

St. Augustin Parish
Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Present: Sandra Mosely, Joe Kobes, Father Jim Polich, Todd Erzen, Emily Duong, Milton Anania, Rob Den Hartog and Sherill Whisenand.

Not Present: Joe Dullard.

Guests: Karen Pierick, St Augustin School Board member

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Emily Duong. Opening Prayer was read in unison by all: *Dear Lord, we ask for your guidance; inspire us to act with commitment and compassion as we seek to fulfill our role as council members. We pray that our actions will have a positive effect and that the parishioners of St. Augustin's will benefit. Please give us your strength to persevere in our goals to serve you. Amen.*

September and October Meeting Minutes

September minutes were reviewed and a motion made by Sandra Mosely, seconded by Joe Kobes that the minutes be approved. Unanimous approval. October minutes were reviewed, minor edits made and read. Sherill Whisenand moved and Joe Kobes seconded approval of the minutes as amended. Unanimous approval.

Guest and St Augustin School Board member Karen Pierick reported the highlights from the School Board meeting on November 9, stating that there would be a fundraiser Saturday, November 14 (Barn Bash) to raise funds for the school. Additionally, she stated that the Board was asked to work towards more "diversity" in its enrollment membership. She gave an unofficial financial report, supported by Parish Council member Rob Den Hartog who had also attended the November 9 meeting. The discussion focused on the tuition issue that nearly 20 students have not honored their commitment for paying tuition when the average is usually 2. Father Jim Polich also talked about the Board's discussion of unified buying for all the Catholic area schools, fragmented policies and uniformity of codes as well as the discussion of fundraising capital.

Finance Council

Rob Den Hartog and Joe Dullard, members

Rob Den Hartog said that he had attended the St Augustin School Board meeting and that fundraising has moved to the top of their agenda for future events. Rob discussed that unified fundraising and new fundraising ideas are needed not only for the School's efforts but for other Religious Education programs and supporting programs at St Augustin Church.

St. Augustin Foundation

Fr. Jim and Emily Duong, members

No update

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds: Emily Duong, Joe Kobes, members (report as given in agenda notes)

The sanctuary wood floor has been refinished. The choir is testing out using chairs rather than pews to see if the quality of the music liturgy is improved (sound, parish participation, and logistics of being in front of the sanctuary rather than in the loft). (sections 1.4 and 1.5 of the Pastoral Plan) The committee has obtained a rough estimate of the cost to build an elevator entry on the south side of the parish hall to bring accessibility closer to the sanctuary. (section 1.7 Pastoral Plan) The estimate given by Graham Construction was \$1.3 million. *(Council to discuss at a later date how to proceed)*

Communications: Rob Den Hartog, Joe Kobes, and Sherill Whisenand, members

Sherill Whisenand asked the procedure for getting the minutes onto the website. Emily Duong explained that the Church Office would get them onto the site after they are approved. The committee had no update to report.

Liturgy: Sherill Whisenand and Milt Anania, members

Sherill Whisenand and Milt Anania stated they had not met yet as a subcommittee and said they would meet prior to the December Parish Council meeting and report then.

Parish Life: Sandra Mosley, member

Sandra Mosley reported that although 28 couples were invited to the October 25 New Member Reception, only three couples showed up. Joe Kobes mentioned that we were all asked in September to contact the new members from January to August 2009. The Council members reported they had indeed made those calls and given the information, as requested, to the Church Office for additional processing. Joe Kobes also mentioned that this process should continue because the Council could then identify possible activities and committees to get these new parishioners involved. The Council concurred.

Discussion surrounded the *On A Journey Together* groups who would be ending their sessions in the next two weeks. There will be a large group meeting in the Parish Hall. It was discussed that at that time, the new members (and any other members) should receive a copy of the Parish Directory which also has the contact information and outline of each committee so parishioners can take this opportunity to stay involved after the *On A Journey Together* groups end. Father Jim said the committee will direct the attendees to key information and encourage them to get involved.

Education:

Todd Erzen, member

Todd Erzen said he has withdrawn as the Parish Council subcommittee member for the Religious Education committee. He will either move to the Liturgy and/or Communications Committee as Sherill Whisenand currently has two subcommittee assignments. Todd Erzen will replace Sherill Whisenand on one of those two committees.

PARISH COUNCIL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Emily Duong asked the Council for input into how the group is working forward towards the line items of the Parish Plan implementation. The group focused on Worship which is #1 on the Pastoral Plan presented to Bishop Pates in August 2009.

Those categories discussed from the Plan were:

1.2 Create a welcoming client for liturgy: Father Jim said a meeting is to be set to train ushers, discuss how to greet, etc.

1.3 Father Jim announced the implementation of the St Augustin School children participating in the Sunday 10 a.m. Mass on the third Sunday of the month. Implementation for this has already begun.

1.4. Music: Music Director Patty Neal has brought the choir down to the front of the sanctuary (rather than the loft) to create a more musical atmosphere during the service, engage the congregation in the music, and hopefully enlarge the choir. For better choir logistics she is currently testing the use of chairs next to the piano rather than the pews. Fr. Jim has received both positive and negative feedback of this change and polled the council on their opinion. Sherill Whisenand stated that it was a "great move" and created a more joyous, musical atmosphere and that Patricia Neal should be commended for this effort. Father Jim said that this is just a test and trial and a decision for permanency or moving back to the Loft will be decided at a later date.

Old Business

Nothing discussed

New Business:

Father Jim presented two items.

First, Father Jim presented a document from the Code of Canon Law Book II: The People of God, Canon 536 and Canon 537. Father Jim stated that these two referenced Canons (536 and 537) were like the two arms of the church—The Parish Council is to support the work of St. Augustin Church and to “take care of the people”. The other arm is the Finance Council/ Foundation Board which takes care of the monetary issues of St. Augustin’s.

Secondly, a flow chart, showing the hierarchy of the Parish Administration, outlined the Parish Council, the Finance Council and the various committees which are designated under each. He explained it was not a completed project but gave an adequate outline as to what the roles and subcommittees are of the various departments. Rob Den Hartog thanked Father Jim for the outline, citing that it was the first chart to show how the parish should be facilitated. Joe Kobes suggested that the backside of the paper list the chairmen and contact information of each subcommittee member. Father Jim indicated he would continue to revise the document. No timetable set.

Those two canons with strong historical perspective which Father Jim presented and cited are: *“If the diocesan bishop judges it opportune, after he has consulted the presbyteral council, a pastoral council is to be established in each parish, over which the pastor presides and in which the Christian faithful, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity. 2. A pastoral council possesses a consultative vote only and is governed by the norms established by the diocesan bishop.*

Canon 537: (establishes the Finance Council): *In each parish there is to be a finance council which is governed, in addition to universal law, by norms issued by the diocesan bishop and in which the Christian faithful, selected according to these same norms, are to assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish, without prejudice to the precept of Canon 532.*

There being no further business, Emily Duong called for a vote of adjournment, made by Sherill Whisenand, seconded by Rob Den Hartog; unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Emily Duong requested the Council read the closing prayer which they read in unison: *Heavenly Father, send forth your spirit to enlighten our minds and dispose our hearts to accept your truth, Help us to listen to one another with openness and honesty, eager to learn from the talents and intuitions that you have given each of us. Never let differences of opinion diminish our mutual esteem and love. May we leave this meeting with more knowledge and love for you and your Son in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 7 p.m., St Augustin Church Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherill Whisenand