

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
of St. Vincent de Paul Church
May 8, 2012

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Jim Casey, at 7:31pm and a prayer was offered by Gerry Fialkowski. In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence (Pastor) Jim Casey (President), Christopher McCullough (Pastoral Associate), Audrey Rogers (Acting Chair of the Communications and Outreach Committee), Maureen Fitzsimmons (Finance Committee Chair) Teresa Payne (7:15 Mass Rep.), Jack Bonner (9:30 Mass Rep.), Pat Ball (Facilities Committee Chair), Peggy Meyer (Social Action Committee Chair), Anne Marie Freeburger (Corporator), Kathi Jeffra (E & E Committee Chair), Kevin O'Reilly (9:30 Mass Rep.), Gerri Fialkowski (Women In Ministry), Terri Rizzo (Women in Ministry), Mary Catherine Bunting (Women In Ministry) Maureen Daly (Women In Ministry) and Graham Yearley (Corporator and 12:15 Mass Rep.).

Pastor's Report

1. Several projects have been started since Easter Sunday. The new air conditioning project, the south wall of the church's windows project, and the new and beautiful garden in the median strip of the parking lot project are underway. The Council offers its thanks to Larry for the garden which everyone agreed was magnificent and was done with no charge to the parish.
2. The cost of the air conditioning project is approximately \$110,000, a figure substantially lower than we expected, which allows for both the windows and the new font plans to move forward.
3. A newly formed, non-profit group made up largely of descendants of parishioners buried in our cemetery have already begun coordinating and initiating its clean-up. We thank the task force for their hard work. St. Vincent's cemetery paid one thousand dollars for equipment for the clean-up of our cemetery. Parishioners have cleared some of the larger rocks. A crew of convicts will work in the clean-up in the near future.

Homecoming Mass

Jack Bonner reported that the Homecoming Mass and reception is scheduled for September 29th. A budget of \$1,500 for the celebration has been requested. Former parishioners will be contacted and asked to attend. Its focus will be on many aspects of our mission, including social action. The Liturgy Committee will supervise the planning of the mass.

Archival Exhibit

A clean up of the landing at the top of the north staircase of the church will have to be completed before any exhibit can be put in place. One hundred or so copies of the history of St. Vincent's were found on the landing. Chris McCullough has begun a culling of items for the exhibit.

Parish Council Elections

Nominations for mass representatives will continue through this weekend. It is hoped that biographies of the candidates will be available by the following weekend and put on our website. There will be on-line voting on our website as well as voting at the masses.

Air Conditioning Project

Four companies bid on the project; Hartford Company was selected. It was the lowest bid, but they also offer a maintenance plan of the system. Parts of the old air conditioner will be removed by crane tomorrow. The new coil should take a month to be manufactured and will be the last element of the new system installed. Old copper piping was already removed. Scheduling B.G.E.'s turn-off of our power and the turning on of the new system may slow progress a bit. The undercroft will not be given a new air conditioner as that would demand an entirely separate system from the church. However, Chris suggested that we work at a plan to force cool air from the church into the undercroft to help our volunteers who work in our kitchen. The new system will be programmable and easier to control than the old air conditioner.

Discussion of the Doctrinal Assessment of American Religious

A working group, made up of members of Women in Ministry, led a discussion on the recent document released by the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith calling for a "doctrinal assessment" of American religious women led by Bishop Sartain of Washington State. The working group asked that the full document be put up on our website without editorial comment. The Council gave its approval and support for the working group's future response to the document. Considerable discussion followed. The review of religious women raises questions about why the focus is on them. The working group recommended studying this document from all sides. Gerry Fiakowski asked that a meeting be called for those interested in making an active response to this issue. She made it clear that the meeting would be for those who had read the complete document. No date for this was scheduled as Gerry felt that this should be the decision of the working group and the date would be announced soon on our website. Fr. Lawrence suggested that a reading of Robert Putnam's "American Grace" and a review of church history of the first half of the twentieth century would give a good background for dealing with this issue.

Committee Reports

Education and Enrichment

1. The parish retreat of May 18-20th sign up will continue through this weekend and the committee hopes many will register.
2. Materials for those seeking Confirmation have arrived and Molly Hyatt will work with Anne Gibson on preparation for this sacrament.
3. The “Dinner for Eight” plan will start it is hoped in the fall. These dinners will be held for parishioners to meet each other and have no specific agenda.
4. Kathi Jeffra suggested that our fall series might be done in conjunction with Corpus Christi. Fr. Lawrence suggested that St. Ignatius be included as well; he also suggested a speaker series on the four major “Constitutions” of Vatican II. Planning for this event should proceed quickly in order to secure major speakers.

Communications and Outreach

1. The committee last met on April 22nd and discussed the reformat of the website and goals for next year.
2. An on-line account will be created for absentee parishioners, so they may cast their ballots in the parish council elections the weekend of May 19 and 20.
3. The committee reviewed data collected by Joe Yingling about the website. The website generated 12,000 visits from 7,500 unique accounts with the home page receiving the most hits followed by staff listings, sermons by Fr. Lawrence and the mass schedule.
4. Lauren Brunelli volunteered the chair the committee and Audrey Rogers will staff it (providing minutes and reports).

Liturgy

1. The last scheduled Taize service will take place this Sunday, May 13 at 5:30pm.
2. Molly Jamieson, who died this past weekend, was the progenitor of several of our social action ministries and will be greatly missed by everyone at St. Vincent's.

Old Business

1. The sign committee will be showing a variety of design choices to the congregation in the near future.
2. Jim Casey, Parish Council President, will be unable to chair the meeting in June as he will be traveling. Jack Bonner, as Vice-President, will chair the June Parish Council meeting .

New Business

Clean Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd. The targeted areas for work have been decided.

The meeting was adjourned with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer at 9:03pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Graham G. Yearley, secretary of the Parish Council