

MINUTES

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting—October 15, 2008

The St. Bridget Parish Council Meeting was called to order by Christian Barrett on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Christian Barrett opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Msgr. Carr, Christian Barrett, David Anderson, Tom Bliley, Charlene Bechely, Tim Corbett, Frank deVenoge, Kim Hulcher, Billy Reid, John Smith, Mary Martha Thedieck, Donna Weber

Absent: Jeff Hamm; Kay White

Guests: Chris Palumbo (Finance Council) and Wayne Slough, Director of Development

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

The first order of business was an update by Christian Barrett on Building and Development. Msgr. Carr, John McCulla and group went before Msgr. Shreeve who served as proxy for the Bishop. They were open to the prospects of our proposed projects, but the bottom line is: The school project has been approved. The church projects (including new organ) are to be put on hold because of the economy and the scope of projects.

We have one month until signing of contract for school. This must be done then to give the builders enough time to get materials, in order that the project can be completed during the summer months.

The diocese project requirements are: 1/3 in cash (which we have), 1/3 in committed pledges, and 1/3 can be financed. Christian then turned the meeting over to Chris Palumbo of the Finance Council.

Chris Palumbo: Gave handout on Phase 1 of building and development and explained handout in its entirety. Said that only school part is now being considered. Also listed what improvements were scheduled to be made to the school. These included: windows, A/C, Cabinetry, ceilings, lighting, sprinkler system, reglazing and improvement of bathrooms, painting. Also said that, since this was printed, Capital Reserve Funds (Cash) has lost over \$100,000—down to less than \$680,000. Fund raising activity needs to be done quickly in order to meet construction schedule.

Questions/Comments from Parish Council Members:

Q. What would happen if we not sign the contract in November, then re-evaluate and come back to the table in Dec. or Jan.? Economy is at rock bottom now; election is ahead not behind us. Parish collections have not entirely caught up with summer slump.

Chris responded that the problem is the time constriction of getting all the work done in one summer. Finance Council is asking J. McCulla to tell builders to re-evaluate their pricing in view of changes in product and labor cost in the present economy.

Q. Is it realistic to expect to raise this money in today's economy?

Q. Has Finance Council considered selling securities now in order to get hold of cash needed, in case the market goes down even further in the future?

Chris responded: F.C has discussed this, but has been advised that they may not want to "sell low" now, as they may receive enough cash in pledges to cover the amount of cash needed.

Wayne Slough, Director of Development:

Parish invited small gatherings to tell them of our wants and needs. Did not stress time line—mistake. So he then calls each one to explain and ask them to make pledge. He tells them that they were given the big picture at the meeting, and we are now asking help with our current urgent need (school).

Q. Many foundations are still required to give 5-10% each year. Has foundation giving been looked into?

Wayne responded that so far they have concentrated only on individual giving. The plan is to work the individual list and then if more is needed to seek elsewhere.

Q. Shouldn't we be working on both foundation and individual giving at the same time?

It may be too late to follow Plan A with Plan B if the first doesn't complete the job. Work Plans A, B and even C at the same time. Plan C could be summer of 2010 instead of 2009.

Q. One member had been to the first presentation and said that it was not presented at all like Wayne just stated. She said that there were negative comments and she would like to talk to Wayne privately and tell him what feedback she heard while at the meeting.

Msgr. Carr said that the meeting at Westwood went a lot better and was focused mainly on the school. He is getting good feedback from that meeting.

Wayne said that Bishop's decision has been a blessing in disguise because now we are forced to focus on school. He asked us to give him help with names and introduction to people we know who might be able to help with this drive.

School Update:

- The River Roast was a success. 300+ people, good food and music. The next event is: Girls Night Out on 11/20/08. Nineteen new vendors this year. Better timing—**before** Bizarre Bazaar.
- Total Enrollment: 489 (Last year 483)
- Middle School: 165 (Last year 158)

Irish Tenor:

- Everything is taken care of except we need to sell more tickets. 300 out of 1000 sold to date.

- Kim Hulcher asked what the profits from the Irish Tenor are being earmarked for this year. Msgr. Carr said they are not earmarked yet. May go to general fund.

Parish Morale by C. Barrett:

- Chris' email address is listed in the bulletin and he has gotten many emails complaining that every week all we hear is money, money, money. People believe there are too many requests for money. Christian suggested that we be mindful of what we need in short term, and then cultivate our long-term needs and requests.
- We also talked about the number of tables in the commons after mass and discussed the need to regulate the number of tables on each Sunday. May try not having them during the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses for several Sundays.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

- Kim Hulcher made a special request for an early Christmas Eve Mass. Parishioners would like a Family Mass at 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. Most other parishes have this, and it not only serves a need of the parishioners but we are also losing revenue because our parishioners are going elsewhere on Christmas.
- Msgr. said that St. Stephens has a 4:00 p.m. service and parking would be a problem, however he would look into it and get back to us.

Women's Ministry:

- Kim Hulcher reported that we are working with Reveille and others on an in-house retreat for February. She also said that she had attended the Sarah Palin rally. It was a blessing to hear her speak on Right to Life. Great role model.

Men's Ministry:

- Frank deVenoge reported Oct. breakfast well attended. Wants non-denominational Bible study to grow. He has lots of ideas to implement.

Parish Announcements and Pulse of Parish:

- Diocesan Pastoral Planning Commission will host a meeting for all Central Va. Parishes to unveil final draft for the Strategic Plan for the diocese on October 29, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The meeting is open to all parishioners.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center Meeting Room.