

## St. John Vianney Parish Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2010

**Members Present:** Kathy Bell                      Pat Butler                      Kurt Baumann  
Fr. Phillip Bogacki                      Mike Cekanor                      Larry Francione  
Fr. Ken Knippel                      Doug Miller                      Paul Mindel  
Michael Ostrenga                      Greg Van Winkle

**Members Excused:** Richard Gassert                      Cheryl Zima

**Call to Order:** Mike Cekanor, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:05 p.m.

### **Review of Minutes:**

The minutes from the January 11, 2010 meeting were approved.

### **Open Forum:**

No activity.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Greg Van Winkle's term as Trustee-Treasurer will be ending in June. Father Ken reminded Parish Council members that the nomination process for Trustee requires getting 10 signatures for each nominee. Father Ken is nominating Mike Cekanor for the position. He thanked Greg for his 2 years of service and Mike for accepting the nomination.

Father Ken reported that he has encouraged retraining for various liturgical ministers. To date retraining has been held for servers, hospitality ministers and most recently there were two sessions for Eucharistic ministers. Training has been well-received. He sees the development of our liturgical ministries as a very important facet of our parish life.

The Respect Life Mass with Archbishop ListECKI presiding went very well. Father Ken thanked Father Phillip and others involved for all the planning they did for the event.

Regarding the parish budget, instead of the Administrative Services/Finance Committee meeting with various parish departments, Father Ken met with the departments in January. He indicated it left him with a positive feeling that staff is on board with making it work in anticipating the need for budget cuts. In some areas, budget cuts will not be practical but most are embracing it with a sense that "we can work it out"., though all also acknowledged that it is hard to do.

Father Ken just returned from 12 days of vacation. He heard that while he was away the religious speakers at Masses for World Day for Consecrated Life went well as did the kick off of the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

The recording from the Archbishop was played at all the weekend Masses. Last year's goal at SJV was \$160K and the goal for this year is \$170K. Father Ken reminded us that the campaign had raised \$182K in 2008. Doug Miller has agreed to chair the campaign for SJV.

### **Feedback—FIOF Revised Case Statement**

Mike Cekanor had forwarded feedback he received from parishioners regarding the revised case statement for the FIOF campaign monies. About 30-40% of the emails received seemed to question the narthex expansion. The email notes were by and large very moderate. Mike Ostrenga indicated that few seemed concerned with the \$250K over budget spending on the school/parish center remodeling. There seemed to be more concern over the reprioritization. It was pointed out that the original budget set for the school/parish center remodeling was done very quickly with an incomplete project list and some rather crude estimates. The complete scope of the remodel project had not been developed at the time that the FIOF case statement due date. Consensus is that it is important to do the remodel project the right way.

Regarding the outreach gift to Prince of Peace, feedback was mixed. Some said that we already donate on an ongoing basis to Prince of Peace, why are we providing an outreach gift to them from the FIOF campaign? Others raised issue with our revised plan to prorate the donation according to the percent of campaign goal achieved—they felt we should provide the total \$50K rather than the prorated amount of \$35K. The Parish Council recommends giving the prorated amount when the monies are available from the campaign.

Former Parish Councilor Frank Pasternak had raised concerns about the school/parish center overrun. But he expressed even greater concern about the reprioritization of the items in the case statement. He raised the question of how it may impact future capital campaigns. Frank is concerned about the trust issue of changing the plan post pledges.

It is important to make it clear that the FIOF funds cannot be diverted to pay for operating expenses of the parish.

Parish Council supports the reprioritization of the items in the FIOF case statement. Fr. Ken indicated that the next step is for him to check with those managing the FIOF campaign at the archdiocesan level to make sure we are allowed to do the reprioritization.

The new case statement that was approved is as follows:

Reorder the 5 items with an eye toward accomplishing as much as possible since various people gave because of a fondness for one or another item.

1. Re-modeling and refurbishing the Parish Center and School is still #1 and should be completed and done well. Our estimated cost of \$500,000 was low, and we will need \$750,000 to get the job done well.

2. Item #2 should become the Immersion/Mission Trip Endowment. This should be fully funded at the proposed \$200,000.
3. Item #3 should be the outreach gift to Prince of Peace Parish prorated down to 72.5% of the original \$50,000 for a new amount of \$35,000. 72.5% is the amount of our overall goal that we achieved.
4. Item #4 should be the new narthex. We will have about \$210,500 for that, which is not enough, but which can become seed money for for the project in the future.
5. Item #5 is the new electronic organ. That item can be removed from the list. It will be donated by one donor outside the FIOF campaign.

### **Strategic Planning Process Update**

Kurt Baumann provided the update. There will be a facilitated planning session with representatives from each of the 6 standing committees. Each was asked to provide 7 members or delegates to participate in the planning sessions that will be held on March 2. He polled committee liaisons as to their committees' discussions on this. Finance, Prayer & Worship and Stewardship committees did not get to it at their meetings. School Board did discuss who would attend. It will be important for each standing committee to have 7 members or delegates available to participate at the strategic planning sessions on March 2. There will be facilitated sessions focusing on doing a SWOT analysis and using the newly updated parish mission statement to set the vision with all coming together at the end to distill what each group came up with. Mike Ostrenga remarked that it is difficult to get participants to think strategically as it is often easier to think tactically.

Parish Council confirmed that the mission statement that was discussed at the last meeting is final and how to communicate it to the parish should be an agenda item for the next agenda meeting.

### **Selection Committee Update**

Relative to the selection for new members for standing committees, Cheryl Zima and Pat Butler are members of the selection committee from Council and Pat reported that she and Cheryl have a target list that they will discuss further and draw from to add two more non-Council members to the committee.

### **Liaison Committee Reports**

Administrative Services/Finance—Much of their meeting focused on the significant number of school families and CF families who have not returned pledge cards. School families have been expected to donate at least \$10 per week and that amount has been the recommended minimum since Father Lipscomb was pastor. They suggested raising the recommended minimum contribution to \$15 per week and sending out a letter (similar to the one used back in 2001-2002) to school families who have not yet turned in a pledge card. The letter would be signed by the school principal and the pastor. There was also discussion on how to elicit a greater pledge card response from CF families also. The parish investment portfolio was up 21% as of year end. We are seeing a budget deficit of \$58K. The accounting treatment in the budget that shows the Bids for Kids revenue seems to give a distorted picture of financials—we

cannot use the funds at the parish leadership's discretion (for example for textbooks) but rather the Home & School Association decides how the raised funds will be used. Mike Ostrenga provided a recommendation on how to more appropriately show the budget item but the suggestion seemed to be rejected without much consideration. It may be considered further.

**Building Project Committee**—Father Ken reported that he meets with VJS biweekly. The restroom remodeling is almost done. The next phase will be started once campaign funds are available. There is about \$185K of work left to be done. Father did not think that figure included the cost of new furniture. The Christian Formation department had to move out of their offices and work space a week ago during the remodeling which is difficult at this time of year.

**Christian Formation**—The council liaison for Christian Formation was not able to attend the meeting, so there was no formal report from the Christian Formation meeting. Separately, Fr. Phillip updated the council that there has been discussion of the plan to move the high school program out of homes on Sunday evenings and back to the parish and to offer two times for classes – Sunday afternoon after the 11 a.m. Mass or on Wednesday evening.

**Human Concerns**—Paul Mindel reported that they are compiling a list of ministries that falls under the Human Concerns umbrella—it totals 27-30. When asked about what are some of the ministries under Human Concerns, Paul offered a partial list: All Saints Meal Program, Angel Tree, Best of Friends, Divorce Ministry, and Grief Ministry. Committee Chair Mark Rye observed that it is hard to track who is in charge of each ministry. It is not always documented and there does not seem to be any succession plan. If a leader leaves, the ministry could be discontinued. They are working on getting updates on what each is doing, what they need, who is involved and what their budget needs might be. They raised the idea of having a monthly raffle to fund some of their activities. They are checking to see if a license is required before proceeding. Mary Janowak is looking for new events. Haiti relief projects are ongoing. Ecology has become an interest.

**Prayer & Worship**—Kathy Bell indicated that they have identified who will speak about their standing committee at the upcoming Masses regarding committee nominations. Mary Lopez will draft a script that the committee will edit further. She reported that the Archdiocesan Day of Penance Respect Life Mass held here at SJV went well. The 5PM Sunday Mass will be coming back in March. They were successful in recruiting for the ministries and that is being scheduled. She also reported that their committee supports the FIOF case statement reprioritization.

**School Board**—Larry indicated that some parents have offered input regarding the Middle School changes. They had two listening sessions to provide a chance for parent input and good 2-way dialogue. They are confident that enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year will reach its goal of 512. They are anticipating a more substantial tuition increase for next year when compared to the current year. It is hoped that the 2010-2011 budget will be approved at the 3/8 Parish Council meeting.

**Stewardship**—Kurt referred to the analysis done by Jim Hessling which shows that FIOF contributions and the slow economy are largely the cause of lower giving. Kurt also mentioned

that approximately half of the committee will be involved in the parish strategic planning input meeting on March 2nd.

New Business—Paul Mindel asked if there would be value in determining how much is collected at each of the weekend Masses. It was pointed out that with electronic donations it would be virtually impossible to get meaningful information. Also, it would be extra work to keep the donations from Mass to Mass separated to do the counting. A discussion ensued regarding the benefit of such an analysis with a conclusion that at this time, there does not seem to be a need for such analysis.

**Closing Prayer:** Mike Ostrenga led the Council in prayer.

**Next Meeting:** March 8, 2010

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Pat Butler