

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. Bridget's Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brad Parno. Fr. Jerry Harris led an opening prayer. Everyone then said the Parish Mission Statement.

The following is a list of who was present at the meeting:

Kerri Nelson, Deb Wulf, Larry Hennemann, Meg Andrea, John Maillette, Gene Mulhollam, Fr. Jerry Harris, Brad Parno, Terry Mithun, Diane Brady, Roxanne Lovell-Olson. Tom Carroll was excused from this meeting.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: The minutes from the June 7, 2011 Parish Council Meeting were reviewed and needed no changes. Gene Mulhollam made a motion to approve the June 7, 2011 minutes. Deb Wulf made a second to the motion. The Parish Council unanimously approved the minutes. The agenda for tonight's meeting was reviewed and there were no changes needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Religious Education/Faith Formation Committee: Meg Andrea reported for the committee. A new part-time Faith Formation person, Amy, has been hired and started. September 28th will be the opening mass for the year. The high school group needs 4 or 5 leaders. Everyone will be meeting from 6:30 to 8:00 Wednesday evenings. Meg said they talked about how they have a very small committee and how they can tap into more resources. They will ask parents at the group meetings if they have ideas. A comment was made about teaching the Faith Formation program at home and yes, we have about 10 families who home school the program.

Social Justice Committee: Diane Brady gave a report for the committee. There is \$1,920 available in the tithing fund. There were no tithe requests so the committee looked at their rotation list. Recommendations are:

Grace Place – a homeless shelter in Somerset run by Salvation Army. Recommended amount of \$1,000

Casa Guadalupe (spelling?) recommended amount of \$900

MOTION: Deb Wulf made a motion to approve the above two suggested tithes. Meg Andrea made a second to the motion. The Parish Council unanimously approved this motion.

Diane asked if there can be a set place to have the tithe requests go to because right now there is some confusion. Fr. Jerry said that yes they will decide on a set place.

Liturgy Committee: Kerri Nelson gave a report for the committee. The Roman Missal changes will take effect November 27th. There will be handouts starting this week for parishioners. Booklets will be available explaining the changes. At the end of October a laminated card will be inserted in the bulletin with changes highlighted. There will be a couple of nights of training for liturgists, musicians, etc. The new big screen has been used for the last four weeks and is going good. There will be a Parish Mission held in October, with Fr. Jim and Sister Anne as guests.

Finance Committee: John Maillette gave a report for the committee. We are within \$3,900 of the budget. There is a variation in the school tuition which is down because they have not yet received pre-tuition payments. There are 164 students enrolled. The building fund has \$110,000 and they decided to use \$80,000

to pay down the principal of the building loan. Right now the collection envelopes say “2nd Capital Campaign” and that will be changed to say “Debt Retirement” since the actual campaign is done. The lower level remodel budget was \$49,500. It is now projected to be \$54,600, about \$5,100 over. There were unexpected expenses causing the higher amount. The part-time position for Youth Ministry was budgeted for 20 hours per week but Amy has reorganized the duties so it will only be 5 to 7 hours per week. There has been one full-time person from the office that has left and that position will not be filled.

Spirituality/Stewardship Committee: Gene Mulhollam reported for the committee. The committee did not meet over the summer and they will be meeting next week. There is a sub-committee working on adult education topics and they put together a good plan.

School Committee: Deb Wulf reported for the committee. There was orientation held for four new committee members. Sue gave her report and mentioned enrollment is up by 12 to 164 students. The kindergarten class has all boys – 16 students. Stacy is the newly hired cafeteria staff. Deb reported there is a new member family packet available online and also an online inquiry form. For marketing purposes, they will collect testimonials on what is good or not good. On September 18th there will be an open house and lunch to celebrate the school’s 60th anniversary. A “State of the School Report” was put together in May and sent to Parish Council committee members.

Facilities Planning Committee: There was not a report for this committee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Assignment of Vice Chairperson: Brad Parno asked for nominations for a Vice Chairperson for the Parish Council. A nomination was made for Diane Brady. Diane asked for someone else to be nominated. A nomination was made for Deb Wulf, followed by a second to that nomination. Deb Wulf accepted the position of Vice Chairperson.

Business Administrator Report: John Maillette reported that all was going good. He is overwhelmed by how well received and welcomed his family has felt. He has been attending church both here and Hammond to become familiar with both places. It will take a while to fully adjust. He feels that Terri is a good partner to work with. Their family has spent the last two years in Pennsylvania and John has spent 18 years running country clubs. They have two sons, one in kindergarten and one is a junior, and one daughter who is a freshman.

Recap of Hammond/River Falls Joint Meeting: Brad reported there were about 30 people that attended and they had a great meal. They discussed the differences and similarities between the two parishes. Brad passed out a sheet that listed what was stated as working well as a cluster, and also ideas for what might be improved. At the next meeting they will discuss what specifically can be done with the cluster to support each parish.

The question was asked to Fr. Jerry how he was doing handling the two parishes. He feels he is doing okay because of the help of electronic communication devices which saves time. Fr. Jerry also said he has learned when to say no and when to end his day and go to bed.

Fr. Jerry took everyone on a tour of the lower level of the church after the council meeting to see the remodeling project.

The next Parish Council Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. Any agenda items and tithe requests need to be into the church office by Friday, September 23, 2011. The meeting was concluded with a prayer led by Fr. Jerry.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Lovell-Olson
Recording Secretary