

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH
UNAPPROVED PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 4, 2010

APPROVED 4/8/2010

Present: Fr. Joseph Aufdermauer, Louise Cwiklinski, Janis Fitschen, Mike Flaherty, Brian Graf, Virginia Grimm, Liz Hanna, Sharon Hirsch, Jenn Houdyshell, David Koenig, Emmy Lou Norris, Bob Opichka, Dave Stawicki, Carol Van Duser, Dennis Wisialowski

Absent: Gladys Johnson, Carl Steinke

Opening Prayer and Scripture Readings

The February **minutes** were approved as written.

Report from Fr. Joseph Aufdermauer: Fr. Joe turned the discussion of the changes to the **Parish Constitution and Bylaws** over to Mike since he had highlighted items in the Bylaws for discussion.

Article I, Sec. 2 – It was decided to pursue having a couple of non-council members on the Discernment Committee next year.

Sec. 2f – It was decided council discerners be requested to turn in a short biographical sketch at the third discernment meeting. These can be included as a bulletin insert to introduce them to the parish and as a way to encourage parish support. This insert could be the weekend of the Parish Council Blessing.

Article III, Sec. 4c – The agenda will be posted in the Gathering Area the weekend before a Council meeting.

Sec. 6c – The secretary will distribute Council agendas and minutes to committee chairpersons as well as Council members via e-mail.

Article V, Sec. 3 e, j, & l – Through newly instated liaisons, Council hopes to improve communication with standing committees.

Sec. 4 – In the phrase “Christian/Lifelong Faith Formation is a lifelong process”, it was decided to remove “Lifelong” as redundant later on in the phrase.

Sec. 5 – Standing Committee Chairpersons will be invited to report to Council annually.

Sec. 6 – Though a chairperson’s term is one year, it can be renewed.

It was further decided that each year in September the Council should review all items in the Bylaws and work towards fulfilling them during the year.

Council members approved the draft proposal. Fr. Joe will send the draft to the Archdiocese for its approval.

Report from Liz Hanna: 108 people have signed up for Fr. Joe’s Lenten Scripture Study on the Gospel of Mark.

A seven-year-old girl is scheduled to be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Report from Dennis Wisialowski: Dennis had no report.

Unfinished Business:

The **New Member Breakfast** is tentatively scheduled for April 18, after the 8:30 A.M. Mass. It was suggested invitations be sent to those families who have joined the parish in the past six months and an open invitation put in the bulletin.

Update on **meetings** of the Parish Council Liaison with their respective committee heads.

- Administration – Bob has met with the chairs.
- Human Concerns – Janis is waiting for a response from non-attendees.
- Christian Formation – Brian interviewed Mickey. Jenn will speak with Marilyn and Ann as well as contact Liz and Bob Sment.
- SLAW – will be meeting April 26
- Parish Life – Virginia will get on it.

Mission Statement

Janis asked if something could be done to make the Parish Mission Statement more visible. This was referred to the Agenda Committee for a future meeting.

New Business:

Carol reported on her meeting with **Habitat**. The organization has a grant from the government and really needs help to build 100 new houses within three years. Seton will tentatively begin one in the area of 25th and Center in July with Wauwatosa United Methodist Church, two other Methodist churches, and the Chamber of Commerce. She explained the procedure for ownership. After prospective homeowners fill out an application, they must put in 300 hours of service before they get their lot, and then 200 more hours are required before they can take occupancy. Because of the grant, Seton needs less than half of the normal \$65,000 to begin a house this time. Another advantage to the parish is keeping our regular base of volunteers building as well as hopefully recruiting more. Carol will keep the Parish apprised with bulletin articles.

Father reminded the Council that the main purpose of the parish is as a spiritual base for the people, teaching the ways of the Lord Jesus, and not a human resource for charity. This was referred to the Agenda Committee for a future meeting.

Nominations for Parish Council are still open for two weeks. A list of mentors for the upcoming discernment was distributed and mentors are asked to contact their assigned nominee ASAP. Also, each council member should talk with two parish members and encourage them to discern for Council. It was decided to return the nomination box to the Gathering Area. Anyone discerning must be able to attend the last discernment meeting and is strongly encouraged to attend all three meetings. An overview of time commitment for Council includes 11 monthly meetings on the first Thursday, about two hours in length, and attendance at an archdiocesan formation session that includes going through the Council binder.

Fr. Joe will look into bringing someone here for formation of current members.

Because April 1 is Holy Thursday, it was decided to schedule the next meeting on April 8, 2010.

Parish Concerns

We Pray for Others

Closing Prayer: Carol led the closing prayer.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, April 8, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. Janis has closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Carol Van Duser
Secretary

Respectfully submitted
Cathy Riedl
Recording Secretary