will send nominees for committee to Colleen, council will approve via e-mail in 2 weeks so that committee can begin its work

### Parish Budget

- Finance committee wanted to get head start on budget before fiscal year begins (has not always happened in the past)
- budget is balanced (very slight surplus)
- highlights of projections
  - offertory to grow by 2%
  - grant funding to continue and increase
  - the Resource Exchange will carry over surplus
  - salaries to increase by 2%
  - cemetery costs to increase for implementation of perpetual care fund (discussed last meeting)
    - money can be put in at the end of the year so that any expense come out first and then surplus is put into the cemetery fund
  - new Jesuit Volunteer (Cody Perry from Nantucket to arrive in August)
  - expected decrease in expenditures for maintenance of church & grounds
    - there were several major expenditures this year which need not be repeated
  - \$80,000 for tuition assistance at Sts. James & John
- Joe Y. asks from which budget roof repair comes
  - answer: anticipated to come from FY 2015-16 budget
- Colleen asks status of position for person to work with youth
  - reminds council that the position was planned for, but never hired
  - Colleen does not think we still need to hire someone, but we do need to think of ways to nurture late-elementary / middle school youth
  - we might want to increase budget for children's ministry
  - Mark Palmer suggests that if we came up with specific expense to meet that need, it could come from strategic reserve
- Michael Keating asks what becomes of a surplus in the budget (and do we have one this year)
  - yes, we do have a surplus – some of that surplus is restricted funding (e.g. Resource Exchange), the rest becomes part of parish's net assets (usable to reconcile possible future deficit)
- the council approved the budget by consent

#### Parish Audit - 3 areas to address

- segregation of duties (already moved to address)
- paper records for online payment of bills
- fund for cemetery maintenance
  - every parish with a cemetery is asked to create perpetual care fund
  - suggestion based on size of cemetery is \$500,000
  - BUT our cemetery is not typical
    - the stones are gathered in one place, so remaining land can be mowed more efficiently
    - we have arrangement for city to mow

#### 175th Anniversary

- no updates on planning
- Colleen wants to organize a dance & is organizing a coalition to assist

#### Questions from Committee Reports

- explanation of roof repair
  - parish received 2 estimates: major repair or patching, we opted for patching (\$13,000)
  - in several years, we will need to paint the roof with elasto-polymer coating
- Fr. Lawrence announced that the seminary is commencing a Doctor of Ministry program and St. Vincent's has three interested parishioners

Conclusion: We recited the Lord's Prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 9:20.  
The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mike Jacko

## COMMITTEES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes and Reports: April, 2016

### EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE

- Met on April 14
  - Present: Peggy Shouse, Lorna Patterson, Anne Gibson, Rosemary Wallace, Denny McMullin, Rita McMullin
- Children's Program
  - Anne Gibson gave us an update on the *Reconciliation* on 4/9 (5 children) and *Retreat* leaders (Rosie G and Leah M).
  - *First Communion* will include 7 children—Lucy G, Bryce B, Fiona S, Liam S, Gabby M, Fern S, and Scarlett on 6/5.
  - VBS is July 18-22...only 1 teacher so far
  - *No senior graduation* as of now.
- 175th Anniversary
  - O & E Com are pre-planning: the weekend of 9/23-25; Fri—a dance??; Sat—a service activity, possibly gleaning; Sun—Mass featuring Social Action Com.
  - 11/6 we'll honor the archbishop & have brunch.
  - 12/4 will be “Bring a Friend” mass.
- Justfaith.org
  - It was decided to look into this further
- Cape May
  - Set for 9/16-18; 7 paid so far; \$50 per adult to Peggy S; make sure FL Com is well informed.
- Spring Retreat (5/20-5/22)
  - Jack S, Peggy S, and Rosemary to do signups; Rosemary to call Liz for evaluations.
- Mercy Book Discussions
  - Liz H to clarify times for food and activity in bulletin and Fr. L's introductions.
  - Liz H doing sign ups and Jack, Liz and Rosemary will be in charge on 4/25 & 5/2, with groups of about 10
- Dan Castillo's Presentation
  - Liz and Rita will do sign ups; Denny and Rita will be in charge of set up on 5/9
- Sylvia Eastman's Seminar
  - Very few signed up so far; it will continue.
- New Chair?
  - Denny will not be chair this year as chairing Facilities Com; Rita will continue.
  - Chairs do not have to be nominated in spring, but it is done to be in tune with new Parish Council Reps and officers.
- Next meeting: June 9 at 7:00pm

### FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- Has not met since the last Council meeting.
- The Church roof is scheduled for maintenance this month.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- Has submitted its preliminary budget.

### **LITURGY COMMITTEE**

- Has not met since the last Council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14.

### **OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- Has not met since the last Council meeting.

### **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

- Met on April 11
  - Present: Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, Chuck Frascati, Mary Laukaitis, Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore, Jack Schmidt, and Caroline Umana (in part).
- BRIDGE
  - Dennis reported that BRIDGE Maryland passed the by-laws which is the first step to incorporation and then they will apply for 501 C3 and thanks to Audrey Rogers who prepared the by- laws. They are going to talk to BUILD about working together.
  - There was a big crowd for the mayoral meeting and a booklet with candidates' answers to questions. The mayoral primary is April 26th.
- Beyond the Boundaries
  - Mary Catherine and Chuck attended the meeting and spoke to CPHA, Citizens Planning and Housing. Mary Catherine will fund a hire whom the Executive Director will oversee, to get the HOME act passed in Baltimore county and fill in the loop holes in the city law on affordable housing.
  - A rally for the homeless in the county is near Calvary Baptist Church, 120 W. Pennsylvania Ave, Towson on Monday, April 18. Peggy distributed the letter constituents could send their reps and talking points she got from Matt Hill.
  - Thanks Mary Catherine for attending the District 2 meeting with Vicki Almond.
- Immigration
  - We are still waiting for action items.
- Interfaith Activities
  - ICJS, Institute for Islamic Christian Jewish Studies - Mary and Jack went to the Christian speaker who talked about the history of the black church in the U.S. Mary Catherine said Marc Gopin was fantastic when he presented the Jewish perspective.
  - The next one May 3, a Muslim perspective, will be at 7:00 p.m., at Reginald F. Lewis Museum.
- Food Justice

- Jack, Mary and Peggy went to Corpus Christi's movie on hungry people at their P&J committee's invitation. Jack subsequently incorporated petitions on these issues on Good Friday during the Stations around town.
- Peggy invited Caroline Umana to our meeting to discuss a gleaned day in concert with plans for St. Vincent de Paul feast day and the 175th anniversary mass discussed below. Caroline suggested an apple picking at Jonah House, or as first choice, the Baltimore Orchard Project by Nina Cardin where fruit goes to the inner city. We could make apple sauce with the bruised apples to donate. Approach an urban farm or Pearlstone was another idea. Caroline will talk to BOP.
- Fred Jorgensen did a good job on Rice Bowl again this year.
- Pax Christi
  - The Stations of the Cross through town were meaningful and thanks to Mary Catherine for bringing the amp and the cross. Thanks to Mary Catherine, Mary, Jack, Julie Z. and Peggy for each leading a station.
  - Mary, Jack and Chuck attended the site meeting to start working on the national assembly for August 2016. They are looking for volunteers to help do the work needed. Audrey is trying to get BRIDGE involved. Theme of the workshop is Equality and it will be held in Baltimore because of the riots. Buses will deliver attendees to Sandtown/Winchester to pray together with an activity to involve the community. Four neighborhoods, No Boundaries, is involved. P.C. needs point people for each committee. Jack is working on giving them info about historic Baltimore, especially the church. Chuck is working on getting a speaker and Mary is working on getting buses since people will stay at the Double Tree near the airport. They are meeting with Sr. Patty, Pax Christi Director. July 15th is the registration deadline. Jack will send out the list of duties and we will let Jack know if we can help and also try to get others. Mary Catherine and Mary suggested they offer separate pricing for those who can't make all 3 days.
  - National Pax Christi is having a retreat near Washington on April 30th - sign up by April 15th, \$40. Topic is "Let Creation Call Us More Deeply to God". Let Chuck know if interested and can carpool. The Regional meeting will be at St. V's on 5/7 at 9:30 a.m. Plans are starting for the Bishop's dinner in November. He wants to use the same group for the prayer service.
- Limay
  - No report

#### SOCIAL ACTION INITIATIVES

- TRE
  - Peggy C and Jack submitted an application for and we received the \$12,800 grant

from the Knotts Foundation. We are doing two moves per week but still have a long waiting list so may do four moves. Pat F. and Mary have faithfully filled the starter kits with home goods and Mary supplies the Healthify info for our furniture recipients. Mary will draft something for the bulletin to solicit help.

- Jonestown
  - Kelly Cross is running for City Council from the 12th district and told us his background and why he is running.
  - Most of the discussion last Tuesday was Living Classroom and Under Armour's plan for the Carmelo Anthony Youth Center building on Fayette. They asked for neighborhood input for what we would like to see. They want it to be a model to replicate in other parts of the city. They will teach sustainable agriculture and create a community hub. They hope for 60 partners and will frequently re-evaluate.
  - Project Heartbeat hopes to improve health and they will cover the basketball court for year round use. They will reduce childhood asthma and have 5 prongs: 1) Education, 2) Health Wellness & Fitness, 3) Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship, 4) Character & Leadership and 5) Community and Service. Under Education they will have STEM and music.
  - For coaching they have Joe Ehrmann to teach. They are using the top floor now and have 120 children each day in an out of school program, 90 from City Springs School. Expansion is a 6 month project.
- The Environment
  - Ray H. developed a 2nd handout for practical things people can do. We passed out the purple "God is Still Creating" 1/4 sheets a few months ago and will time this one with Earth Day. We will need help passing them out. Chuck said years ago a company said his home had too many trees but another company, Solar City, said he could put panels on the front of his roof and rent the panels, which he plans to do.
- Legislation
  - Peggy thanked those who passed out the yellow sheet, "How Can You Help Working Families and Reduce Poverty?" She listed 6 bills in the State Senate and 5 in the House on the sheet. It gave information on the Approval Committees for each bill, how to find your legislators and asked people to call them. It also mentioned the HOME ACT in Baltimore County and asked people to mention it to their reps though it wasn't a bill yet.
- Emergency Services
  - Our Monday grocery program requested we see if others in 21202 or 21231 were interested in receiving groceries. We distributed flyers during a Friday night

dinner.

- Friday Dinners
  - After the Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil, Peggy contacted Housing Our Neighbors and got those post cards we distributed and collected about caring for those out in the cold by addressing emergency shelters, winter evictions and utility shut-offs, and affordable housing, Peggy contacted Tam and got 150 more for distribution on Friday night before dinner. We did that during March and then HON took them to deliver to the mayor.
  - We also worked with Research Assistants from JHU to talk to our Friday night guests about health of children in Baltimore City who live in extreme poverty. Those who met the criteria for interview were given \$25 gift cards.
- NEW BUSINESS
  - Parish Council discussed plans for the 175th anniversary at the last 2 council meetings and Peggy shared the highlights.
  - We would like to have a service activity for the whole parish as a community. We could do separate activities and come together to discuss them. Ideas included gleaning, CRS Helping Hands to bag up supplies for Africa, Gather Baltimore produce for bagging, etc. Ideas?
  - We could kick it off on the St. VdP feast day and complete it before the anniversary mass attended by the Archbishop, 11/6. There will be one mass at 10:00. They would like committees to make displays.
  - Perhaps St. J&J children could sing.
  - Caroline will work with us for the activity.
- Next Meeting: 7:00 P.M. June 13, 2016. Charlotte Grahe will facilitate.