

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting February 24, 2009

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Immaculate Conception Church Parish Pastoral Council was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 in the church fellowship hall. Council members present were Scott Beierman, Duane Cekalla, Sandy Durant, Michele Hiscock, and Francis Januschka; Trustees Greg Frank and Sandra Saldana; Pastor Fr. Tim Wenzel; and staff Bill Rauch and Pat Spence. Jackie Wruck was excused.

Chair Duane Cekalla called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Following the Opening Prayer led by Fr. Tim, the council approved the agenda with the addition of discussing the proposed sprinkler system for the cemetery. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed.

Committee Reports included the following:

1. **Maintenance:** Bill Rauch reported that the fan reostats in the church have been replaced, and additional vents have been added in the basement ductwork. He also balanced the heating system between the church and the basement and will be installing carpet squares in the Child Care room. He then informed the council that he was submitting his resignation to be effective on April 2nd. Bill said, "After forty years of being on call 24/7, and seven of those years here, I feel it is time to retire." He added that he will be happy to help train the new staff person and thanked the council for allowing him to work for the parish. Fr. Tim thanked him for his work for our parish. Greg Frank thanked him for going beyond his scheduled hours. Duane Cekalla thanked Bill for the many good changes he had made, including the new lights for the church. The parish council accepted Bill's resignation. The position will be publicized as an open position.
2. **Liturgy:** Pat Spence reported that new ministry schedules and the music plan for Lent through the Easter Season had just been completed. She is having difficulty recruiting enough liturgical ministers for the 7pm Saturday Mass. She commended the Liturgy Committee members for their dedication and hard work. Theresa Eisenschenk is making new banners for the church. Training for liturgical ministers is planned for March and April.
3. **Faith Formation:** Pat Spence said that the best news is the classroom project. Nick Preusser, Jim Schlangen, Ray Thompson and Dale Hiscock have volunteered many hours of time; several others have also helped. Our parish is grateful to all of these volunteers. She updated the council on the progress. Finance Council had recently approved the purchase of classroom furniture, since the project is coming in well under the budget. Classes that have formerly been held at Rice Elementary School will now be held in the church basement!

4. Follow-Up: Duane Cekalla said that the committee will be meeting on March 17th at Twin Pines Restaurant; the committee has been working together since January 24, 2003.
5. Finance Council: The report was given by the Trustees. Everything is on track with parish finances. Although giving is slightly under budget, spending is also below budget. Fr. Tim commented that he is very pleased that we are at 97% of the budgeted amount for income. They also reported that they initially budgeted \$100,000 for the classroom project; final total cost will be about \$64,000. This is due to the good work of our parish volunteers. Pat Spence also commented on the savings the parish has realized by hiring Dave Schindele, who has done the skimcoating, drywall taping, and painting. Bill Rauch said that Dave is putting in a quote on painting the stairwell; Jim Schlangen is getting stainless steel corner protectors made to prevent damage to the walls. All the large classrooms are now sponsored at \$4,000 each; several of the smaller classrooms have also been sponsored. There are still some left to be sponsored. Sandy Durant inquired about dedicating a classroom to the volunteers; this will be discussed further at the next meeting. It may be difficult to identify all the volunteers' names. Joan Donovan and Dennis Niess are new members of the Finance Council.
6. Greg informed the council that Denny Niess has proposed a sprinkler system for the cemetery. He would personally raise the funds for this specific purpose; it would not be a parish project. He would contact individuals, community organizations, and businesses for donations. Council members reviewed the preliminary proposal. Dennis is going to ask the Rice City Council to waive the fee for water, because the cemetery is the gateway from Highway 10 to the city and has the veterans memorial. It was noted that without that donation, there could be a higher cost to the parish for watering and mowing. Fr. Tim explained that Denny was seeking to pursue the project by meeting with the city council. Other concerns raised were water quality; would it cause discoloration to tomb stones? The council decided to have Denny continue to work on the project and bring back more information to the next meeting. Scott Beierman asked that the city council decision be given in writing.

Old business included an update on the new parish directory by Pat Spence. Photos will be taken here on Friday, April 17 from 3 to 9:30pm; Saturday, April 18 from 8:30 to 5:30; and Monday and Tuesday, April 20 & 21 from 3 to 9:30pm. In Mayhew Lake they will be taken on Thursday & Friday, April 23 & 24 from 3 to 9:30pm; and on Saturday, April 25 from 8:30 to 3:30pm. Parishioners can go to either church to have their picture taken. A meeting with the planning teams from each church with the company representative is scheduled for Thursday, March 5th at 3:30pm in the church hall. Council members were invited to help. Fr. Tim informed the council about the design of the joint directory. We are hoping for good participation from both parishes. Duane Cekalla suggested that we have someone take pictures of the shut-ins so they can be included in the directory.

Fr. Tim gave his Pastor's Report with a review of the Lenten and Triduum Mass schedules. He asked the council for input on whether or not to offer two Good Friday services or only have the early Mass at 12:30 or 1pm. After discussion, the council decided to follow last year's schedule with a 12:30pm and 3pm service, but to let the parishioners know that we will not have two services next year if there is not strong attendance. Sandy Durant also suggested discussing this again at the April council meeting.

The council created a plan for Sunday morning coffee and rolls for the coming year. They accepted Patti Krystosek's recommendation to have each funeral group host one social (total of 6), Parish Council, Finance Council, KC's, Christian Women, Confirmation students, and First Communion students. Patti will continue to contact the leader of each group.

The Parish Mission will be held November 1 through 5 this fall. We will need a planning committee established by May. Fr. Tim suggested Sue Frank as the parish leader.

Fish Fries will be held on all the Fridays of Lent. There has been a good response with people volunteering to help.

Pat Spence and Fr. Tim asked the council for input on the parish wish list. Pat will speak with Russ Hackett about possible modifications to the proposed baptismal font. Michele Hiscock suggested adding items for faith formation such as tv's, dvds, books, and other resource materials. They will discuss this further at a future meeting.

Saturday evening Mass counts have been taken since the first Saturday of October. Attendance is significantly less at the 7pm Mass than the 5pm Mass time. The council decided that we should take attendance at all Masses in both parishes for the coming months to present a more complete picture. Also, the bookkeepers should be asked to keep track of how many envelopes are sent to the other parish each weekend.

The next meeting is April 28th at 7pm; the joint meeting with Mayhew Lake is at 8pm. Michele Hiscock and Sandy Durant will bring a snack. Pat S. will make the beverage.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence