

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
of St. Vincent de Paul Church
March 13, 2012

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:37pm and a prayer was offered by Kathy Jeffra. In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence (Pastor) Jim Casey (President), Christopher McCullough (Pastoral Associate), Dennis Flynn (Finance Committee) Jack Bonner (9:30 Mass Rep.), Peggy Meyer (Social Action Committee Chair), Anne Marie Freeburger (Corporator), Bill McNamara (Liturgy Committee Chair) Kathi Jeffra (E & E Committee Chair), Kevin O'Reilly (9:30 Mass Rep.), Jim Lochner (9:30 Mass Rep.) and Graham Yearley (Corporator and 12:15 Mass Rep.).

Pastor's Report

1. No new Archbishop has been appointed; it was expected that would happen before Easter. The United States has a new Papal Nuncio, who was recently appointed, so choices for Archbishops and bishops may be delayed (by the time this report was in final draft, the new archbishop was named).
2. The report prepared by the Central City Churches was submitted to the Urban Vicar, Bishop Madden, and he, in turn, has submitted it to the Archbishop who, so far, has made no comment. The council was asked to think about what ministries or work of the clustered churches could be combined. The idea of combining of youth ministries between the parishes might be a more effective and popular way to handle this ministry all the parishes are struggling with.
3. St James and John Tuition Assistance and Endowment Campaign: there has been no real progress on this. It will begin after Easter. Some of the major donors have not been contacted.

Finance Report

We are fortunate to have received \$167,100 from generous donors. Close to \$45,000 went to pay our Archdiocesan tax. The smaller jobs, re-carpeting the balcony, crumbling plaster, and fixing water damage and leaks, can be paid for and the South Wall Windows, the baptismal font and the new air conditioning system will be paid by the Historic Trust Fund.

The Airconditioning Project

Chris McCullough reported that two possible scenarios could be considered for the HVAC system. The first would be to use parts of our old system (R22 system) with new parts which would be faster to install (six weeks) and a somewhat less expensive; the second would be an entirely new system (R410) which would take longer to fabricate and have installed, but would provide longer term service. The Pre-Bidding will be Thursday,

April 11 and the Final Bids Day will be Thursday, April 18. Bids will be accepted up to 8pm.

Homecoming and Archival Exhibit

Jack Bonner reported that the planning for the Homecoming had become sidetracked and focused on a celebration for Fr. Lawrence who made it clear that he did not want that kind of event until much closer to his retirement date.

Chris McCullough spoke about the idea of placing permanent archival displays on the landings at the top of the staircases in the church. However, a good deal of clearing out of collected materials would be necessary to make a display area possible. It was suggested that a day be planned for clearing out the spaces. Graham added some of the items were quite large and bulky and would require professional movers. Suggestions for what could be included in an archival display would be welcomed by Chris.

Committee Reports

Education and Enrichment Committee

Kathy Jeffra reported that their meetings have had only 4 or 5 people attending and have been scheduled one month prior. There have been no recent reports on the status of FFF, Vacation Bible School or other education events. At the most recent meeting, it was decided that meetings would take place in church (and not in homes) and would be announced well in advance of the date. Kathy reported that Rosemary Wallace is moving ahead with plans for the retreat in May. The topic is "Spirituality for Everyday", presented by Lochlin Sofield, an experienced retreat leader. The Film and Food evenings are considered a success.

Liturgy Committee

Lenten events are underway and Holy Week is planned. The Summer Series will focus on the other books of the Apocrypha not taken up last summer. Chris is chairing a committee on what to do about the Taize service, what changes or re-scheduling would help boost attendance. A complaint about the distraction caused by the set-up of the camera to film the sermon mid-service was discussed. It was decided it was preferable to have the sermons filmed and recorded from the balcony. If that is not available before Holy Week, it was stressed that the set-up be done in advance of the service. The Council put on ceiling of \$2,000 on purchasing equipment. Bill McNamara believed it could be paid for much less.

Social Action Committee

1. The Good Friday (April 6) Stations of the Cross that takes off from the City Hall Plaza at noon has been shortened to aid older walkers.

2. Jim Lochner will make an address on Earth Day, April 24 at the parish.

3. Three St. Vincent de Paul parishioners were honored the Social Ministries Convocation on March 3: Donna Dannals and Molly Jamison for service and Terri Rizzo for advocacy. From Our Lady of the Fields, our partners in the Friday Feeding, John and Joan Hoopa were also honored for their service. The Council adds their thanks for their hard and tireless work for social justice.

Facilities Committee

Peggy Myers asked for help from volunteers with the cleaning of the rectory until the new budget goes into effect in July. Contact Peggy to volunteer.

Old Business

1. Kathy Jeffra asked what Maureen Fitzsimmons meant by her request that committees report to her about their current and projected budgets for next year. Fr. Lawrence said the focus should be on what projects the Committee would like to undertake and what they think the approximate cost would be, not strict requests for allotments.

2. Chris reported that the nursery on Sunday is attracting four or five children a week.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm with the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by,

Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council