

Immaculate Conception Church Parish Council Meeting Minutes August 25, 2009

The Parish Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 25 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Duane Cekalla called the meeting to order and Fr. Tim led the Council in the Mission Prayer, followed by a blessing prayer for the council. Members present were Duane Cekalla, Francis Januschka, Sandy Saldana, Greg Frank, Hannah Moeller, Scott Beierman, and Michelle Hiscock. Members with excused absences were Jackie Wruck, Jon Schmitt, and Sandy Durant.

Both the agenda and minutes of the June regular meeting and July special meeting were approved as printed. The Council welcomed the newly elected members: Jon Schmitt, Hannah Moeller, Jackie Wruck, Duane Cekalla, and Sandy Durant.

Committee Reports:

1. Maintenance: On June 18th there was hail damage to the roofs of the garage, rectory, and north side of the church. Also, three rooftop air conditioners required new coils. The insurance company has offered a settlement of \$54,224.00 to cover all the repairs. Scott Beierman will get bids from three contractors, including parishioners in the business, and bring them back to the council for a decision on when to make the roof repairs and which bid to accept. The air conditioning units were repaired this summer. The insurance did not cover hail guards. Through a misunderstanding, they were installed anyway. Scott Beierman will review this with Steve Herman and make a recommendation.
2. Liturgy: Austin Kostreba will be a new Saturday Mass Cantor. Pat Spence attended a 3-day conference at St. John's University in July: "A Church in Change Hope & Creativity," on music, liturgy, & theology. Keynote speakers taught the changes in the liturgy that will be coming with the new music document, "Sing to the Lord." The Liturgy Committee will be reviewing the document and making recommendations on how to implement it in our parish. Other changes in the liturgy, mainly involving the new translation of the *Roman Missal* are also coming; there will be a great deal of education before changes are implemented.
3. Faith Formation: Vacation Bible School was a success with 125 children and 45 volunteers involved. Expenses will total about \$1,900 and income from a grant and other donations was \$1,400. All five participating churches will divide that remaining cost. The registration deadline for "Journey of Faith" is September 6th. Storage shelves are being donated by Ray Thompson and additional shelves need to be built on the wall. Two grants were received from Living the Promise: adult--\$722.50 for a map set, visual meditation dvd's and catechist resources and children--\$840.40 for tv/vcr/dvd combos and curriculum materials. September 9th is the date for first classes for Confirmation and Second Grade. A request has been received from a Home School Cooperative to use the church on alternating Friday mornings for two hours for religious instruction. One of our church families are members of the cooperative. The council asked Pat Spence to prepare a usage form and written agreement to include the user providing liability insurance coverage, clean up, and responsibility for damage. A walk through by staff should be done after each use. The church would only be used without a rental fee by outside groups for religious education purposes in the church basement. The cooperative has offered a donation. A copy of the usage form will be provided to the council. Father Tim would like an identical policy implemented at Mayhew Lake.
4. Follow-Up: Duane Cekalla reported that there will be a meeting in September for the Follow-Up Committee to work with chairpeople of various fundraisers. The council discussed the importance of keeping our momentum with fundraising to cover our loan payments.
5. Finance Council: There has not been a meeting since May. Greg Frank & Sandy Saldana will schedule a meeting of the Finance Council. They will also sign the year-end report to the diocese.
6. Cemetery Update: The sprinkling proposal for the cemetery has been put on hold. Concerns were expressed about water damage to monuments, cost for water and maintenance.

Old Business:

1. Directory Update: Annunciation Parish is reviewing needed changes and then it will be submitted for printing.

2. Parish Mission: Father Tim distributed the draft of the brochure and emphasized all council members participating each day of the mission.
3. Summerfest Report: Income was higher than last year and Expenses were less. Two additional couples are needed to co-chair Summerfest next summer. Bill & LuAnn Popp are willing to guide them. The Council will have the recruitment of new leaders on next month's agenda.
4. Baptismal Font: Pat Spence reviewed the architectural design that Russ Hackett had commissioned after Janie's death. He has given permission to reduce the size of the font to see if it can be completed with the \$8,495 that has been given in memorials for the font. Pat recommended Bill Gutzkow as a potential builder of the font. The Council requested that she ask him if he is interested.

New Business:

1. Pastor's Report: Labor Day Mass will be a Mayhew Lake at 9am. Father explained the rotation of national holiday Masses between our parishes. He will be attending the Clergy Conference from October 4th – 7th. He also noted the number of weddings this fall, and he will have another priest take the Saturday evening Masses so that he can attend the dinner. The Council agrees that it is important to the families to have Father Tim present. Francis Januschka inquired if Father has received any information from the diocese about H1N1 flu virus and precautions. None have been sent at this time.
2. St. Francis Shrine & Blessing: Dan Posch has built a shrine for the St. Francis Statue, which will be placed in the Prayer Garden. The council approved placement of the shrine in the center of the garden on the cement slab south of the fountain. The bench will be moved and placed on a new slab across from the shrine. The shrine is a memorial for Andy Hovland; the statue was donated in memory of John and Mary Ann Wollak.
3. Blessing of the Church Addition & 125th Anniversary Celebration: The church will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2010. Pat Spence was asked to contact the Bishop's secretary to see what time of year would be most open for him to come and preside at Mass and bless our addition. The council is also interested in having our parish history updated since the Centennial book was published in 1985. Pat was asked to write a bulletin note to see if anyone is interested in this project. Other ideas to commemorate the anniversary are creating a historic quilt, a brochure with history highlights and art treasures of the church, and creating a history DVD with interviews of parishioners on their remembrances.
4. Year of the Priest: Pat Spence explained that A Year for Priests has been designated by Pope Benedict XVI for June 2009 to June 2010. The theme for the priestly year is "Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests." Its purpose is to encourage what the Pope calls "the yearning for spiritual perfection" in priests. It also gives lay people a special opportunity to learn more about priesthood, to recognize and honor priests, and to encourage priestly vocations. The Council reviewed a brochure which could be included in the World Priesthood Sunday bulletin and a Prayer for Priests that can be placed on card stock and placed in the pews to be prayed monthly at Mass and at daily Mass. We will celebrate Priesthood Sunday on October 18th. An adult faith formation topic will be on the Sacrament of Holy Orders. This topic will be on the next agenda to generate other ideas. Pat Spence will also talk to the KC's about sponsoring an activity to mark this year.
5. Election of Parish Council Officers: Duane Cekalla turned the meeting over to Greg Frank for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council for the coming year. Duane Cekalla was re-elected as Chair and Francis Januschka was elected as Vice-Chair.

The next meeting date is October 27th at 7pm. There will be a joint meeting with the Annunciation Parish Council on November 10th at 8pm.

Sandy Saldana asked for council input on the possibility of having a cash raffle instead of a 4-wheel raffle and the timing during the year to hold it. Council members thought it might be good to have it start before Christmas and have the drawing at the last Fish Fry as Sandy suggested. She will continue to explore this with her Co-Chair Joan Donovan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence