

St William Parish Council
Minutes of January 20, 2011 meeting

Present: Luanne Corcoran, Erik Engdahl, Fr. Curt Frederick, Tina Hannaman, Greg Johnson, John Kennedy, John Kendellen, Ann Kremel, Mary McNulty, Anne Mraz, Joyce Pindel, Dick Roe, Jeff Roubik, Paul Seifert and Marcia Slowinski

Excused: Tim Ellis

John Kennedy called the meeting to order. Greg Johnson led the group in prayer and then all said the parish mission statement together.

The drastically revised November minutes were reviewed. Jeff Roubik moved they be accepted as printed; Luanne Corcoran seconded and the council affirmed by voice vote.

There were no parishioner comments.

Under *committees*:

Prayer and worship: Joyce Pindel spoke of the 1/11 meeting. There is a need for more 10:45 Eucharistic ministers; one announcement has been made to which 5 people responded; the search will continue. The committee also assessed the environment for Advent/Christmas, heard that the "little black books" have been ordered for Lent, heard that new readers, including teens, are in training, and that more ushers have been recruited largely because of the ministry fair. They spoke of the city-wide "Mass" classes that are occurring in January and heard that two sessions will be facilitated for parish leaders in the spring and that there will be sessions for parishioners in the fall about the changes that will take place at the beginning of Advent. They talked about the apparently lower Mass attendance. Another meeting has not been scheduled.

Christian formation: John Kendellen spoke about their meeting on 1/10 where they brainstormed about all the ministries/events currently happening at St. William so they can begin to consider what needs remain. Additional comments came from Erik Engdahl. John then spoke about the committee considering a revision of fee structures in collaboration with St. Mary's who also does class-based religious education (the other two parishes have a Generations of Faith model.) There was some discussion by the council. John continued by saying that the 3rd Confirmation retreat has now been completed and that the Waukesha adult & family ministries have begun a city-wide marriage ministry to support couples.

Human concerns: Paul Seifert deferred to Luanne Corcoran since he was not able to attend the last meeting. Luanne said the committee felt the ministry fair had gone well. She spoke about the various Lenten projects that will be offered to parishioners. She said that John Schraufnagel has resigned as head of the Respect Life committee after chairing it for four years and they are seeking a new chair. Paul then said that the committee is asking the parish council to change the designation of our relationship with the Beattyville parish from

“sister” to “sponsoring.” Paul so moved; Anne Mraz seconded. There was discussion and the council approved the change by voice vote. The council then reviewed the outreach recommendations. Mary McNulty moved that they be approved as presented; Dick Roe seconded and the council agreed by voice vote.

Finance/administrative services: Luanne Corcoran distributed an investment policy recommended by that committee which she asked the council to review and vote on at the February meeting. She said the committee did a review of the parish’s current financial status and a preliminary look at the budget for the next fiscal year. At present, it looks like that would be a deficit budget in the range of \$80,000. Marcia Slowinski has drafted a letter that will go to all parishioners and a pulpit announcement will be made the first weekend in February to draw parishioners’ attention to that letter. There was some discussion.

Marcia Slowinski then reviewed the December comparative financial report that she distributed. Revenue is down by 4.3% but expenses are down by 6.1% at this halfway point in the fiscal year. There was discussion.

Human resources: Dick Roe spoke of the meeting of 12/7 when they discussed short term disability, the possibility of staff accruing more sick days and the need that the committee sees to re-emphasize the employee benefits in place. They will next meet on 2/3.

During *liaison reports*:

Waukesha Catholic: Jeff Roubik said that their 1/18 meeting focused on a preliminary budget which would have a projected deficit. That board has approved a 2% increase in tuition and an increase in the technology fee. They are asking if parishes would consider a different timetable for budgeting. Fr. Curt responded that contracts still need to be let by March 15. Jeff said that fundraising is going well and that the endowment is growing, now more than \$875,000. That board also considered the question of conflict of interest when a board member has a spouse working for the school system; that will be discussed at their March meeting. He also spoke of the auction/dinner in February and that Catholic Schools Week begins January 29.

Under *old business*;

Vision 21 task force: Mary McNulty spoke of their first meeting the second week of January. They will be meeting monthly. Their first work is to gather statistics about all the parish, similar to those in the “state of the parish” report that each sends to the Archdiocese annually. She said the group has varied backgrounds and that they have decided on a theme of “Better Together.”

Roof: Fr. Curt said “Done!” There was some discussion.

Investment policy: was covered under the finance/administrative services’ report.

Third source funding: Marcia Slowinski spoke about the dates for various events planned by this sub-committee. Spirit wear orders will be taken the first weekend in February. The weekend of March 20, there be wine and chocolate displayed for order. The spaghetti supper will be on March 27 and a pig roast is in the plans for the last weekend of June.

Under *new business*:

Archdiocesan Chapter 11 Bankruptcy discussion : Father Curt distributed Archbishop ListECKI's letter, the Q&A developed about this filing and a letter from the Faith in Our Future trustees. He said the priests' council is interested in hiring a lawyer to represent the interests of the parishes. It is reasonably safe to say parishes will not be affected because they are separately incorporated but that is dependent on the bankruptcy judge. Father said that questions have been raised about whether several other funds (such as archdiocesan pensions, the seminary etc) have sufficient firewalls to prevent them from being part of this process. There was some discussion by the council including the need to widen awareness among the parishioners. To that end, it was suggested that the Faith in Our Future letter be a bulletin insert.

Raffle committee: Anne Mraz said it was time to create one again. Joyce Pindel, Mary McNulty and Ann Kremel volunteered.

During *the pastor's report*: Fr. Curt said that weekend help-outs would continue to be primarily Jesuits. He said Fr. Jason is still looking for a job. Fr. Curt himself is looking for a positive attitude to fill in the blanks left by Fr. Jason's leave of absence. St. William's is on the list for an associate pastor in spring but that does not assure that one will be appointed.

Under *other business*:

Nominating committee: John Kennedy said that this would be an item on the February agenda and he will be looking for volunteers. He briefly explained the work of that group.

Faith in Our Future case statement: Pat Knuth, as follow up leader for this campaign, said that all the funds that were in the original statement have been spent as designated with the exception of about \$12,000 still allotted to Christian formation. There is currently about \$200,000 in that restricted fund so she suggested that it is time for the council again to consider how it wants that money used. That usage could be over the next several years. She asked that this be part of the February agenda.

There being no other business, the council prayed the Our Father together and adjourned.

recorded by Pat Knuth