

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Oct. 28, 2008

(Our next meeting will be on Nov. 25, 2008 at 7 PM.)

Attendees

Msgr. Sean Flynn* Present
Deacon Dennis Saake* Present

Members

Peter Abitanto**	Present	Melissa Rafter	Present
Craig Beattie	Absent	Nestor Roman	Present
Gary Cademartori**	Absent	Frank Sharp	Present
James Farrell	Present	Marjorie Zaccaro	Present
Karen Pappas**	Present		

* Denotes Clergy/Staff

** Denotes Officers

Highlights:

Monsignor opened the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer. Karen then called the meeting to order by welcoming the members and having everyone introduce themselves, since four new members have been recently added: Craig Beattie, James Farrell, Nestor Roman and Marjorie Zaccaro, to replace previous members who had resigned. The expected term for Parish Council members will be 3 years with a possible 3 year renewal.

Monsignor spoke about a possible seminar for Parishioners on the Spirituality of Retirement given by Deacon Bob Diehl. The Council thought this seemed like a very interesting program, so Monsignor will now check with other Parishes that have already had this for references and he will confirm the total cost.

Monsignor reported that our Nursing Ministry is talking with our Eucharistic Ministers to identify people who may benefit from their home visits. He is also working directly with the Eucharistic Ministers to update and further improve their operating procedures. Our Youth Groups are now running more smoothly and the attendance at our Youth Mass this month was encouraging.

Monsignor also reported that our Music Director is making some adjustments in the music during Masses in response to Parishioners' feedback. In addition our Music Director has suggested that we survey our Parishioners further on this subject. After some discussion the Council agreed that a new Parish Survey covering many topics including music would be good to consider in 2009, timed for perhaps late Spring, after the snowbirds return to optimize the number of responses. This might include some live interviews with a sampling of Parishioners as well as written questionnaires to all.

The following topics were also discussed as objectives for 2009:

- Balance Parish collections and expenses
- Continue to improve our various Ministries
- Integration with Hispanic members of our Parish

Nestor invited everyone to attend the special Hispanic celebration at St. Mark's of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, Dec. 14. It was also mentioned that the Hispanic Ministry is trying to establish a Parish Council for their members and would like someone from our Council to participate. Melissa volunteered to be on that Council.

Melissa reported that she and her husband have started helping some Hispanics begin integrating with other Parish members by jointly attending Sunday Masses in what she described as an "Adopt a Family" program. Melissa is also gathering information on the Diocesan Parish Council, and at Monsignor's previous suggestion she would be happy to represent St. Mark's on this once the details are better understood. She will be contacting Fr. Stash at St. Denis as the next step to learn more about this from their perspective.

Letters of appreciation have been sent out to previous Parish Council members who recently resigned and a thank you notice will also be placed in our Bulletin. Following this a notice announcing our new Council members will be included in a subsequent Bulletin. The Parish Council membership list will also be updated on our website.

Deacon Dennis reported that the updated website information on our Hispanic Ministry has been completed and delivered to Joanne Gibson for incorporation. Frank Sharp reported that work has begun on the development of the additional website information on our Youth Group, although the expected completion date is not yet available.

Plans for developing the Memorial Tribute to Monsignor Carton are underway. An artist, Melissa Dayton, will be painting a portrait that will be placed in our Diocesan Library, which will be named after Monsignor Carton and dedicated later this year in his honor.

Marjorie reported some Parishioner feedback suggesting wheelchair access to the restrooms in the church basement. Deacon Dennis advised the Council that this was investigated previously and it would involve considerable work. A ballpark estimate for this was approximately \$150,000, plus there would likely be space and interference issues with the southeast entrance since a ramp would be required.

Action Items from the October 28, 2008 Meeting:

1. Get suggestions for agenda items for our meetings to Karen by the 10th of each month to allow sufficient time for review, approval and distribution of the package one week prior to each meeting. Responsibility: All Members.
2. Think of ways to better operate and utilize our Parish Library. Responsibility: All
3. Complete plans to create a dedication in our Library in honor of Monsignor Carton. Responsibility: Melissa and Gary.

4. Work with the Youth Ministry regarding website information updates.
Responsibility: Frank Sharp
5. Identify a young adult who may be interested in working as a liaison with the Parish Council to represent the youth of our community. Responsibility: Dennis
6. Check references on the Spirituality of Retirement program with other Parishes that have already done this and confirm the total cost of this for consideration at St. Mark's. Responsibility: Monsignor
7. Gather more information on the Diocesan Parish Council from Fr. Stash at St. Denis' Parish. Responsibility: Melissa