

Parish Council Meeting Minutes March 9, 2006

Kevin Holland opened the meeting in prayer at 7:00 PM.

Attendees:

Father Dave
Kevin Holland
Mark Rheume
Dave DeBats
Brian Shea
Bob Murphy

Patty Dunbar
Jamie Gauer
Randy Heinz
Dan O'Donnell
Stan Starr
Pat Thomas
John Moorhouse
Mandi Crable

Absentees:

Roy Brown
Blake Jensen
Kathy Marsh
Kathy Bealer
Robin Bender

Father David reported on roof maintenance. He recommends that the project be done in 5 stages over a period of time schedule. The cost of the roofing will be approximately \$70,000. Any stage over \$10,000 needs permission from the Diocese.

John Moorhouse made a motion that we replace the roof in five stages and accept the lowest bidder of the project.

Stan Starr seconded the Motion.

The Motion Passed.

In accordance with diocesan policy, a letter to the diocese will be sent from the Council requesting permission for roofing.

Father David reported that the property owners of 2 lots adjacent to our property have asked us to revoke the covenants and allow them to change the zoning for the lots. A letter was sent to the diocese recommending approval.

Father David reported that plans and cost estimates for a new church sign are underway. The estimated cost of the sign is between \$9,000 and \$13,000. Kevin Holland made a motion that Father David has Council approval to proceed with requesting diocesan permission for the project.

Randy Heinz seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Father David asked if everyone was getting the minutes of meetings via e-mail. The response was yes by all present.

Committee Reports:

Pro Life: A march to Planned Parenthood and a rosary will be held on March 24th from noon to 1:30 PM. A dinner for CareNet will be held on March 26th from 12 to 4 PM. John Moorhouse of the Knights of Columbus will coordinate both projects. Father David, John Moorhouse and Arno Wetsch erected another Pro Life sign in the Forsyth area.

Communications Committee: Randy Heinz reported that he continually updates the web site.

Family Fun Committee: Not active at this time of the year but will help with the RCIA reception. A “Welcome to Newcomers” party and dance is in the development stages and can be planned for sometime after Christmas.

Education Committee: Brian Shea reported that several parents have called him asking for information as to what their young adults are learning in the youth group. Brian outlined his response to them by telling the Council that he has 4 main topics and that each session is dedicated to one of the topics. The topics are Spirituality, Faith, Social Justice and Morality.

Most of the Social Justice themes are used during the summer sessions. He reported that in addition to classroom sessions the groups also participate in fun activities such as, ski trips, rafting trips, local trips such as the corn maize and each summer they go to a weeklong summer camp.

Brians youth bible study group is also doing well. Attendance is spotty but growing. Works best when pizza is served.

Bob Murphy reported that the K-4 graders are doing well and that the Sacramental program is on track for the RCIC students at the Easter Vigil and the 2nd graders to make their sacraments on April 14, 2006. Some parents have signed their children up late in the year and are given home study to catch up their children.

Stan Starr reported that adult education especially the Bible Study group led by Glen Gauer is working well. Stan also has movies with Catholic themes on Thursdays. The next movie is “Pope John Paul II” scheduled for March 16, 2006.

Billings Catholic School Report: Dave DeBats reported that the entire faculty and student body responded with a great depth of feeling at the loss of Geoff Fishbaugh who died from injuries while skiing.

Discovery night will probably result in a net gain of 50 to 60 students in the system that might not have registered if not for attending the event.

Catholic operated Pre Schools have seen many of the children continue on as registered students in the K-12 school program. The empty Heights Family Practice building is being considered for a Heights pre school.

A script fund raising program between the Catholic schools and many stores has been working well and is expected to be expanded into the parishes in the near future. It’s like buying gift cards with a percentage of sales going back to the school.

RCIA: The RCIA and RCIC programs are on schedule.

Liturgy Committee: A discussion of procedures for Eucharist was held and the consensus was that information of a training or reminder nature be written into the quarterly schedule that is mailed or emailed.

Father David will monitor and advise the committee as to what training reminders might be appropriate for the schedule.

Music Committee: Jamie Gauer reported that she has redone some of the songs for the Station of the Cross liturgy. The music for the Easter Masses will be by a different group at each Mass. The music schedule will be published as soon as possible. Matt Haugan

will conduct a workshop at St. Bernard's on September 22, 2006. He is a very popular writer and singer.

She is working on music for Divine Mercy Sunday.

Social Justice Committee:

Haiti: Due to in-country turmoil, parish representatives may not be able to visit the Haitian Parish this year.

Dinner for the Women's shelter has been tabled until April.

Interfaith Hospitality Network: St Bernard's will host the program from March 12th to March 18th. Currently, a family of two are the only participants. All hosting positions are filled for the event.

Saint Vincent de Paul conference is meeting regularly the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7:00 PM at St. Bernard's. They plan to have 6 members invested to do home visits in the very near future.

Knights of Columbus: The annual tootsie roll fund raising drive will be held on April 8th and 9th.

The meeting ended in prayer, led by Kevin Holland at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Murphy