

Parish Council Minutes

March 24, 2009

Present: Barb Holt, Ed Schwanke, Carl Geenen, Les Hagensick, Pat Lehman, Debbie Hintz, Reneé Steger, Mary Konshak, David Brunmeier, Ken Laczniak

Absent: Ellie Okensuri, Curt Arneson

Opening Prayer – Carl Geenen led the opening prayer.

Approval of February Minutes – Ken motioned to approve the February minutes and Barb seconded that motion.

Update on Implementation of School Plan – Debbie reported that there have been lots of meetings and that things are going well. The teachers have been hired for the two campus locations of Northwest Catholic and the number of teachers hired seems to be a pretty even split from the three schools. There are still three openings; the principals felt that from the teachers who applied there didn't appear to be "a good fit" for the remaining openings. These three openings are in the lower grade levels. In addition, the specialty teachers (music, PE & Spanish) have yet to be hired because we don't know what the budget will allow. The principals are excited about the new staff. At St. Catherine, Linda Kuhn has asked a HR person from the Archdiocese to work with our teachers who have not been hired to touch up their resumes and brush up their interviewing skills. The business managers from the three parishes are working to prepare a preliminary budget. The computer lab at St. Catherine will stay at our school and hopefully be put to use when the community education center is up and running. Enrollment numbers for Northwest Catholic are higher than they typically are for this time of year. The day to day functioning of the schools is being reviewed at each location. The goal is eventually to have everything be the same at the two campuses, however, the first few years may have different curriculums because textbooks are so expensive. New religion textbooks will be purchased for both schools as they are the least expensive. There is a Steering Committee meeting this Thursday; the marketing committee and parent group reviewing uniforms will make reports. H&S still needs to be discussed; the Steering Committee hopefully will be able to provide some direction for the new H&S committee.

Parish Report (written summary in lieu of spring all parish meeting) – We reviewed the format of last year's bulletin insert and are planning to have this year's articles in by May 4th. Perhaps this year we could insert this report into the Tri-Parish newsletter instead of the bulletin; that way the information will be sent home to those who are not able to attend mass.

Nomination Committee – Barb reported that some nomination forms have been submitted and they will continue collecting forms for the next few Sundays. A new

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trustee needs to be nominated as Les' term will expire in June. Debbie can nominate someone and if unopposed that person would automatically fill the vacancy. If others are interested in running for trustee, they must obtain signatures of support from 10 other parish members and submit these signatures to Debbie for her discernment. If approved, an election run-off would take place for trustee on the same day as the parish council election. Debbie will have information about this process in one of her upcoming bulletin columns.

Gathering Committees – We discussed the possibility of having a community building event for all parish committees, it would be comprised of a dinner of some sort and a discussion from each committee chair about what they are doing within the parish. Groups to be included would be Christian Formation, Human Concerns, Parish Life, Prayer & Worship, Finance, Stewardship and School. A tentative date of September 15th @ 6:30pm has been set.

Parish Director Report – Debbie received back from the archdiocese the signed proxy for our lighting so we can complete this project. FIOF numbers have been updated and have decreased slightly to \$300,746. Some parish members decreased their commitments and some increased their amounts. To date, 244 parish members have made commitments to the FIOF campaign. The co-chairs need to meet to develop a plan and calendar for follow up. Reneé felt that perhaps we could put together a bar graph showing quarterly progress and have an article in the upcoming Parish Report Bulletin. The mass count was held the first weekend in March; however, this was daylight savings weekend so the archdiocese said we could use another count from another weekend in March. The alternative weekend count was 622, which was much better. Same time period counts from the past three years were 574, 610 and 640 so our attendance appears to be stable. Liturgy of the Word with Children (LTWC) for Lent has tapered off. After receiving such positive feedback from the Advent LTWC we are wondering why it didn't go over so well this time.

Report from Pat on Meeting @ St. Margaret Mary – Pat reported that she attended the spring district meeting and that we are now in a new district, district #12. The primary goal of the meeting was to discuss objectives which will begin in the fall of 2009; the main objective for district #12 is the clustering of parishes. The 3-5 year plan or "vision for ministry" is for councils of each cluster to meet to begin the planning process on how to better share resources while fulfilling priorities set forth for each district. Training will be in the fall of 2009 with on-line training available. Each cluster's parish council will meet and form 2 to 3 goals along with a timeline for implementation and submit these to the archdiocese for approval by June 2010. It was also noted that an archdiocese census will need to be done by June, 2011. Blessed Savior has been invited to join our cluster, but they are still undecided as to whether they'll join us or the cluster to the south of them.

Committee Reports

Prayer & Worship – Reneé was not present at the last meeting which was held on March 3rd. Per Jim Stout, the group is reviewing the General Instruction of the Roman Missal.

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They discussed the usher group and reviewed plans for Holy Week and Easter. There were 42 people in attendance at the first soup supper and 25 at the second. The last soup supper is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st @6pm. All are welcome. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 31st.

Human Concerns – The group met on March 9th. They discussed the Lenten almsgiving. Carl shared that the Guesthouse speaker did a nice job at our third Sunday speaker's series. Update on St. Vincent DePaul; with the passing of Ed Niemi and Brandy Brandstatter the group is in need of new members. Lots of money has been received, probably due to memorials from Ed & Brandy. Food is being passed out to about 60-70 people. Home visits requests are coming in and furniture vouchers are needed. The sleeping bag ministry is going strong at St. Bernadette. Recently 20 people gathered to complete 8 bags for homeless people. St. Gaul's meal program served 151 last night. Les shared that the Hunger Task Force found that people could not get through to receive food stamps. The 211 call number has been given the job and now people are getting through to apply for assistance. Their next meeting is set for April 13th @6:30pm.

School Committee – Curt was absent – no report.

Finance – David shared that the group is in the process of discussing next year's budget. The department heads are submitting budget requests for next year. Currently we have a \$26,000 deficit. Our business manager, Shari Brennan, does a lot with the school and although Northwest Catholic will be hiring their own business manager, the finance committee believes the parish should keep Shari full-time for the next year while the school transitions. It was felt that the position could be evaluated again before June, 2010 to see whether the parish needs a full-time or part-time business manager. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 14 @ 6pm.

Christian Formation – Ken shared that the group met on March 3rd and that they talked about ministry for school children through adults. Some of their ideas include having parents attend sessions with their children who are being taught. Having the HS youth work with RE teachers and children. Offer family gatherings 2 to 3 times per year for both school and RE families. Family gathering events could include zoo trips, etc. Perhaps raffle tickets could be sold to help finance these events. They reviewed the new curriculum. Their next meeting will be May 5th.

Stewardship – Debbie shared that they calendared next year's meetings. They would like to do a ministry fair; hopefully next year. The Annual Stewardship effort is underway for this year; the new directories should be sent to homes the week of May 17th. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 22nd.

Parish Life – This group hasn't met for a while. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 30th. The Women's Evening of Reflection was well attended; 52 present.

Closing Prayer – Carl Geenen led the closing prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Reneé Steger, Parish Council Secretary.