

MINUTES

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting—February 18, 2009

The St. Bridget Parish Council Meeting was called to order by Christian Barrett on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.. Kim Hulcher led us in prayer.

Present: David Anderson, Christian Barrett, Tom Bliley, Kim Hulcher, Billy Reid, John Smith, Mary Martha Thedieck, Donna Weber, Kay White and Msgr. Carr (after Principal Search Committee Meeting).

Guest Speaker: Paul Amrhein of the Human Concerns Ministry. Paul explained the budget process which is based on a grant system. The parish gives out grants to approximately twenty projects annually, and allocates funding quarterly. At the end of presentation we were given a handout listing the projects and their ministries. The income for these projects comes from two sources: the general fund and the special monthly collections.

This year there has been an increased appeal for help from within our parish. This has put a drain on the monies budgeted and also on time spent in screening etc.

Paul also reported on the Neighbor to Neighbor project initiated last month. It is divided basically into three parts: Our own parishioners, Pregnancy Resource Center, and refuge placement.

The parish council expressed these concerns: 1. that the needs of our own parishioners should be addressed first, and 2. that our parishioners are not aware of all the ministries in which the parish is involved. It was suggested that Paul could focus on a ministry or two at mass on designated Sundays. Other forms of parish communication could be used also. The council also told Paul that he should feel free to come to parish council about lack of funds. We also asked for a spread sheet showing the allocation of project funds. C. Barrett asked Paul Amrhein to come back in April to give us an update.

Building Update: Meeting with Bishop's designate went well. Line of credit from the diocese was opened. Hourigan has agreed to drop \$20,000 - \$30,000 from its price. Fund raising continues and emphasis is shifting to church. 2/3 of total was raised by the end of January. Shift will now go toward the organ.

Parish Council Elections: Mary Martha Thedieck reported on the parish council in general and on the elections to be held on May 16 & 17. Parishioners and staff have complained that parish council is not as visible as it could and should be. Wanted to know exactly what is the role of parish council? Mary Martha also said that there needs to be a staff member on parish council for communication purposes. Said that parish council and staff both need a copy of the parish calendar, and it should be updated monthly. Discussion followed. Frances Smith keeps the calendar and Kim and Donna will get together with her to arrange for council to have an updated copy monthly.

There are four vacancies for parish council that will need to be filled at the election in May. Each member was asked to bring names to the March meeting. Talk to the persons first and see if they are interested and willing to be on parish council.

School Principal Search: Msgr. Carr came directly from the Search Committee meeting and reported that this meeting was with the parents to find out what they want to see in a new principal. It was a good meeting. Ads will be placed in different publications. Msgr. also reported that the Cookie Lewis concert raised \$15,000 for the school scholarship fund. Also said that the American Boys Choir will be at St. Bridget parish May 1.

Open Forum/Announcements: Christian Barrett told council about San Francisco Grace Cathedral (Episcopal). While in San Francisco he went to their website and was challenged by this parish's infiltration into cultural and political life. Many support groups and forums available in the parish. Thought this was interesting and wanted to share it.

Billy Reid said that parishioners wanted house lights turned up during mass.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia B. Meyer
Recording Secretary

Next Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 7:00p.m. Remember to bring names of candidates for parish council election.