

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes Sept. 30, 2008

(Our next meeting will be on Oct. 28, 2008 at 7 PM.)

Attendees

Msgr. Sean Flynn*	Present
Deacon Dennis Saake*	Present

Members

Peter Abitanto**	Absent	Melissa Rafter	Present
Gary Cademartori**	Present	Nester Roman	Present
Karen Pappas**	Present	Frank Sharp	Present

* Denotes Clergy/Staff

** Denotes Officers

Highlights:

Monsignor opened the meeting with a prayer and scripture reading. Karen then called the meeting to order by welcoming all the members and advising that the Council would have a new representative for the Spanish Ministry, since Carlos and Diana Zuna, both had work conflicts.

The meeting proceeded with a discussion of the Minutes and Monsignor requested that a change be made in the minutes from the August Parish Council meeting. The correction should state that Monsignor offered the idea that the Parish Council "could" include a few people who represent our largest ministries, not "should" as stated in the minutes.

The Council discussed the idea of the Parish Nurses making house calls to homebound parishioners to check their blood pressure. There will be a dinner meeting next week of the Parish nurses and it will be discussed further with Monsignor.

During the weekend masses of October 4th and 5th, Monsignor will be addressing St. Mark's financial state of affairs. Monsignor discussed the fact that our parish is running on a deficit and ideas were again discussed on different options for the weekly collections. Karen suggested that we should make a point to say that the capitol campaign is now completed, so parishioners will know that when they consider their weekly contributions. This is especially important for parishioners who opt to participate in automatic electronic giving.

Monsignor advised that youth group mass will now be one time per month, scheduled for the last Sunday of each month, beginning in October. The bulletin will now publish weekly, the rotating music ministry that will be singing at each mass on a weekly basis.

The Parish Council welcomed Mr. Nester Roman who is a representative from the Spanish community. Mr. Roman will be our link to the issues and concerns of the Spanish community as they are an integral part of our Parish. Deacon Dennis will be meeting with the Zuna's to discuss music issues in the Spanish Choir and hopes to get monthly Parish Council meetings running in the Spanish Ministry as well.

Monsignor brought to the attention of the Council that our parish should have representation at the Diocesan Pastoral Council in Trenton. Nelda Ragan and Frank Prettyman were our previous representatives, but they have resigned from St. Mark's Parish Council. Melissa offered to find out more information about the meetings, such as times and dates, etc. Monsignor also stated there is a local group that meets as well for our area.

The Parish picnic was held as scheduled on Sunday September 21st. The turnout of families was positive, despite the forecast for poor weather that actually held off during picnic hours. Ideas were again brought to the table about changing the picnic to an earlier time, perhaps late August, or early September with a committee to help organize the picnic as there was not nearly as much food this year as in previous years. Deacon Dennis thought this was because families were unsure if the picnic was going on or not due to the weather.

Karen reported that she wrote the announcement for the advertisement for three new candidates to apply for a seat on the Parish Council. Letters of interest were received by Monsignor. A nominating committee, consisting of Monsignor Flynn, Karen Pappas and Peter Abitanto will be interviewing perspective Parish Council members.

At the October meeting, we will discuss any new events Monsignor and Council members may wish to plan for the year ahead. Karen discussed the need to update Monsignor on the Council's three year mission plan that was put into place and to evaluate where we are now. It is hoped that all new Council members will be able to participate in our October meeting.

Further discussion took place about the Memorial tribute to Monsignor Carton. Gary discussed dedicating the library to Monsignor Carton by naming it after him and having a commemorative plaque with his picture hung in the library as a tribute. Melissa and Gary agreed to work together on this project. Deacon Dennis brought up the idea of asking Melissa Dayton, who works with our Youth Group and is an artist by trade, to paint a picture for this purpose. Melissa Rafter agreed to contact Melissa Dayton and this will be discussed further at next meeting.

Karen suggested that a letter of gratitude and thanks should be sent to our former members of the Parish Council who have recently resigned, thanking them for their years of service and commitment. They are Nelda Ragan, Frank Prettyman and Tom Hayes. Karen offered to write these letters to thank our former council members for their work and years of dedicated service.

Melissa mentioned that a friend of hers, who is a registered nurse, agreed to spend one Sunday per month, after the Spanish Mass at 5:00 PM, checking blood pressures for Spanish families. Melissa will accompany the nurse to provide information on social services and or community resources available to the members of the church.

Frank advised the council that he has four young adults that have generously offered of their time to work on updating the web site for the youth ministry.

The Council discussed parishioner feedback, and the issues turned to the music program, with much of the feedback from the August meeting being repeated: namely, that the music is still too loud, that there is too much music, with no time for parishioner prayer after Holy Communion, and that the music should be an accompaniment to Mass and not a performance. The Council members requested to meet with the Music Director at the October meeting to discuss their concerns.

As all the agenda items were completed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Action Items from the September 30, 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 about ways to better operate and utilize our Parish Library. Responsibility: All
3. Begin working on plans to create a dedication in our Library in honor of Monsignor Carton. Responsibility: Melissa and Gary.
4. Work with the leaders of the Youth Ministry regarding website information updates. Responsibility: Frank Sharp
5. Draft the letter of appreciation to our retired PC members. Responsibility: Karen
6. Meet with Dawne to advise her that the Parish Council wishes to meet w her at October meeting. Responsibility: Monsignor Flynn
7. Reach out to the young adult who may be interested in working as a liaison with the Parish Council to represent the youth of our community and also to advise on events at St. Catherine's. Responsibility: Dennis
8. Schedule meetings with volunteers to discuss the nominations to the three open positions at the Council. Responsibility: Monsignor Flynn with assistance from Karen and Peter and staff.
9. Review budget request for Monsignor Carton dedication and obtain permission from Pastor Flynn. Responsibility: Karen and Peter.