

Holy Redeemer Parish Council Minutes
November 17, 2010

St. Maria Goretti Room, 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Father George, Rosemary Allender, Dave Fortuna, Agnes Newman, Ellen Davis, John Enns, Terry O'Meara, Mark Russo, Sean Ballantine

I. Opening Prayer- Father George

II. President's Comments- Father George

- a. Father George gave an update on the status of the parking lot lighting.
- b. A contract has been awarded and excavation of the light pole footings has been completed.
- c. Directional boring for the wiring is set to begin on Friday, November 19th.
- d. A bill covering the cost of the permits has been received.
- e. The contractor reported that the light poles and the pole anchor bolts have been received, however, they have not been delivered to the site yet.

III. Chairman's Comments- Rosemary Allender

- a. Arlene Peterson contacted Rosemary to advise her that she has been dealing with some health issues and is resigning from the Parish Council, effective November 17, 2010.
- b. Arlene will forward minutes of the September Parish Council meeting to Rosemary, who will forward to Mark Russo for staffing and finalization.

IV. Committee Reports

School Advisory Board- Sean Ballantine

- a. Sean Ballantine provided a report from the School Advisory Board.
- b. Current enrollment is 273 students, including Pre-K.
- c. There are currently 17 students in the new Pre-K program.
- d. He described the school as in very good shape budget-wise, since the budget was developed around a projected enrollment of 245 students (not including Pre-K).
- e. A resource teacher has been retained on a 1-year contract. She provides special services and also serves as a teacher's aide. Feedback has been positive to date.
- f. The school has completed procurement, installation, and stenciling of a canvas awning over the main entrance.
- g. The school has also installed signs on Route 1 and Route 193 (Greenbelt Road/University Boulevard).
- h. The consolidation of the middle school in the north wing of the building has been completed. The Parish offices were moved to the old kindergarten room and the space reconfigured into a large classroom for the 6th grade, which currently has 35 students.

- i. The 8th grade also has 35 students.
- j. The Middle States Association accreditation appraisal process is currently underway. This is essentially a self-evaluation for accreditation purposes.
- k. They are in Phase 1 of 3 total phases at this time.
- l. Phase 2 is about to begin.
- m. The Process is expected to be completed next year.
- n. The accreditation process runs on a 5-year cycle and will lead to the development of a 5-year plan for the school.
- o. The school will celebrate its 80th anniversary in the fall of 2011. A committee is being formed to develop a program of commemorative activities.
- p. Sean reviewed the Archdiocese-wide change in Catholic school tuition, which holds that all schools may only maintain two tuition rates for students- Catholic and Non-Catholic.
- q. There was some discussion on the implications of this change and Father George indicated that, whenever possible, the school/parish are working with families that have experienced a negative impact from the new policy.
- r. Agnes Newman advised that the school has been identified as the sponsor for Community Sunday on January 16, 2011, but she needs confirmation from Mrs. Bovich that the date is acceptable to the school.
- s. The School Board plans to expand from 6 to 11 members.

Liturgy Committee- Father George

- a. Father George advised that Father Smarsh still chairs this committee.
- b. The committee met on November 16th.
- c. A number of liturgical changes that affect numerous ministries will go into effect in the fall of 2011.
- d. The changes are being solidified and a new booklet is being developed that will summarize them.
- e. Educational sessions on the changes are being planned for September 2011.
- f. The Christmas liturgy schedule for 2010 will be as follows:
 Friday, 24 DEC 5:00 pm 7:30 pm Midnight
 Saturday, 25 DEC 10:00 am 5:00 pm (vigil)
 Sunday, 26 DEC 8:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm

Music Committee- Sean Ballantine

- a. A schola has been formed at the noon mass for the Sundays in Advent and the feast of Christ the King.
- b. The schola consists of 4 singers with piano/organ and instrumental accompaniment (flute).

Youth Group

- a. No representative was present to give a report for the Youth Group.
- b. Agnes Newman will solicit reports from the group prior to each Council meeting.
- c. It was noted that the youth group is currently very active, with an event last Friday that was attended by 38 children.

Finance Committee- Ellen Davis

- a. The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, November 22nd
- b. The Harvest Bazaar grossed over \$50,000.
- c. Even though this was less than last year, organizers were very happy with the results.

Security Committee- Mark Russo

- a. The Committee has not met since the last meeting of the Council.
- b. Father George reported on the status of the parking lot lights in the President's report.
- c. The Committee will revisit the possible installation of surveillance cameras on the lighting poles.
- d. Other initiatives underway are a letter to the College Park Mayor and Council requesting additional street lights on existing utility poles around the church, and an inventory of existing exterior lights, along with their operational status.
- e. It was noted that the parish maintenance staff have made a number of lighting repairs and performed tree trimming around vulnerable areas of the church and school.
- f. Mark Russo will send a message to the City of College Park (Bob Ryan) advising him of the nighttime mass schedule during Advent and Christmas, and requesting that the info be passed on the College Park contract police officers for their awareness and to provide coverage, whenever possible.

Parish 100-Year Anniversary- Dave Fortuna

- a. An automated phone message to all parishioners regarding photo sessions for the Parish Directory being developed was recorded by Father George and transmitted.
- b. Dave noted that only 3 families signed up after one recent mass, however, it was also observed that the photographer has begun scheduling sessions during time slots that were previously reserved for use if there was a high volume of appointments.
- c. It was noted that people are using the website to schedule their portrait sittings for the directory.
- d. Portrait sittings are scheduled for the period December 2-4 and December 13-14, but more can be added, if needed.

V. Old Business

Communications

- a. Ellen Davis advised that Facebook has been working very well for the Youth Group.
- b. It was suggested that Facebook also be used as one of several mechanisms for communicating with parishioners about the 100-year anniversary.
- c. The only issue Ellen observed with Facebook is that the volume of messages can be high- as many as three per day for the Youth Group.
- d. It was suggested that the Parish website should include a link to Facebook.

- e. Several people attending the Harvest Bazaar from outside the parish, as well as a number of clergy, observed how vibrant and active the parish is.

Parish Council Representation

- a. There are currently several vacancies on the Council.
- b. Recent attempts to fill the vacancies have been unsuccessful.
- c. It was the general feeling that “directed recruiting” offers the best possibility of filling these vacancies.
- d. It was decided to plan for an election in May 2011, with directed recruiting by Father George and others between now and then.
- e. There was a discussion concerning the need to have staggered terms to avoid a large number of new members at the same time. Currently, three member’s terms expire each year.
- f. It was suggested that individuals recruited by Father George could be appointed to complete the term they are selected to fill, after which they could run for election to a full term in May.
- g. It was decided that Council members would be assigned to committees that have not designated regular representatives to report at the Council meetings.
- h. The designated Council members would be responsible for contacting their assigned committees a week before the meeting to request a status report.
- i. Agnes Newman volunteered to contact the Christian Formation and Youth groups.
- j. Mark Russo will continue to report on Security, and will also report on Facilities issues, after coordinating with Bob Pizzano.
- k. A suggestion was made that the Hospitality Ministry be added to the list of regular reports at the Council meetings, but, after further discussion, consensus was reached that the primary organizations with regular reporting duties should be those five committees identified in the Parish Constitution.
- l. Father George likened filling vacant slots on the Council to enlisting volunteers to serve as Co-Chairs for the Harvest Bazaar. He contacted 25 people about serving as Co-Chairs. None of those could co-chair this year, but five or six indicated they could serve next year.

Revision of Parish Constitution

- a. There was discussion concerning the recent revision of the Parish Constitution and the need to finalize and issue the changes.
- b. It was suggested that the Council could vote to approve the revisions now, pending comments from the Parish.
- c. An alternative was agreed to whereby Ellen Davis will create a final review draft, send it out to the Council Members, and provide a 1-week turnaround for concurrence and/or comments.

VI. New Business

CYO- Ellen Davis

- a. Ellen Davis raised the topic of recent issues the CYO is having with obtaining adequate facilities to support the Parish's active CYO sports program.
- b. There are currently no dedicated athletic facilities at Holy Redeemer.
- c. Seven CYO teams currently utilize Paint Branch Elementary School gym for practice. Because the CYO maintains its own insurance, the gym at Paint Branch is provided to the CYO at no charge.
- d. She described the Paint Branch gym as "bare bones" and indicated that the tile basketball floor (as opposed to wood) has led to a number of injuries.
- e. A number of alternative sites were discussed, including:
 1. St. Mark's- does not seem to be open to outside teams. It appears to be used to support the St. Francis teams (St. Mark's school is currently closed for renovations, and its students are relocated to St. Francis in Takoma Park).
 2. St. Jerome's in Hyattsville is full.
 3. St. Hugh's in Greenbelt charges \$100/hour for a half court.
 4. St. Bernard's in Riverdale. The building is used as a charter school and the gym was closed at one time due to major maintenance issues. It is unclear whether the gym is currently in usable shape.
 5. Hollywood Elementary School- is currently utilized by the College Park Boys and Girls Club teams.
 6. Gold's Gym in Beltway Plaza- the court is too small.
 7. Four Seasons Room at Holy Redeemer is not marked for basketball and does not have a wooden floor.
 8. Berwyn Heights Recreation Center- has been used in the past because of connections with adult league members that play there. It was unclear if this facility is being used by any CYO teams this year.
 9. Greenbelt Community Center- this would carry a significant cost. One CYO team is considering collecting an additional \$40 per player to obtain practice time at Greenbelt. It currently costs \$900 to register each team with the CYO league. Many of the community centers have teams of their own, so their availability for outside groups may be limited.
 10. The University of Maryland charges about \$400/hour for use of its facilities.
- f. There was some discussion about whether it would be feasible for Holy Redeemer to build a facility.
- g. Other alternatives that were discussed included a renovation of the St. Bernard's gym to serve as a regional CYO center like the ones in Darnestown, MD and Washington.
- h. The major obstacles to the build options are funding and availability of space to build.

- i. There was some discussion of whether grants might be available to support the construction of such a facility. Pepsi Corporation and the President's Physical Fitness initiative were mentioned.
- j. Ellen asked any Council Member with contacts regarding the availability of gym space to let the CYO leadership know.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 7:30 pm, location to be announced via e-mail.
- b. For 2011, Council meetings will continue to be held on the third Wednesday of every other month, beginning with January (i.e., JAN, MAR, MAY, JUL, SEP, NOV).

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Father George at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Russo
Secretary
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