

Parish Council Minutes
August 16, 2011 – 7:00pm
Meeting Room 2

In Attendance: Dennis Podjenski, Kevin Kaminski, Father Don, Mary Buttell, Bill Mattern, Kelly Koehler, Rita Hermsen, Pat McDermott, Karen Merwald, Matt Buckley, and Kelly Vazquez.

Absent: Kathy Bessmer, Mindy Reed, Jim Patterson

Welcome & Opening Prayer: Bill opened the meeting at 7:11pm. Father Don opened with a prayer.

- I. Bill had everyone in attendance introduce themselves.
- II. Bill handed out Parish Council Packets which included:
 - a) Notebook with Mission Statement
 - b) Goals
 - c) Nature and Purpose of Council
- III. Old Business
 - a) Motion by Matt Buckley and by Dennis Podjenski to approve the minutes.
 - b) There was no discussion of minutes
 - c) All were in favor to approve the minutes
 - d) All minutes and agenda will be e-mailed before the next meeting on September 20th
- IV. Liaisons – Bill thanked the group for working with him to get the liaisons set before the meeting.
 - a) A final copy with contact information will be sent out before next meeting.

New Business:

- I. Beer/Brat Event:
 - a) Matt Buckley gave a background of the Long Range Planning committee and their purpose.
 - b) At Long Range it was brought up to do another Beer, Brat and Band Social.
 - c) Cindy Shimerda is the contact for this Social. Dennis Podjenski has stepped in to help with the catering and bar.
 - d) The event will be held September 24, and will start at 6:30 after mass, and right after the blessing of the Crucifix in the Prayer Garden.
 - e) Cindy is working on negotiations for the band High Heel and Sneakers
 - f) The event will be held in the Mainelli Center for the dinner and football game, West Gym for the dance and outdoors in North parking lot for grilling and social
 - g) Dennis will call Cindy about food and beer pricing. He will contact two Beer vendors:
 - o Budweiser
 - o Cornhusker Beverage
 - h) Father would like to make sure costs are kept down so that all parishioners have the opportunity to attend. He wants to keep this as a Parish Social and not a fundraiser.
 - i) Father suggested Dennis talk to Dick Bene about Insurance for the night of the Beer Brats
 - j) Dennis is in need of bartenders and cooks for the meal.
 - k) Father Don will put a Save the Date for Beer Brats and the Blessing of the Crucifix in the Garden
 - l) Dennis will contact Pat Dugan for parking lot patrol for the evening.

II. Bella Festa – Bill wanted to have the Parish Council to start thinking about recipients of the 10% gift from Bella Festa and bring to the next meeting in September any possible nominations.

- a) Father will send Kelly a history of the past recipients and she will pass on to Parish Council
- b) Bill will send out the requirements of Recipients of the Bella Festa gift out to everyone

III. Father Shane Report

- a) The entire school has been renovated. All classrooms have smart boards.
- b) All Asbestos is completely out of the school. Father took Sandy Suiter and Mary Buttell on a tour of the improvements done during this past summer.
- c) Some rooms are still in need new carpet and paint, but this will be accomplished over time.
- d) A Handicap access to the soccer/football field has been added.
- e) Next to a sidewalk on the Northwest side of the building, there will be an area to plant trees in memory of loved ones.
- f) The Driveway, south of church, was replaced and repair was completed on curbs and sidewalks.
- g) Prayer Garden has been cleaned up, and is beautiful.
- h) A statue of St. Francis has been donated from a parishioner who has always been grateful for our annual Animal Blessing. The statue will be placed in the North parking lot where the animal blessings occur.
- i) We are also recipients of a statue from the Rotella family in Honor of Our Lady. Mary McCawley has helped design an area near the rectory under a tree.
- j) We hope to receive the Angel statues soon.
- k) Our emphasis now will be to:
 - o Focus on tuition assistance
 - o Retire the debt of \$1.7MM.
 - o Make sure the church and school are up-to-date
- l) Father will not know until Feb if his retirement is accepted.
- m) Father introduced Mary Buttell, who is the new Stewardship Director, and is very happy that she is here in this new capacity. Mary's participation is critical to the wellness of the Parish.
- n) Father continues to be amazed at the generosity of our parishioners

IV. Michael Fletcher gave a presentation of the new St. Roberts website:

- a) Website was designed by Solutio
- b) Michael gave some statics of the use of the website – impressed with the number of visitors so far
- c) Goal is to put everything out on the website and not miss anyone
- d) The new web site goal is to educate, be a place to receive information and to have spiritual content.
- e) The site offers
 - o 3 virtual tours of the facilities
 - o Quick links
 - o You-Tube video's
 - o World news
 - o Schedules
 - o Parish & Website Mission Statements
- f) Michael will update You-Tube videos and articles weekly

- a) Mary Buttell is the new Stewardship Director at St. Roberts. Mary is from Omaha, graduated from Duchesne, then went onto Creighton and has an Education background. Father's concept of Mary's position is to be a Spirit builder and that people are thanked for their talents and treasures. Mary hopes to make contacts with groups and parishioners, working with them more closely. Stewardship council will also be more involved with Bella Festa.
- b) November 6th is the Ministry Fair.
- c) Newcomer Meet and Greet – Attendance has increased.

V. Bill went through the Binders he handed out.

All committee member were ok with their liaison assignments

- a) Bill explained the Liaison process and in the packet there is Liaison worksheet
- b) Each month members will give an update on
- c) resident if there are any needs and thank them for their help

VII. Parish Council Committees and Goals

Bill M mentioned that since Fr. Don is retiring it would be best to not start any new committees, and continue to stabilize and strengthen the committees we currently have in place. With that said, Alumni Committee is tabled for now. If the new pastor would like to begin the process of forming this committee then it will be addressed at that time.

For our current committees, members will come back next month to help define, and provide goals for each committee.

- a) Communications – Kelly V agreed to add this to her responsibilities. Mindy Reed will join this team because of her role with the new website.
- b) Long Range Planning – Matt B, Dennis P, Kelly K, Kelly V
- c) Recruitment – Kelly K with help from Kevin K, Matt B and Kelly V
- d) Spiritual Growth – Bill M, Rita H, Karen M, Kathy Bessmer
- e) Website – Mindy R, Kevin K, Karen M, Pat M – It was discussed if this committee is even needed, because of the new website being completed. It was decided to keep it so that parish council can help Michael Fletcher when needed, as well as continuously promote it through our Liaison assignments. Kevin K also suggested to keep this committee to move towards going paperless.

Regarding PC Calendar, speakers were set and Kelly V. will inform the speakers of the dates.

Meeting called to order at 9:53pm with Closing Prayer with Bill.