

Parish Council Meeting Minutes October 27, 2009

The Immaculate Conception Parish Council held its bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 in the fellowship hall. Members present included Duane Cekalla, Sandy Durant, Scott Beierman, Francis Januschka, Jackie Wruck, Greg Frank, Sandy Saldana, and Hannah Moeller. Fr. Tim Wenzel and Pat Spence were also present. Michelle Hiscock and Jonathon Schmitt were absent.

Father Tim led the council in an opening prayer. The agenda was approved with the addition of security issues. The August meeting minutes were approved as printed.

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Council report was given by Greg Frank. Summerfest results were slightly above the previous year, which was great in this economy. Bill and LuAnn Popp are close to securing chairpersons for next year. The goal is to have three leaders serving a three-year term with one as outgoing chair, one as current chair, and one as incoming chair. ATV raffle results were also excellent, netting \$9,785.00. Sandy Saldana and Joan Donovan were thanked for their work. The council discussed the 2010 raffle. Because the KC's are planning the same cash raffle that Joan and Sandy were planning, this will be placed on next month's agenda. The council did not feel it would be good to have a raffle at the same time as the KC's. It was suggested to start the church raffle after Summerfest and run it from the beginning of August until Thanksgiving. Nick Preusser and a small committee are getting bids for the basement restrooms. Scott Beierman was thanked for getting the three bids for repair of hail damage. The garage and rectory roofs have been resingled. Before the church roof is resingled, Scott Beierman will check on the leakage problem above the side altar. The Cemetery Committee has asked to have the road redone and trees removed. The Finance Council has kept this on their agenda. Duane Cekalla and Scott Beierman will inquire what other cemeteries with trees do to maintain the headstone positions.
2. Faith Formation report was given by Pat Spence: There are 34 volunteers for youth faith formation and 19 volunteers for adult faith formation. There are 151 children registered and approximately 100 adults attended the October 7th session. All classrooms are being utilized in the old and new basements and two are set up in the open part of the old basement. KC's and Christian Women were thanked for sponsoring the Confirmation Bibles. Vincent Smiles spoke at the October session on God, Science and the Bible. His evaluation was 4.6 of 5. Members commented on the good quality of the presentation.
3. Liturgy report was also given by Pat Spence. World Priesthood Sunday has been celebrated. There will be a Memorial Mass on November 8th; five families have been invited to participate in the candle lighting ceremony. The KC's will carry up roses for the deceased Knights. Ministers have been scheduled for the parish mission liturgies and notes will be sent to those who volunteered beyond the needed positions. The Liturgy Committee is studying the church document "Sing to the Lord." Music is being planned and ministry schedules completed for the Advent & Christmas seasons. Pat reported on her recent experiences recording TV Masses. The council agreed that the Rice Food Shelf should be the Advent charity for the parish.
4. Follow Up Committee Report was given by Duane Cekalla. He distributed the minutes and the financial report. Council members agreed that volunteers on the

classroom building project will be acknowledged and thanked at the November 22nd Mass. Pat Spence will get names for people to invite from Nick Preusser. The council also agreed with the follow up committee's recommendation for a process of signing up volunteers for the fund raisers. This will be included with the year-end report.

Old Business included:

1. Steve Herman and Scott Beierman replaced the hail guards on the air conditioners, which resulted in over \$3,000 savings.
2. The Usage Policy for the new basement classrooms was reviewed and approved. The council recommended that the staff develop a checklist that is used by staff and the users following each session.
3. The council was pleased with the new church directories, and the council wants a thank you to be placed in the bulletin for the committee that worked on it.
4. There has been very positive feedback about the Parish Mission.
5. St. Francis Shrine feedback has also been good. Pat S. will get the memorial information noted on the memorial plaque in the Gathering Space.
6. Additional ideas for celebrating the *Year for Priests* were: say the Prayer for Priests once each month at Mass; have a quote for *Year for Priests* at each Mass; and have a Mass Intention for Father Tim. Pat Spence and Sandy Durant will look for quotes.
7. Pat Spence has contacted Bill Gutzkow about redesigning a new baptismal font with the memorial gift for Janie Hackett. Plans will be brought to the council when they are ready for review.
8. The Chancery has been contacted for a date to have the Bishop come for the 125th Anniversary celebration.

New Business included:

1. Pastor's Report was given by Father Tim. He thanked the parish for the way that Priesthood Sunday was celebrated. The socials hosted by the Christian Women and Knights of Columbus were much appreciated.
2. The Cemetery Committee will be invited to a parish council meeting to discuss the road and trees.
3. The council wishes to continue the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service even though Pastor Bob Trinklein, Shepherd of the Pines, is not able to participate this year. Father Tim will initiate plans with the Methodist and Assembly of God church's pastors.
4. The process for preparing funeral lunches is not going well. Diane Wojtanowicz is ordering, picking up, and delivering the food, but Patti is having difficulty getting the committees to cook and serve. Many of the leaders cannot come when needed because of their work schedules. Sandy Durant and Jackie Wruck offered to work out a new plan. The council asked that a bulletin note be placed to see if anyone in the parish would be the Funeral Cook. They would be offered a stipend. Suggestions included having a simpler lunch with sandwiches, having the hotdish catered, having the funeral lunch catered, having a Funeral Cook prepare the hotdish, and assigning everyone in the parish to either bring salad or bars or work for a funeral lunch. The cost of the catering or the stipend to a Funeral Cook would be paid by the family of the deceased.
5. Duane Cekalla talked about the need for more hospitality at our Masses. We need Greeters present for all Masses and all Ushers need to be welcoming.

Ushers should ask for Gift Bearers from the family of the person for whom the Mass is intended. Duane will work with Pat Spence on a list of rules for Ushers, which will be mailed to each Usher and also posted in the back of the church.

6. Pat Spence informed the council of two security issues. On Saturday the gas was left on two unlit burners on the kitchen range for over half an hour. The range does not have automatic pilot lights, so it is difficult to know when the gas is on. Thankfully, there was a wedding on Saturday afternoon, so when the gas smell became strong Marc Kelash (cantor) shut off the burners. Pat recommended looking into getting a different range with automatic pilot lights. The council asked Pat to talk with Theresa Eisenschenk, Kitchen Manager, about the kind of range needed; Scott Beierman will work on the possibility of trading in the current range at Britz Equipment. Also, the wooden door on the north side of the church was found unlocked today; it apparently has been unlocked for quite some time. The council asked to have Steve Herman replace the locks on all the church doors to tighten security. Only the head of the KC's, Christian Women, staff, and Eisenschenks will have a key. If needed, others will need to check out a key from Steve for one-time use. The council wants the kitchen to be locked, remove the cover from the thermostat so that people using the kitchen can adjust the heat, and have a key available for the custodian's closet. A checklist should also be posted of all things that need to be done before leaving the kitchen after its use and a list posted for needed supplies.
7. Requests for a donation to Rice for the downtown park and an ad in the Newcomer's Club church booklet was referred to the Finance Council.
8. The next Parish Council meeting will be January 26th, rather than the regularly scheduled time in December, unless some pressing issues arise.

There will be a joint parish council meeting with the Annunciation Church Council on Tuesday, November 10th at Annunciation Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence