

**Meeting Minutes**  
**St. John Fisher Parish Council (PC)**  
**October 21, 2007**

**1. Opening**

- Following the opening prayer led by Allan Reynolds, Lew Elbert reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and the agenda. He outlined the general format that we will be following: Items for Discernment; Information Updates, and Upcoming Events.

**2. Focus Item for Discernment: Revenue Strategy and Related Feedback**

- Joe Pauwels handed out the Revenue Strategy Summary and led the discussion relative to the strategy and the Stewardship “blessing” presented last weekend. Following are the key points from the discussion:
  - The blessing had the “right tone” – positive, but provided a status of where the parish is at financially.
  - It is important that we maintain a good balance between helping the faith family understand our financial situation and not making it appear that money is an overriding priority.
  - Several PC members feel that the “recovery budget,” as expressed in the bulletin, is still unclear. It needs to be refined – only one budget number should be used and it should be as simple as possible!
  - If a change is made to the bulletin Financial Status Summary, it should be sent to 2 or 3 PC members for their input relative to clarity.
  - There is general support for use of the word “estimated” instead of “pledge” for the letters that go out in December. These letters will be sent to Faith Family members asking for an “estimated” contribution for next year.
  - Like the bulletin Financial Status Summary, it is suggested that the letter be reviewed by 2 or 3 PC members before it is sent out. This should help confirm that it is understandable to the “average” parishioner.
  - As the Revenue Strategy is developed further for next year, it is important that we include an assessment in the spring to see how our finances are progressing. At that time, a status report should be provided to the faith family rather than waiting until the problem (if there is a problem) becomes significant.
  - The PC supports the idea of using a monthly envelope for the “building campaign.” This should be done only with proper communication. It was also suggested that we might want to insert a monthly envelope for the CCRT.
- Fr Jerry indicated that we are now moving forward with the lighting project. A number of reviews must take place with the Archdiocese and these have begun, with a targeted final approval date of November 19.

**3. Updates**

- **New Parishioner Welcoming** – Kim Dodd and Joe Pauwels participated in the New Parishioner Welcoming on Oct. 4 and reported it went very well. There were several new parishioners and the presentation format (Paul and PC members presenting and the use of the PowerPoint presentation) was well received. A sign-up sheet was passed around for future welcoming meetings – the schedule

will be published at a later date. We need one more person to sign up for November 6 and January 3.

We were all reminded by Fr. Jerry that welcoming is an important part of the Parish Council function - both before Mass and at the New Member Welcoming meeting.

- **Parish Leadership Conference** – Lew and Joe attended the sessions on recruiting volunteers and building effective teams. It was stressed in the “volunteer” session that recruiting volunteers is most effective when based on relationships. Regarding teambuilding, the major emphasis must be on trust, responsibility and good communication. It was felt by both Lew and Joe that the sessions could be more effective; a note will be sent to the coordinators suggesting improvements, such as having beginner, intermediate and advanced sessions.
- **Holy Family School** – Background and Expansion Plans  
Cecilia Karr reviewed the status of Holy Family Regional School, including our (SJF) relationship with it. Holy Family is a regional school, supported by 5 parishes, including SJF. We provide tuition assistance and Michelle Cushing attended the New Member Welcoming meeting on October 4 to promote awareness for the school. Cecilia reviewed the Holy Family expansion plans at the north campus.

#### **4. Auburn Hills Major Emergency Management Program**

- The City of Auburn Hills has asked local businesses and agencies to provide support if there is a major emergency in the area. Support is being asked for in 5 areas: Transportation, shelter, food, supplies and volunteers. The Parish Council has agreed that we should offer shelter if needed. In our response to Auburn Hills, we should make it clear what facilities we have and what we don't have (i.e. back-up power).

#### **5. Upcoming Items, etc.**

- The PAV Assembly is tomorrow evening (October 22) beginning at 6:30 PM at Christ the Redeemer parish. All Parish Council members are encouraged to attend.
- Parishes in the Archdiocese will soon be Incorporated individually. Lew and Paul Borucki will attend the training.
- Youth Group report – Allison Pitel reported that a Methodist minister attended the last meeting to facilitate a discussion on Christ's Parables. A hay ride is planned for the next meeting.
- There will be an “All Staff” meeting on November 27 that PC members are encouraged to attend.
- At our next meeting, we will begin the planning of how to recruit new members for next year's Parish Council and decide how many members will be replaced.
- The Young Adult Group is hosting a dinner and silent auction to benefit the Harvest for Hope. It will take place on Nov. 17 at 6:30 PM at the Elks Club in Rochester.
- Next Meeting: November 18th beginning at 11:30 AM.
  - Lunch – Julie Kubicki; Prayers – Renee Smith
- Members Absent: Kubicki and Brisbois (excused)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joe Pauwels