

Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish
Parish Council Minutes
September 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order by chair, Joe Fields at 7:11 p.m.

Fr. Zygmunt led the group in Scripture Mediation.

Members present: Joe Fields, Bob Mantei, Annie Dobbs, Randy Kinsey, Katrina Yanish, Tammy Want and Phyliss Dixon

Members absent: Steve Mullins, Maria Muehlenkamp

Joe announced that Maria will be resigning from the Council.

Visitors present: Shannon Christiansen

Staff present: Bob Barnard, Cindy Fields

Kinsey moved, Mantei seconded, to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2010 meeting.

Randy Kinsey suggested archiving the council meeting minutes digitally rather than have boxes of minutes stored at the church. Council members thought this would be a good idea and will begin in May. Phyliss will be responsible for this task.

Several items were added to the agenda under New Business: Our Lady of Fatima/Parish activities for October, Thanksgiving, Mardi Gras and Kneelers.

Kinsey moved, Want seconded, to approve the meeting agenda as amended.

Staff Reports:

Community Service/Cindy Fields – Cindy told the Council that Bobby's Restaurant has offered once again to host Thanksgiving Dinner. Traditionally we have held the dinner here at the church with outside groups assisting with preparations and serving. Cindy stated it could be a wonderful sharing experience for the business community. There was discussion of pros and cons of having dinner at the church or at Bobby's, with Council members wishing to keep the traditional event here at the church. Cindy will attempt to contact other groups to participate in the dinner at Bobby's and will update us at the October meeting.

Cindy also said that volunteers were numerous, but the Soup Kitchen is still in need of a clean up crew. She has also been involved in a number of other

activities including her continued work with the Homeless Coalition and the Ecumenical Mission for Shelter. The AFN Convention will take place in Fairbanks mid-October with hundreds of visitors to Fairbanks. The Bishop will also be hosting an event for visitors to the convention.

Religious Education/Bob Barnard: Bob stated that all classes now have catechists and that the coming weekend will be the last weekend for registration. Religious education classes will begin on September 26th. Bob said he is strongly encouraging parents to do background checks in order to facilitate their assisting in the program when they have time and/or the inclination to help out.

Other religious education programs will be starting: Bible timeline will meet on Thursday afternoons; The Gospel of Matthew class will meet on Thursday evenings. Bob noted the cutoff for this class will probably be about 30 people. The Youth Group (meeting with SHC youth) meets on the first and third Sunday afternoons of the month, alternating between the Cathedral and Immaculate Conception. The Teen Bible Study class will begin meeting in October for an 8-week period. The second half of the year topic will be Theology of the Body. Bob also announced there will be a retreat for catechists on September 18th from 9 – noon.

Projects/Joe Fields: Joe provided the Council with a floor plan of the upstairs office area of the church. Fr. Zygmunt and he are proposing using the current storage area being used by musicians for Fr. Basil's office. The proposal would have the religious education office sharing space with the musicians. A small area is needed for storage of books and instruments. Bob raised concerns about the security of his office and people having access to files and other items in his office. Fr. Zygmunt assured all that those concerns would be addressed.

Joe also said there is an on-going project to build a shed to store out-of-season equipment. Currently seasonal equipment (snow blower and lawn mower) have to be hauled up from the basement and stored in the entryway to the rectory when they are in use. Other future projects include the re-siding and re-insulation of the exterior of the building.

Father Zygmunt/Parish Administrator: Fr. Zygmunt told the Council that Father Basil is indeed arriving soon. When Fr. Basil does arrive, duties will be split between them, with Fr. Zygmunt being the Parish Administrator. Fr. Basil will also need office space and it would be convenient to have offices that are across the hall from one another.

New Business

Our Lady of Fatima: Shannon Christensen told the Council that Our Lady of Fatima activities are scheduled for October. There will be a public rally of the Rosary on October 16. Other parishes are encouraged to be involved and would

like Immaculate Conception to do something in honor of Our Lady of Fatima as well. Cindy said that she had signed up to participate and she will meet with Shannon to coordinate activities. Fr. Zygmunt noted that his former parish held the Rosary in October and May before Masses. Shannon will coordinate times to recite the Rosary before Masses each day in October.

Thanksgiving: This item was addressed in the Community Service staff report.

Mardi Gras/Tammy Want: Tammy noted that it is never too early to begin planning this annual event. She will be the parish council liaison. She is looking for an event chairperson and will begin checking on locations.

Kneelers/Tammy Want: Tammy said that she has several parishioners speak with her about the condition of the kneelers. She said they need to be checked and repaired. Randy suggested putting a note in the bulletin asking for help with this task.

Randy Kinsey announced that the Knights of Columbus will be cleaning the Soup Kitchen on November 6 before hosting a chicken dinner.

Randy also asked Shannon about holding Masses at Holy Family Chapel. Shannon said there were many people who can't attend Mass due to inaccessibility issues at ICC. Council members noted that there is access from the Rectory door and use of the auto-chair located in the stairwell.

Kinsey moved, Want seconded to have the Parish Council explore courses of action and options on having Masses celebrated at Holy Family Chapel. Motion carried.

The Council will discuss the issue at the October meeting.

Unfinished Business

Dixon moved, Kinsey seconded to approve the Five-Year Plan for Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish.

Fr. Zygmunt told the Council the document had "good bones" and he would like to meet with the individual sub-committee chairpersons at a later date to discuss in detail their specific areas of the plan. Motion carried.

Phyliss will send the approved plan to Steve for posting on the parish website.

Member comments

Randy asked about the custodial/maintenance position. Fr. Zygmunt said the committee now has a completed job description and will be doing final interviews. He is hopeful that a decision will be made within a week.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by Phyliss Dixon, Secretary