

# Saint William Parish Council

## Minutes of October 20, 2011

Present: Fr. Kevin Barnekow, Luanne Corcoran, Eric Engdahl, Fr. Curt Frederick, Tina Hannaman, Greg Johnson, John Kendellen, Anne Mraz, Joyce Pindel, Dick Roe, Jeff Roubik, Paul Seifert and Marcia Slowinski

Excused: John Kennedy, Mary McNulty, Bill Serb

Jeff Roubik called the meeting to order. Dick Roe led the group in prayer and then all said the mission statement together.

The council consented that the September minutes were accurate as printed.

There were no parishioner comments.

During *committee reports*:

Prayer and worship: Joyce Pindel said they would meet next Tuesday, October 25.

Christian formation: John Kendellen said they had met but neither he nor Eric Engdahl was able to attend so the next report will cover two meetings.

Human concerns: had not met since the last council meeting.

The outreach recommendations were presented. There was a question about the status of the grant to the Waukesha Food Pantry. The committee is waiting to hear about a possible change in policy for the organization's handling of out-dated food. The recommendations, as presented, received the council's consent.

Finance/administrative services: Luanne Corcoran said they had not met.

Marcia Slowinski then presented the September comparative financial statement. She noted that envelope contributions were up more than 5% against last year. She stated that the largest expenses are still to come including assessments and utilities. Marcia also said that the pastor would be doing the annual stewardship presentation at all Masses the weekend of October 22/23.

Human resources: Dick Roe reported that they had not met.

*Waukesha Catholic liaison report*: Paul Seifert said that the final financial report for the last fiscal year, ending 6-30-11, showed a surplus of \$78,500. The board chose to take \$40,000 of that and use it for the Pathway to Promise process including consultation fees. The remaining monies will be used for tuition assistance. He reported that the enrollment as of 9/20 was 672 students against a budget for this year of 652. The accreditation process is complete and initial feedback was positive. The steering committee for Pathway to Promise has met. And he reported that the annual dinner/auction would be February 11, 2012. There was interaction from the council throughout his report.

During *old business*:

Better Together (Vision 21): John Kendellen said that at their last meeting they recapped their assessment of the work of the four parishes' human concerns committees. On November 5, there will be a morning of reflection "Walk a Day in Our Shoes," focusing on the Hispanic culture and community.

Parish survey: after some comments, this report was deferred until Fr. Curt's arrival after the funeral in church.

Parish pictorial directory: Anne Mraz spoke about her meeting with the Olan Mills representative. Their system is much more computerized now. The parish pays nothing and could receive a bonus dependent on how many parishioners have their photos taken. She said she also planned to speak to LifeTouch. There was much discussion by council members. One result of that is a preference for a hardcover edition of the directory. Fr. Curt said that there needs to be lots of recent parish pictures as well.

Parish survey: Fr. Curt said all council members should be callers. The survey itself is being refined. There is a discussion among those committee members whether there should be an option for a survey to be filled in and returned or simply to call all parishioners to ask the questions. There was lots of discussion about the process. There was a preference among councilors for the option of a fill-in survey with follow up thanking those who had responded and calls to those who had not responded. There were a variety of other suggestions as well which Fr. Curt said the survey committee would discuss.

Transitioning to new archdiocesan council structure: Jeff Roubik did an overview and then asked for council input. Fr. Curt said that Mark Kemmeter of the archdiocesan staff felt this was not the time for him to come to meet with the council. Much of the ensuing discussion was on the relationship between the finance council and the parish council. Fr. Curt reminded the council that the finance council would be appointed and the parish council elected. Some of the thoughts out of that discussion were: the pastor and trustees should be part of both councils; that much of the structure is already in place at St. William's; that the council will move to be more visionary in its work; that both need to be informed of the other's direction; that checks and balances need to be in place. Jeff Roubik, with the consent of the council, then tabled the discussion until January.

Under *new business*:

Holiday party: Fr. Curt said this would be January 6, likely 6 to 9 pm, and for both council and staff as well as their spouses. An invitation will be coming.

Prepare for committee chair reports: Jeff Roubik asked what the council wanted included in those reports. The council response was to continue as in the past where each committee chooses. He asked who should do the report and the response was typically the chair of the committee. Then he asked who should report first and that schedule will be left up to the executive committee.

During the pastor's report:

Fr. Curt said there were about 2250 households registered in the parish but that Mass attendance is down to 1750 at the last count, which he said was 200 less than when he first came. His questions were why? and what can we do about it? He said he was laying that at the council's feet and that he wanted no excuses. There was a brief discussion. Jeff Roubik said it would appear on the November agenda.

*Other business:*

. Marcia Slowinski said the fund raising committee has chosen February 12 for the spaghetti dinner.

. Eric Engdahl, though the wonder of silent electronic communication with his son at home, said that the last pictorial directory had about 700 parishioner photos in it.

Jeff Roubik closed the meeting and all prayed the Our Father together.

recorded by Pat Knuth