

Saint William Parish Council

minutes of the August 15, 2007 meeting

Present: Father Leonard Barbian, Wesley Borden, Rick Chiapete, Mike Culhane, Tom Dougherty, Mike Hoge, Father Jason Lavann, John Kendellen, John Kennedy, Linda LaBorde, Sue Sieger, Marcia Slowinski, Mary Thiel and Paul Trimborn

Excused: Linda Deets, Kevin Flood and Jeff Roubik

Sue Sieger called the meeting to order and then invited everyone to play "follow the leader." She led the group to the canopy in front of church and then invited Father Leonard to look at the named bricks at the front edge of the canopy. He was very surprised and pleased to see the two bricks named in appreciation of his ministry at St William Parish. The group then returned to Vercelli House where Sue called the group to order again.

Father Leonard led the prayer, commissioning the council at the beginning of its year. All then joined in the reading of the parish mission statement.

The *minutes* of the June 20 council meeting were reviewed. Rick Chiapete moved they be accepted as printed, Linda LaBorde seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

Under *parishioners' comments*, Mike Culhane said that his kids missed the parish picnic this year. Father Leonard responded that it would occur again next year; it was not held this year because of the golden anniversary celebrations.

During *committee reports*:

- . prayer and worship: had not met; Linda Deets remains liaison to this committee.
- . Christian formation: had not met; Rick Chiapete will be the liaison to this group.
- . human concerns: Mary Thiel said they had not met as yet.
- . finance/administrative services: Paul Trimborn said they would next meet on September 11. Marcia Slowinski then distributed the fiscal year end comparative report to the council. Annual envelope contributions were up 8.8% over the previous year, a yearly increase Marcia had not seen since becoming trustee. Even though there was an excess of income over revenue, Marcia said this amounted to only 5% of the total income. Father Leonard remarked on the benefit of automatic withdrawals from parishioners which now accounts for more than \$12,000/month income. Asked whether envelopes would continue for these parishioners, he answered affirmatively saying it was less expensive than sorting them out.

Under *liaison reports*:

- . Youth: Sue Sieger welcomed Wesley Borden as the new representative from youth ministry; the youth board has not yet met.

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At this point, the council was reminded that they had not reviewed the outreach recommendations during the human concerns report. Sue Sieger decided that should be done. The council reviewed those recommendations. There were some comments including John Kennedy and Father Leonard speaking about the research that the committee did for each request. John Kennedy moved that the recommendations be accepted as submitted; Linda LaBorde seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

The council then returned to the *liaison reports*:

. Waukesha Catholic: Mike Hoge said they would meet next Tuesday (8/21.)

. APC: Mike Culhane said there was nothing new since May and he has not heard about the next meeting.

Under *old business*:

endowment update: John Kennedy said that, given the scope of the archdiocesan capital campaign, the decision was made by he, Scott Campbell and Father Leonard to postpone the kickoff until spring. He is hoping that some of the capital campaign funds would be "seed money" for the endowment fund.

Under *new business*:

. cellular tower: Father Leonard said he had been approached in May by T Mobile to place a cell tower on the parish property. He, Marcia Slowinski, Kathy Maday and Bruce Orgas met with the representatives of that company. The tower would go behind the gym and there would also be a small brick building in the same place, with the brick matching the complex. The process is "in the midst" since final approval has not come from the city and the rental proposal has not come from T Mobile who will also do a neighborhood survey to see if there are objections. Father is expecting that rent could be as much as \$2000/month. The project could be completed by year's end. There was discussion by the council.

. policy regarding committee chairs: Sue Sieger read aloud the proposal to amend the council by-laws which had been sent to council members with their agenda:

Article VI: Standing Committees: section 1: **Chairperson(s)**

A chairperson (or co-chairs) shall be selected for each committee annually.

No person may serve as chair of a particular committee for more than three consecutive one year terms. Chairpersons shall not be staff members/ employees of the parish or ex-officio members of that particular committee.

Each committee will submit the name of its chairperson(s) to the parish council in time for the council's October meeting. A list of names, addresses and phone numbers of all current committee members will be given to the parish council secretary at the same time.

She also noted that *this amendment would be retroactive*, affecting the current chairpersons of standing committees of the council. There was discussion. Rick Chiapete moved that the amendment to the bylaws be accepted; Marcia Slowinski seconded and the council approved the amendment by voice vote. Sue Sieger said she would speak to the current committee chairpeople.

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. capital campaign: Father Leonard said that a leadership team was beginning to be pulled together. He, Mary McNulty and Andrea Palmisano (who will be the coordinators of the campaign) met to determine people to be asked for each of the more than a dozen leadership positions. Responses have been coming in and the group will first meet on August 27. St William's is a pilot parish in this process which will extend for three years. Commitment weekend is December 1 & 2. RSI is instrumental in fostering the process with Howard Craig their representative here. St William's goal is \$1.3 million, the equivalent of last year's contributions. 60% of all the money raised at St William's will stay in the parish. The theme of the campaign is "Faith in Our Future."
Sue Sieger commented on the benefit she sees of teaching the parish what stewardship is all about. There was discussion by the council.

During the pastor's report:

Father Leonard welcomed Father Jason, Wes Borden and John Kendellen to the council.

He spoke about the organ project. He and Charlotte Villwock have begun to explore with Fabry Organ, who have repaired and tuned this instrument, whether it would be just as cost effective to refurbish the present organ rather than purchasing an electronic organ. It appears that this could be as little as \$20,000 more than to buy a new electronic organ, which does not have the same qualities. Fabry will send a cost estimate on what that work would entail. Charlotte will continue her articles in the bulletin about an organ's place in liturgical music.

He said that many parishioners had asked about the picnic and that it would happen next year but likely not at Good Times because of insurance issues.

He thanked the council for the bricks and said it was very touching.

Under other business:

Sue Sieger spoke about a letter inviting the parish to place an advertisement in the program booklet for the seminary's annual fund-raising dinner. She has agreed and it will be honoring St William Parish on its golden anniversary.

There being no other business, John Kennedy moved that the meeting be adjourned; Sue Sieger seconded and the council approved by voice vote.

All then prayed the Our Father together.