

Holy Redeemer Parish Council Minutes
May 19, 2010

Holy Redeemer Church, Saint Maria Goretti Room, 8:00 p.m.

Attendees: Dave Fortuna, Rosemary Allender, Brenda Cooley, Mollie Huitema, Terry O'Meara, Arlene Peterson, Mark Russo

I. Opening- Dave Fortuna

- a. The meeting time was moved from 7:30 to 8:00 to accommodate the Evening Prayer service.
- b. The meeting was opened a moment of silent reflection/prayer.

II. President's Comments

- a. Father George was not able to attend the meeting.

III. Chair's Comments- Dave Fortuna

- a. There were no candidates/nominees for the next term of the Parish Council. Will be further discussed under New Business
- b. There was some discussion about how a number of members are not getting e-mails about Parish Council business. The contact list was reviewed.
- c. Dave indicated that he forgot to request a bulletin announcement of the meeting. Mark suggested that perhaps the Parish Office should be requested to automatically develop bulletin announcements for the agreed upon schedule of the Council, and the Council would only contact the office in cases of meeting cancellations or date changes.

IV. Meeting Minutes- Mark Russo

- a. The minutes from the March 24, 2010 meeting had been previously approved and forwarded to Carol Macknis for posting on the Parish website. Copies of the minutes were distributed to Council members.
- b. The draft minutes of the January 20, 2010 meeting were distributed.
- c. Mark sent these out to Council members on March 15 for review.
- d. The intent was to discuss at the March meeting, but there was a disconnect on the rescheduling of the March meeting and they were not reviewed on March 24th.
- e. Mark received concurrence via e-mail from one Council member.
- f. The draft minutes were reviewed, and the following changes made:
 1. Page 3, Section IV, Finance Committee report- add the following item:
"p. An action item was identified for the Finance Committee to provide an explanation of what types of expenditures are included in the various budget categories contained within the Parish and School budgets."
 2. Page 4, Section V, Parish 100th Anniversary- at the end of Item g., add the following: "in order to accommodate more people than would fit in the Four Seasons Room."
 3. Page 5, Section VII, Item g- change "March 10th" to "March 24th".

- g. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the March meeting minutes, with the modifications above.
- h. Mark Russo will forward the revised minutes to Carol Macknis for posting on the Parish website.

V. Committee Reports

- a. It was discussed that the revised Parish Constitution will call for written reports from the Committee Chairs to the Chair of the Parish Council.
- b. The intent of the Chair is to distribute the committee reports with the Parish Council meeting agenda at least 1 week prior to the meeting date.
- c. Arlene suggested that it might save time and work to have the Committee Chairs forward their reports directly to all the Parish Council members in advance of the meeting.

Social Justice- Brenda Cooley

- a. In order to improve information sharing on social justice issues, Brenda Cooley met with members of the Holy Redeemer Pro-Life Group during their reception on April 25, 2010.
- b. She introduced herself and discussed coordination of social justice activities and Council support of their activities, whenever needed.

Liturgy

- a. Father Smarsh is the representative to the Parish Council.
- b. Dave requested that a copy of the Liturgy Committee minutes be sent to the Parish Council, starting the next Council year (July 1, 2010).

School Advisory Board

- a. There was no report from the Board
- b. Discussion was renewed about the need for a representative of the Board to attend and report out at Council meetings.
- c. No representative has currently been designated.
- d. The Principal is responsible for identifying a representative.
- e. While a representative at the meeting is highly preferred, it was discussed that, in the absence of a representative at the Parish Council meetings, a written report should be provided at least a week in advance of the Council meeting.
- f. Several ideas for improving representation from the School Advisory Board were discussed, including counting the time spent as part of the family volunteer hours requirement, and a tuition adjustment.

Youth Group

- a. Marie Winterson reported that she has been unsuccessful in recruiting a Youth Group representative to the Council.
- b. In lieu of a youth rep, Marie has offered to submit written reports of Youth Group activities.
- c. Arlene spoke with Marie about the written reports, but has not asked her to submit them at this time.

- d. The general consensus was that the reports should be required, if a representative is not going to be identified to attend the Council meetings.
- e. There was also discussion of the idea that Holy Redeemer Parish staff members should not be voting members of the Council, since they are not elected by the parishioners.
- f. At this time, Marie is also the Council's point of contact for Christian Formation activities.
- g. The concern was raised that, if staff members provide reports for a number of Committees in lieu of elected representatives, then the number of voting members on the Council would be effectively reduced.

Finance Committee

- a. As Ellen Davis was out of town, there was no report from the Finance Committee.
- b. A question was raised in reference to the January meeting minutes as to why the annual financial report for the period ending in June 2009 was not available until January 2010.

Security- Mark Russo

- a. The Committee has not met since the last Parish Council meeting.
- b. The letter to the College Park City Council requesting additional street lighting will be provided to Father George for review/signature before the July Council meeting.
- c. Coordination with the PG County Police contract cars assigned to College Park was effected and resulted in outstanding coverage for the Good Friday and Easter Vigil masses.
- d. There were also a number of parish volunteers for the Easter Vigil, including current and retired law enforcement officers, which resulted in excellent "360-degree" coverage.
- e. As it turns out, the current College Park project officer for the police contract and the lead PG County Contract Officer for College Park were both colleagues of Mark at the College Park Volunteer Fire Department for many years, which has resulted in an excellent working relationship that has filled in gaps when parish volunteers have not been available.
- f. Mark is going to discuss a proposal with Father George before the next Council meeting to consider approaching Koons Ford to obtain a donation of the current very large light poles/lights in their now vacant car lot on Baltimore Avenue. These lights are still on at night and anyone can go by and see how effective they would be for the Holy Redeemer parking lot. Storage and transportation would be issues that would have to be worked out.

100th Anniversary- Dave Fortuna & Arlene Peterson

- a. A meeting of the committee was held last week. This initial meeting was primarily an "idea" meeting.
- b. A session with potential vendors for the Parish Directory is being set up for June (date to be determined). Rita Thompson sent an e-mail message this week to the

- committee members about the meeting. Dave will forward it to the rest of the Council members for informational purposes.
- c. An individual who was involved with the 75th Anniversary celebration of the Parish will also participate.
 - d. Father George would like to see a new Parish Directory out in 2010, but it may be early 2011, since the current target for photos is September.
 - e. A number of potential events were discussed and there was good support for Brenda's idea of holding a square dance in the parking lot, so more people could be accommodated than in the Four Seasons Room.
 - f. An alumni gathering is being planned for September 2011.
 - g. A Parish Picnic hosted by Father George is being planned for Saturday, June 9, 2012.
 - h. The Archbishop is scheduled to celebrate mass at Holy Redeemer on Sunday, June 17, 2012.
 - i. Brenda advised that she knows of one of the founding parishioners of Holy Redeemer that lives in Riderwood. His son lives in Greenbelt and she believes he was one of the first people to attend Holy Redeemer School. The Council is very interested in having such individuals be part of the anniversary celebration.
 - j. The committee would like to schedule a planning meeting sometime next month.

VI. Old Business

- a. Parish Constitution
 - 1. A final discussion and vote on the revised Parish Constitution was tabled until Ellen Davis can be present, since she coordinated the revisions.
- b. Role of the Parish Council
 - 1. There was further discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the Parish Council, particularly with regard to financial matters.
 - 2. A number of questions were raised about the convent renovations, including how and why the costs went beyond the initial estimate, how Archdiocesan procurement limits factor into decisions, and whether the Council should be informed of significant expenditures in advance (especially unplanned expenditures).
 - 3. The role of the Finance Committee is unclear, especially in light of a report that the Finance Committee did not have to review or approve the renovation budget or cost overruns.
 - 4. The question of what the Council accomplished in the past year was raised.
 - 5. It was pointed out that the needed update of the Parish Constitution will be completed this year.
 - 6. Mark suggested that the Council should create an annual plan that would be developed in conjunction with or presented to Father George for his consideration/input. This document would outline desired objectives/activities for the upcoming year and serve to ensure that all parties are clear on their roles, responsibilities, and expectations. Development of the document could be major agenda item for the July meeting of the Council.

7. Dave pointed out that the revised Constitution calls for a new mechanism by which the Chair and Vice Chair meet with Father George in the Council's "off months" to develop meeting agendas.
8. The question was raised of whether the Council should meet monthly instead of bi-monthly.

VII. New Business

a. New Member Elections

1. The lack of parishioners interested in joining the Council was discussed.
2. Elections were announced in the bulletin for 3 weeks.
3. It was suggested that a presentation be made at each of the masses by a Parish Council member on the roles and responsibilities of the Council, in order to encourage participation.
4. Arlene agreed to draft an information piece for inclusion in the bulletin on the weekend of June 5/6.
5. Dave suggested that the Parish Council might also consider hosting Community Sunday on June 13th. He advised that he would coordinate with Agnes Newman.
6. There was discussion and a consensus was reached that the most effective method would likely be "directed recruiting" by Father George.
7. Terry felt that current Council members could also discuss the opportunity with people they know in the parish.
8. Regardless of how interested individuals are identified, it was agreed that elections would still be held in July.

b. Council Meeting Schedule and Communications

1. Methods for communicating Council deliberations and resulting questions to the President/Pastor when he is not present at the meetings need to be developed and agreed to by all parties.
2. The question of whether meetings should be held in the absence of the President/Pastor was discussed.
3. Mark suggested that the Council communicate with the Parish Office before establishing the annual meeting schedule to determine if a different meeting night would work better with Father George's schedule. Arlene reported that now would be a good time for this coordination, since the Office usually puts the yearly calendar together in June.

c. Seminarians

1. Dave reported that a new seminarian will be assigned to Holy Redeemer this summer.
2. He also reported that Rod Cruz's departure date has not been determined.

d. Council Terms

1. Mollie Huitema advised that this will be her last meeting, since her term expires at the end of June. She will be missed.
2. Dave Fortuna indicated that he plans to stay involved, even though his current term will expire, however, he does not intend to serve as Chair next year.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on July 21, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Russo

Secretary

mark.russo@hhs.gov