

Minutes of the Meeting  
of the Parish Council  
of St. Vincent de Paul Church  
June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The meeting was brought to order by the Council's President, Jim Casey, at 7:35pm. Prayer was offered by Nancy Kavanagh O'Neill.

In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Jim Casey (President), Audrey Rogers (Vice-President), Joan Campbell (outgoing 7:15 Mass representative), Graham G. Yearley (12:15am Mass Rep and Corporator), Jim Lochner (incoming 9:30 rep), Nancy Kavanagh O'Neill (7:15 rep), Kevin O'Reilly (9:30 rep), Jack Bonner (9:30 rep), Pete McDowell (11:45 rep), Peggy Meyer (representing Peace and Justice and Social Action Committee), Barbara Bowles (Mission Statement chair), Valerie Rolandelli (Liturgy Chair), Pat Ball (Pastoral Care and Operations Com. rep.) Colleen McCahill (Park Working Group chair) and Dennis Flynn (Finance Committee rep).

Absent: Anne Freeburger, Ed Guy (outgoing 9:30 rep) and Teresa Payne (incoming 7:15 rep).

### **Welcome to New Members**

The council welcomed one of its two new members, Jim Lochner, representing the 9:30 Mass and thanked Joan Campbell for her service of four years, representing the 7:15 mass.

### **Pastor's Report**

1. St. Katharine's School is now completely closed. Seventy children from this school are signed up to move to its sister school. The faculty of St. Katharine's, outside of three, have found new positions. After negotiation, the Archdiocese agreed to finance the alterations at the remaining Queen of Peace School, SS. James and John. The work is beginning this week and must end August 15 to allow for the reopening of the school year. Handicapped accessibility remains a problem at SS. James and John, but it will be addressed, perhaps next summer.

2. Fr. Lawrence would not comment on the daycare center as that is no longer a parish concern.

3. No official word has been offered by the Archdiocese on our plans for a Parish Life Director, but, so far, Bishop Madden has said "he likes" the proposal.

4. Graham Yearley reported through Larry Fenaroli that the three N.A. Meetings are being asked to leave St. Vincent's by the end of this week. The meetings have not been self-sustaining and there has been stealing from the church. Moreover, they have eaten up as much as nine hours a week for Larry to supervise them. Graham reminded the council

that three A.A. meetings a week remain and are thriving and self-sufficient at St. Vincent's.

5. Air Conditioning: Lou Mank set up the system in preparation for the hot weather, but as in former years encountered a problem. Harford Refrigeration came Monday; they said the system needed gas and they were told to go ahead and get what was needed.

### **Finance Committee**

Dennis Flynn reported that our financial picture is good with revenues running ahead of projected figures. There have been no hotel payments for the renovation of the Park since January, but Kirby Fowler of the Downtown Partnership has been in contact with the hotels and they have promised payment.

### **Ad Hoc Committee for Organization and Growth**

Three recommendations were offered to Council:

1. The Council should see that the Operations Committee is reconstituted with a defined scope of responsibilities which articulate smoothly with paid staff. These efforts can be assigned to this committee: soft space, play area, reorganized Gathering Space.
2. Since many good ideas were offered by the committees for middle school youth and the Committee did not think addressing them piecemeal would be productive, the Council should request that Anne Gibson convene a group of parishioners with expertise in child and early adolescent development to suggest practical and effective ways to engage middle school youth in an integrated program.
3. The Council should request the Liturgy Committee to explore securing/buying/writing an instructional Mass book for school age children and evaluate the May 7<sup>th</sup> Taizé service to see what resources are needed.

All three proposals were given approval by the Council.

### **Mission Statement**

Barbara Bowles submitted the latest and final draft of the Mission Statement as it had been worked out by her and the committee. She added that with this submission the work of the current committee was done and that if further revisions were asked for they would have to be done by others. An extended discussion began with some suggesting further revisions, others stating they were satisfied with the current version, and some saying they were content with the old statement from the 1970s. A third option would be to form a new committee. Valerie Rolandelli said that, in her opinion, the Council did not seem sure enough about the matter to come to consensus about the new statement. Jim Casey stated the three options and said that the Council had an obligation to come to a definite decision after a nine month process. Graham Yearley and Joan Campbell expressed their support of the new statement; and although some had reservations about the text, (Audrey

Rogers for its insufficient community self-definition and Nancy O'Neill for its rather generic nature) both said they would not stand in the way of approval seeing overall group support. After further discussion, the Council came to consensus that we would adopt the new Mission Statement and all thanked Barbara Bowles and the committee members for their hard work. The new statement will be published in the Bulletin starting in September. Jim Casey will issue a statement thanking the entire parish for nine months of reflection and input on our mission and especially the Ad Hoc Writing Committee for their diligence and devotion.

### **Annual Report**

Jim Casey said that the constitution of our parish requires the president of the Parish Council write an annual report about the work of the council in the past year. Jim said he would write the report and Colleen said she would email him some of her reports to serve as example.

### **Officers of Parish Council Election**

Jim Casey and Audrey Rogers were elected by acclamation for the offices of President and Vice-President. Graham Yearley stated he would not serve as secretary for a fourth year as he needed a break from the position. Pete McDowell said he would serve as Secretary and was approved by the council.

### **Possibility of a July 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parish Council**

Audrey said a meeting in July might be useful if we receive word back from the archdiocese about our proposal for a Parish Life Director. Some said they could attend and some said they could not; Audrey said she would be in touch if the meeting was necessary.

### **Committee Reports**

**Park Working Group:** Colleen said that we were nearing the end of our contract with the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) and that the PWG had discussed what was needed for the future. They concluded that we don't need the number of DPOB workers that we had this year, but that the PWG wanted to continue to have a scaled down relationship with the Downtown Partnership. There seems consensus that the arrangements for this year have worked well, that people were sleeping in the park but not creating structures and that the DPOB and our volunteers were keeping the park in reasonable shape.

**Liturgy:** Valerie Rolandelli reported that she is co-chair of the Liturgy Committee along with Bill McNamara who will succeed her next year. The last six books of the Tanakh are the basis for our summer series. In the next year, the Liturgy Committee would study the new Sacramentary being issued by the Holy See. The Liturgy Committee is discussing

plans with Joe Organ and Jerome Bird to start monthly Sunday Taize services at St Vincent's in the fall.

**Peace and Justice:** In view of the late hour, Peggy Meyer waived the report.

**Social Action:** Peggy Meyer asked if there was any interest in Council members volunteering to cut up vegetables at Our Daily Bread for the coming week of their feeding program. Other St Vincent committees have already volunteered. Jim Casey suggested we volunteer for the first Sunday in August and we agreed to send volunteers. Jim will canvass the Council for volunteers and let Peggy know the number of volunteers.

**Pastoral Care:** The Pastoral Care Committee could not find a summer date to plan a healing service, but would hold one in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

In the Peace of Christ,

Graham G. Yearley, Secretary of the Parish Council