

Meeting Minutes
St. John Fisher Parish Council (PC)
June 1, 2008

1. Opening

- Paul Molnar opened the meeting by leading the group in prayer. Lew Elbert then reviewed this week's agenda and the minutes from the April meeting. There were no questions or changes to the minutes.
- Lew welcomed all of the new members to the Parish Council and provided a brief explanation of the binders we use to file PC agendas, minutes and other pertinent hand-outs.
- Each member of the Parish Council, including new and outgoing members, introduced himself or herself to the rest of the Council.
- **A special welcome to our new members: Jerry Bishop, Laura Borroni Bird, Erica Garcia, Dawy Gonzalez Ruiz, Jeannette Hojnacki and MaryAnn Weller.**

2. Focus Items for Discernment:

a) Survey from Communications Committee

- A survey has been developed by the PR-Communication-Volunteerism Committee to collect information from parishioners regarding the usefulness of the various forms of communication used by the parish.
- Parish Council members were asked to fill out this survey in advance of the meeting so that feedback could be provided on survey "ease of use."
- Lew collected the completed surveys and a brief discussion followed. In general, all agreed that the survey was easy to complete and should provide the information needed.

b) Feedback on Bulletin Inserts

- The parish staff is considering replacing the "Faith Connection" bulletin insert with "Every Day Catholic." The Faith Connection is inserted in the bulletin weekly and explores in some detail the Sunday readings. The Every Day Catholic insert is a monthly publication and provides an in-depth review of a specific topic for the month. The annual cost for each is almost identical.
- PC members reviewed the two inserts during the meeting and expressed a liking for both. However, there tended to be a preference for the more detailed Every Day Catholic and it was recommended by the Council that we try using it for a year. After a year, we will reassess its popularity and either continue it or reinstate use of the Faith Connection.

c) Purchase of House on Squirrel Road

- The house on Squirrel Road, adjacent to the parish parking lot, is once again available for sale and could be considered for use as a Rectory. The PC reviewed the pros and cons of this and would support the purchase of this house and the sale of the condominium (current priest residence) if the price is acceptable to the Archdiocese.

3. Updates

• Review of PC Materials for New Members

- Lew handed out the PC member notebooks and nametags to the new members. All are encouraged to use the notebooks for filing PC information and should bring them to the monthly meetings.

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- **Liaisons and Mentor Assignments for 2008-2009 Parish Council**
 - Joe Pauwels handed out a list of the new PC members with their Commission Liaison assignments and the name of the “current” PC member who will serve as their mentors for the first year of service on the council.

- **Discussion and Review of the Past Year**
 - The PC provided reflections on the accomplishments of the past year and agreed that much of what was accomplished was the result of very open and spirit filled participation and discussion.
 - A list of accomplishments developed by Lew and Joe was handed out at the end of the discussion.

- **New Parishioner Welcoming**
 - Members of the Parish Council have participated in the New Parishioner Welcoming Meetings over the past year and it was agreed that this has been well received by the new parish members. We will continue this next year – Joe will provide a schedule as soon as dates are available.

- **Growing In Spirit Campaign (GISC) Recognition**
 - Fr Jerry reviewed the latest plan to recognize those who have contributed to the GISC. The plan is for a book that lists all of the participants to be on display in the Gathering Space, near the windows.

- **Vicariate Review**
 - Lew explained the organization and purpose of the Pontiac Area Vicariate. Fr. Jerry is the current Vicar and will be for one more year; Lew is the outgoing Chairperson.

4. Thoughts on Next Year

- The agenda for the August meeting was handed out and reviewed. The meeting will be used primarily to help all members get to know each other better and a retreat will be conducted by Nancy Mason Bordley.
- Two areas of focus next year will be the 5 Year Plan and the 2008-2009 Parish Priority.
- Fr. Jerry presented certificates to those leaving the Council this year. **A very special thank you to the outgoing members: Kim Dodd, Lew Elbert, Cecilia Karr, Paul Molnar, Allison Pittel and Renee Smith. Your years of service on the Parish Council are greatly appreciated and you will be missed!!**

5. Close

- **Next Meeting: August 17, 2008 – Includes Commissioning & Retreat**
Lunch / Dinner – Joe Pauwels / Dairdre McGlothlin; Prayers – Our new Vice-Chair - Dairdre McGlothlin (More details to follow during the summer.)

- Members Absent: Tom Arwady, Kim Dodd, Renee Smith and MaryAnn Weller (excused)

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Pauwels