

Parish Council Minutes – June 09

June 9, 2009. *The meeting was brought to order by our President. Colleen McCabill at 7:40 and a prayer was offered by Jim Casey. Attending: Fr. Richard Lawrence, Colleen McCabill, Joan Campbell, J. Edmond Guy, Maureen Fitzsimmons, Pat Ball, Peggy Meyer, Kevin O'Reilly, Nancy Kavanaugh O'Neill, Dennis Moore, Jack Bonner, James P. Casey, Audrey Rogers, and Graham Yearley*

Colleen McCahill recognized newly elected and returned members: Nancy Kavanaugh O'Neill (second term 7:15 P.M.), Jim Casey, Jack Bonner, Audrey Rogers (first terms 9:30 A.M.), and Pete McDowell (first term 11:45 A.M. who could not attend the meeting owing to a conflict). She distributed and reviewed the briefing packet for Council representatives. She thanked the retiring Council members.

diocese is planning a viability study that has started in the inner city and low-income county schools and later will move Archdiocesan-wide. The study will have two foci: academics and finances. The QOP academic evaluation has been completed with the evaluation team reporting they were "very impressed" with the QOP leadership and faculty. The financial evaluation may prove more troublesome. The Archdiocese has with-drawn the offer to restore \$50K of the severe cuts made earlier. Fr. Lawrence is trying to assist in making the next payroll by transfer-ring the St Vincent obligated money now, providing a personal loan, and requesting help from St. Ignatius. The Board was forced to defer insurance reimbursement to the Archdiocese. Under these circumstances, the Board will evaluate enrollment in the Fall and consider consolidation. The viability

Pastor's Report

1. Fr. Lawrence reported that he has begun rehabilitation for the injury to his leg His current range of motion is 65°; his goal is 135°.
2. Fr. Lawrence reported on the Board Meeting for the Queen of Peace Interparochial School. Fr. Lawrence, Ray Bahr, and Ray Heil serve as St. Vincent's members. The Board has been informed that the Arch-Council "... the power to ... consider, amend, approve, and administer an annual Parish budget."

Review of the PWG Proposal

Colleen asked Audrey to review the status of the current situation. Audrey reported

- The city solicitor has prepared a legal briefing memo outlining the ways in which St. Vincent's has violated provisions of the Land Disposition Agreement (LDA), the Jonestown Urban Renewal Plan, and state and local code regulations. (This memo had been distributed to Council members electronically two weeks ago.)
- The memo was shared with the Arch-diocese at a meeting in mid-May. Subsequent to that meeting on May 22, Bishop Madden met with Fr. Lawrence and Colleen to learn more about the

study is separate from the work of the Blue Ribbon Committee whose evaluation of Archdiocesan Catholic school system is in its early stages.

Financial Report

1. Maureen Fitzsimmons gave the current report. Offertory income is unlikely to meet budget projections in the final month of this fiscal year, being \$20K under. Most revenues are also under estimates. The billing problem with the electrical supplier remains unresolved although the gas supplier has now been paid. The Archdiocesan Cathedralium has been paid. Expenses for church maintenance were \$8.89K under budget. Tuition assistance to QOP needs to increase.

2. Mass Attendance and Collections Chart: in May we had an average of 286 attending Mass per weekend; this was under the April average of 325 (included Easter) and March with 290. Per capita Mass collection decreased 20 percent between April and May.

3. Fr. Lawrence clarified for the new members the role of the Council in the budget process The Parish Council Constitution gives the

fencing, no sleeping on the ground). It appeared that they could accept the proposed plan and tolerate overnight sleeping if daytime appearances were improved and maintained. Ms. Sangree offered to draft a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for discussion between Diane Glauber and Fr. Lawrence and have it back to them by

matter. Fr. Lawrence offered a proposal which he wanted to submit to the Park Working Group at their upcoming May 26 meeting.

- The proposal to eliminate encampments but permit overnight sleeping with daily morning wakeups, two hour park closure and cleaning was discussed at the PWG meeting and recommended to go forward although serious reservations about its feasibility and cost were voiced. Fr. Lawrence told Bishop Madden of its approval on May 27.

- On May 29, Bishop Madden convened a meeting among himself, Sean Caine (Archdiocese communications/public relations), Suzanne Sangree (Baltimore chief solicitor), Diane Glauber (Baltimore Homeless Services), Fr. Lawrence, Colleen McCahill, Audrey Rogers, and Graham Yearley. A wide-ranging discussion occurred during which the city insisted that St Vincent's restore the park to the condition in which it was received under the LDA, voicing many expectations (sodding,

Education: No report.

Liturgy: Peggy Meyer presented the Committee's objectives for 2009/2010: spiritually develop the entire community and empower their priesthood; develop ways to entice and involve young adults; determine if the Team Model improves liturgies for seasonal times; continue to educate and enrich the Liturgy Committee; continue the Easter theme throughout the Easter

June 3 in preparation for the next scheduled meeting of June 5.

- Bishop Madden's office needed to reschedule from June 5 to June 12. The draft MOU has not been received as of June 9. It is unclear what the city's expectations will be, what direct or "in-kind" help we may receive from them or from the Archdiocese in implementing the plan.

Fr. Lawrence asked the Council for the authority to negotiate the final resolution with the city and sign the MOU, given that the Council is not scheduled to meet over the summer. Audrey Rogers stated she had re-viewed the budgets for the last few years and determined that after fixed costs were subtracted (and not factoring in any depreciation), there was about \$15-18K of discretionary money, currently dedicated to charity, communication, education, etc. She proposed that the negotiation/resolution authority should have a maximum cost tied to it. Considerable discussion followed. The Council decided to reconvene to review the negotiated MOU and wants to see an estimated budget.

Committee Reports

Peace & Justice: The next meeting is scheduled for June 12 at St. Vincent's.

season

The Pastoral Care Committee

continues to collect medical equipment. Items are not centralized as the church does not have the space to accommodate all the large items. Fr. Lawrence mentioned that a wheelchair is in the rectory hallway awaiting pick up.

Social Action Committee: Last Month

Business: There is still concern in the Men's Clothing Program about the security of the doors and window that were broken into last year. Only temporary repairs have been done and they still seek better security. This matter has been brought up repeatedly and there has been no action. **This month:** The Social Action has decided to look into other properties to renovate for housing the homeless.

The Park Working Group: See proposal above.

Election of Council Officers. Jim

Casey was elected President of the Parish Council. Audrey Rogers was elected Vice President and Graham Yearley as Secretary. All three were elected by acclamation.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

In the Peace of Christ, Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council