

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
of St. Vincent de Paul Church
November 12th, 2013**

The meeting was brought to order by the Council President, Audrey Rogers at 7:35 pm and started with a group prayer.

In attendance: Fr. Richard Lawrence, *Pastor*; Chris McCullough, *Pastoral Associate*; Audrey Rogers, *President*, 9:30 *Mass Rep*; Sara Kelley, *Vice President*, 9:30 *Mass Rep*; Rosie Graf, *Secretary*, 9:30 *Mass Rep*.; Bethany Gregg, 9:30 *Mass Rep*.; John Kober, Sr., 7:15 *Mass Rep*.; Denise Hamilton, 11:45 *Mass Rep*.; Laureen Brunelli, *Communications and Outreach Committee Chair*; Peggy Shouse, *Education and Enrichment Committee Chair*; Peggy Meyer, *Social Action Committee Co-Chair*; Dan Rolandelli, *Facility Committee Co-Chair*; David Potts, *Facility Committee Co-Chair*; John Helie, *Liturgy Committee Chair* and Anne Marie Freeburger, *Corporator*.

Excused Absence: Graham Yearley, *Corporator*

Missing: Maureen Fitzsimmons, *Finance Committee Chair*

Pastor's Report:

Father Richard Lawrence shared that aiding the Philippines is more important than the finances of our Parish. He proposes we give this week's donations to the Philippines. We have a long-standing tradition of donating these funds during natural disasters to CRS. Checks will be made out to St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Status Report on Catholic Churches of Central City

The CCCC is continuing to meet; currently they are focusing on an evangelization plan. They are still waiting on a response from the Diocese. The CCCC drafted a document to capture the spirit of who we are- a unique entity as a cluster: diverse yet united. They have submitted a proposal to incorporate local evangelization. The next step is to bring young adults into the discussion for outreach efforts. The CCCC intends to meet people face to face where they are. The next meeting will be Thursday, the 21st 6:30pm at St Ignatius. They will ask for young adult input at this time. One observation of the CCCC is that young adults are more likely to go to an event than to join something. To go out and get folks where they are is essential yet staffing-intensive. So this needs to be a shared effort among the cluster parishes. If each parish hosts 1-2 events a year that would be 5-10 total which would be manageable. They will gather contact info for those who attend the events and share this across all parishes.

Finance Report

The Archdiocesan Audit is occurring tomorrow. There is no finance report this month.

Old Business

Town Hall Meeting Review:

Parishioners from all three Mass communities attended the meeting and seemed appreciative of the Council's focus on transparency. The pre-meeting letters were a good strategy in that parishioners came with understanding of the detailed financial picture. Bethany Gregg asked if there were a more direct response that Council could give to Maureen Daley's question at the Town hall Meeting about what would constitute a target amount for the ideal budget. The end result of the Strategic Planning process will put the Council in a better position of estimating what our financial needs should be. The discussion moved to the feasibility of fund raisers. Audrey Rogers offered to place a fundraising discussion on a future agenda.

Report 2013-14 Strategic Planning:

Audrey Rogers reported that progress is being made on finalizing the parish registry upon which the needed demographic data collection is dependent. The time period for the submission of the parish evaluation surveys has come to a close. There will be a pew survey, scheduled for December, to determine the spiritual journey of parishioners. When all the data are compiled from this collection phase, the Council will hold a Town Meeting to present the results to parishioners. There will be a subsequent meeting to inform parishioners of the recommendations coming from the Strategic Planning Committee prior to Council action on them.

Appointment Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee:

Vanessa Johnson, Jim Casey, Gerry Sicola, Joe Hamilton, Mark Palmer, Gerry Fialkowski and Nancy West have been asked and have agreed to serve on the committee. The appointment of these members was approved by the Parish Council.

Report on Issues in the Park:

Sara Kelley reported that the meetings to discuss park upkeep are progressing. She has been getting a slow but steady stream of new people signing up to help. Discussions around what can be done to make it better for new volunteers are occurring. Michael Kelly has been trying to identify the outside donor groups to apprise them of the park rules.

Facilities Committee Proposal:

The nursery has been moved to the new nursery location in the front parlor of the rectory. The Facilities Committee proposed that FY 14 money from the Historic Trust Fund be used for repairing the broken boiler, re-caulking and painting the north-side church windows, and painting/repairing the rotten wood on the church eaves; they also proposed to defer making the second floor rectory rooms wheelchair accessible until HTF money from FY 15 would be available, noting that the rooms would not be used until then. Chris McCullough then brought additional information before the Council related to the boiler from another consultation that made replacing, rather than repairing, the boiler a better option. Since this made the full proposal from the Facilities Committee no longer affordable, Father Lawrence amended the proposal to fund a new boiler and wood trim

repair from the HTF FY 14 money, transfer the costs of the north-side window job to our current operating budget, and commit future HTF money to providing accessibility at the start of FY 15, July 1st 2014. He said with that commitment by Council, on January 1st 2014 the youth room may begin to be used. Repurposing the library will be held off until after July 1st when the handicap accessibility repairs are finished. Council approved Father's proposal. Father Lawrence will remove his personal belongings by the end of December and he has promised not smoke in the building anymore. He noted if parishioners are found smoking in the building others may ask them not to do so.

New Business

Pope Francis and the *Sensus Fidelium*:

The Pope has asked for the Synods of Bishops worldwide to assess the state of the family related to Church teaching and practice in their individual dioceses. The extent of this assessment is at the discretion of the individual synod and bishop. The bishops of England and Wales have invited all of the laity to take a survey. There is no indication that the American bishops will follow suit. Many of the organizations for reform have put together a survey online that they will send to the Pope directly. Father Lawrence does not think that effort would be productive given the reform agenda of these groups. He noted that as a parish our views are needed. Discussion on his proposal occurred and the Council supported collecting this information and forwarding it to the USCCB. The Education & Enrichment Committee will follow up with developing a strategy and its implementation.

Committee Reports

Liturgy Committee (*John Helie, Chair*)

The Liturgy Committee met on Saturday, October 19th. The first issue on the agenda was the approval of the 2013-2014 committee objectives. Our first objective dealt with the continuation of training lectors and liturgy planners. The second phase will be initiated as Don Henderson recovers from surgery. Three new liturgy planners have been recruited: Matt Hill, Lauren Carpenter, and John Helie. Members of the committee will talk to several other parish community members inviting them to offer their services.

Anne Maura reported that both the 7:15 and 11:45 liturgies would like to start using the wheat bread for Communion. She is talking to the bread bakers and working out the logistics to provide bread for these liturgies.

The theme for Advent 2013 will be "*Welcome the Light*". Janice Bonner will create a banner that goes from darker to lighter colors throughout the four weeks. The order of service will be the one used during the last Advent season. The Advent Reconciliation Service will be at Corpus Christie on December 11 at 7:30 pm. Lessons and Carols is scheduled for December 15 at 7:30 pm.

A subcommittee was formed to examine the Good Friday service and the Stations. That subcommittee met on Saturday, November 9th. Its review will be shared with the full committee at its meeting in January.

Education and Enrichment Committee (*Peggy Shouse, Chair*)

There is no Education Committee Report, as the Committee has not met since the last Parish Council meeting. A director for the parish retreat has not yet been identified.

Social Action Committee (*Peggy Meyer and Ray Heil, Co-Chairs*)

Peace & Justice Subcommittee: We worked with Beyond the Boundaries on a plan for affordable housing issue and attended City Council to support affordable housing changes. We attended the national Call to Action conference and hosted the regional *Pax Christi* meeting. We initiated a Program at Loyola University for Peace and Justice studies exploring issues through multidisciplinary perspectives with a dedicated Faculty Scholar. Please consider attending the gleaning day on November 23 to harvest food for the needy.

The Resource Exchange: We supplied 8 individuals, whom Healthcare for the Homeless placed in apartments, with furniture and starter kits in October. Thanks for the help in getting more furniture last month.

Status Report: Since the inception of the Resource Exchange in October 2011, our volunteers have furnished 109 apartments for new tenants, previously without a home. At least 79 (72.5%) are still in housing. *Healthcare for the Homeless* is unsure of the status of 20 - 25 individuals or 22.9% because they no longer have contact with them. Some transitioned out of case management since they were doing well. HCH believes that most of them are still housed. According to HCH, there were fewer than 5 (4.6%) who did indeed lose their housing.

Friday Dinner: We continue to serve 140-320 guests each Friday evening.

Jonestown Planning Council: Prior to the meeting we met with the city reps from Development and Housing and Councilman Stokes office to discuss needed actions for some of the abandoned properties in the neighborhood. At our JPC meeting we had three Jonestown congregation reps, from St. Vincent's, Gallery Church and B'Nai Israel, who spoke to the group. They discussed their congregations and efforts in Jonestown to improve the neighborhood. We updated the community on development progress and the city meeting.

Emergency Services: The food program gave groceries to 103 men in September and 93 in October. The men's program gave clothing to 36 men in October.

Solar Panels: The roof inspection said the roof could not support the panels. We are now looking into a way to support them without any weight on the roof.

Our Daily Bread: We have been cleaning and chopping vegetables on Sundays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. The Social Action committee helped on October 13.

Facilities Committee (*Dave Potts and Dan Rolandelli, Co-Chairs*)

The Committee met on November 6, 2013.

Old Business:

Church Exterior/Park:

- Arborist-- Bob Reuter got the information and we will obtain an estimate to remove the dead tree branches and cut back the branches overhanging the south-side gutters
- Parking--Satellite parking at the Shot Tower is still a possibility. Chris will send the contact information to Mary who will follow up with them. Bob Reuter and Dave are still going to re-measure and repaint the parking lot to try and create some additional space.
- Park Benches-- Dave and Bob Ball prepared an estimate for the cost of repairing the benches. The materials would be \$230 to do all the benches.
- Park Working Group--Sarah doing a great job in getting the program organized. She has scheduled a meeting for November 17. Mike Kelly and David Potts are two of the members of the board.
- AIA—Has a neighborhood design assistance program. They would do some conceptual drawings. They are also a possible source of funding. We could engage them and see where it leads. They have a 4-6 month waiting list.
- Preservationist—At the moment we are not looking into hiring one. The work to be done on the restoration of the wood is to be done without a preservationist's input. We do have a \$3,500 reimbursement grant to pay for the restoration of the outside wood.

Interior:

- Electrical Inspection of Undercroft—Hirsch came and inspected the electrical boxes in the undercroft. There is room to add more receptacles. The cost to renovate the old wiring of the church in the boiler room would cost \$15,000. The panels in the front of the church that would accommodate the new receptacles are safe and can be added to. Since this is not a safety issue just one of convenience for the coffee klatch it will be put on hold for now.
- Security Systems—There are several concerns in this area: Parishioners do not always close the doors properly when leaving the building. We need to **secure the nursery area**. The Johnsons, parishioners, are knowledgeable in punch key door entry systems. Such systems can record the day and time of entry.
 - We could also put the dead bolt on a timer that would automatically set the dead bolt after a specified time.
 - Some type of door closer could be installed on the rectory door to make sure the door closes. This could be used in conjunction with a mag lock to ensure that the door closes completely.

- We will ask Roberts, locksmith, to look at doors and make recommendations.
- Underlayment in Fr. Chuck's Bathroom—Bob, Bob and Dave can take care of that. Not an urgent matter.

New Business: See above for Facilities Proposal.

Communications and Outreach Committee (*Laureen Miles Brunelli, Chair*)

The C&O committee has not met since the last Parish Council meeting and has no report this month.

Meeting Closed with Prayer at 9:30 pm.

Reminders: The Next Parish Council Meeting is December 10th at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by
Rosie Graf, Secretary to the Council