

Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2012

The meeting was called to order by chair, Steve Mullins at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Phylliss Dixon, Annie Dobbs, Dave Doudna, Joe Fields, Robert Mantei, Steve Mullins and Mary Robinson.

Staff present: Bob Barnard, Chuck Bowman and Cindy Fields.

Visitors present: Shannon Christensen

Approval of meeting minutes for February 15, 2012: One minor change in spelling of a name was made. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Approval of the March 31, 2012 meeting agenda: The agenda was amended with the addition of one new business item: "Fundraising." The agenda was approved by consensus.

Staff Reports

Community Service/Cindy Fields: Cindy gave an update on the "Pick-Click-and Give" program and her efforts to enroll Community Service/Soup Kitchen in the program. Due to the type of non-profit status the church currently has, an outside audit would have to be performed as part of the application process. The cost would be approximately \$8,000-12,000 and the parish simply could not afford to participate at this time. BP has also been trying to give a donation to the Soup Kitchen, but their regulations do not permit them to donate to a church. There have been discussions about Community Service/Soup Kitchen applying for a separate non-profit status. Cindy will keep the Council informed.

Community Service will be hosting Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 23rd and plans are underway for several events during the remainder of the Easter season. Cindy also reported that Joseph is continuing his outreach work with homeless youth on Thursday afternoons.

Maintenance/Chuck Bowman: Chuck reported that the asbestos removal project is still on-going but is hopeful it will be completed very soon. He noted that the project had taken much longer than originally anticipated.

We have received two bids for the siding project. Chuck said he and the Building Committee are still ironing out some details, but the bids were under \$200,000 and we have funds to pay for the project from the Restoration/Renovation fund. Chuck also reported that Conner Gilman is still working on the shed and the security cameras are ready to be mounted and put in use.

Chuck also noted that he has been working on cleaning out the attic area and has sent out an email with photos of items asking for information about them. He was hesitant to discard items until he knew more about the history of the items. Council members asked about the possibility of having a garage sale early in the summer in the Monroe parking lot. The last sale we had was reasonably successful and we were able to "recycle" many items that had been gathering dust in the church. Chuck will check with the administration at Monroe about using the parking lot.

As the Illinois Street project gets underway, Chuck said the contractor sees no problem with the siding project going ahead as planned and has indicated his willingness to work with us during

special events such as weddings and funerals to keep noise and work to a minimum during those times.

Religious Education/Bob Barnard: Many activities are on-going. A weekend Confirmation Retreat is being planned, a book sale and children will be making their first Holy Communion this coming Sunday (March 25). Bob told the Council that the RCIC and RCIA participants were involved with the Chrism Mass held at the Cathedral and the Youth Group was once again sponsoring the Easter Egg Hunt at the school on April 11. There will be a lunch, games and egg hunt for children in the parish.

Old Business

Fr. Fred reported that all is a “go” for the Seder Meal and that Georgianne Want and others will be coordinating the event. More help is needed and that about 100 families have already committed to attend. The dinner will be held on Saturday, March 31. Judge Kleinfeld and his wife, Judy, will once again guide us through the Seder.

Phyliss reported that all was well with the parish “Light Lenten Supper” which will be held on Friday, March 30 before Stations. There will be no cost for the dinner, but donations will be accepted – gratefully! The menu includes baked salmon, rice and beans with relish, salad, rolls and desserts. Annie is assisting Phyliss with the preparations.

Steve reminded the Council that we were doing the Stations on the 30th and if there were any more volunteers, please let him know.

Results of the recent audit will be forthcoming. Jack Traxis recently had surgery and was not able to attend this meeting, but will give us an update very soon.

Dave presented several ideas for parish fundraising. Prints of Joe Hruska’s painting of the church that was done in 2004 for our centennial could be made and sold, as well as reproductions of our Processional Cross. The Council decided to begin putting notices in the bulletin and take pre-orders once costs are known. Dave will bring additional information to the April meeting.

New Business

Processional Cross: The Processional Cross was accidentally broken recently after Mass. Steve Dean, original artist, was in town for the ice championships and was able to make repairs. Dave spoke with him about the possibility of having die casts made of the cross and selling them as a fundraiser for the parish. Dave shared some information regarding the possible cost. Council members thought it could be a good way to raise funds, particularly if they could be ready in time for the summer tourist season. Dave has volunteered to check further with foundry about costs, materials available and possible length of time it would take to produce replicas.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Fr. Fred reported that no activities had been planned as yet.

Parish Council Elections: Will be held May 5-6. Biographical sketches of candidates need to be published in the bulletin April 14 – April 28. We have three seats that are up for election – Phyliss Dixon, Annie Dobbs and Bob Mantei.

Stained Glass Window Dedication: Dedication is scheduled for Mother’s Day – May 13 at the 11 a.m. Mass. A reception or other activity will follow.

Parish Picnic: The picnic will be scheduled for Sunday, June 3rd at Pioneer Park. Annie will chair the event.

Member comments

Mary told the Council that Deacon Sean would be taking over the training of altar servers.

Annie suggested a "Name Tag Sunday" as a way of getting to know one another a bit better. She said there are many parishioners she sees every week, but does not know them by name. Council members agreed it was a good idea and perhaps we should use name tags for other parish events as well.

Steve told the Council that he is still working on and getting a closer to bringing Catholic radio to Fairbanks.

Fr. Fred thanked Parish Council members for their time, talents and dedication to the parish.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. after a closing prayer from Fr. Fred.

Submitted by Phyliss Dixon
Parish Council Secretary