

**Holy Redeemer Parish Council Minutes  
January 19, 2011**

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 the Council a briefing on the parking lot lights, which were operational in time for the Christmas Eve mass.
  - 1) He said the lights were programmed to be on from 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve through 3:00 a.m. on Christmas.
  - 2) The normal schedule for the lights is now in place and is from approximately 6:15-8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. daily.
  - 3) The control for the lights is in the teacher's lounge next to the Principal's office.
  - 4) The control does not allow different times to be set for different days of the week.
  - 5) To date there have been no complaints from the neighbors about the lights.
  - 6) Fr. George is in discussion with the contractor over an issue with the invoice for the lights.
- b. The Parish's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is in June 2012. A year-long celebration is being planned.
- c. Cardinal Wuerl will celebrate 10:00 mass at Holy Redeemer on the second Sunday of June 2012.

**III. Chairman's Comments- Rosemary Allender**

- a. Rosemary confirmed that Arlene Peterson will no longer serve on the Council for health reasons.
- b. Mollie Huitema and Rob Pannell's terms on the Council have expired.
- c. There are currently 9 members on the Council.
- d. A quorum was present for the meeting.

**IV. Committee Reports**

School Advisory Board- Sean Ballantine

- a. Sean Ballantine provided a report from the School Advisory Board.
- b. The Advisory Board met last week.
- c. The Home and School Association meets this week.
- d. The school's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary is this coming fall.
- e. Most observance activities will be held in September/October 2011.

- f. The Silent Auction fundraiser is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- g. Susan Keifline is the Auction Chair this year.
- h. Catholic Schools Week runs from January 30-February 5.
- i. This year's theme is "A+ for American Catholic Schools".
- j. The school is holding open houses on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:00 p.m., and on Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00-10:00 a.m.
- k. The school is also sponsoring Community Sunday on January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- l. The Fall book fair raised more than \$1,400.
- m. Mrs. Murphy reported that for the first time in recent memory, they sold more books than toys and posters.
- n. The re-registration deadline for students returning for the 2011/2012 school year is January 28, 2011.
- o. The budget projection for next year will be made in March, at which time next year's tuition rates will be set.
- p. Current enrollment is 275 students, including the Pre-K.
- q. There are 16 or 17 children enrolled in Pre-K.
- r. The budget was developed based on an estimated total enrollment of 245 + Pre-K, so the actual revenue will exceed what was budgeted for.
- s. The uniform shop on Berwyn Road has changed ownership and Mrs. Bovich, the Holy Redeemer School Principal, is working to develop a collaborative relationship for uniform purchases.
- t. The school will be collecting clothing for St. Anne's Infant Home during Catholic Schools Week- donations will be due on January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- u. Mrs. Bovich and Bob Pizzano are looking into the possibility of procuring banners for the new light posts like they have in Berwyn and downtown College Park.

#### Social Justice Committee- Dave Fortuna

- a. Holy Redeemer will be hosting the Safe Haven mens' shelter this year for 2 weeks, beginning on March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Bob and Mary Wassmann and Frank and Mary Anne Denevan will be co-coordinating this year.
- c. This year a volunteer will be offering free haircuts to Safe Haven participants, in addition to the other services offered.

#### Liturgy Committee- Father George

- a. The Vatican and the U.S. Conference of Bishops continue to refine the wording changes for the mass that will be implemented in the United States beginning on the first Sunday of Advent in 2011.
- b. The language changed about six times.
- c. The intent is to make the wording of the mass closest to the original language.
- d. There are relatively more changes in the Priest's wording than in the parishioners.
- e. Changes will be reflected in the Missal.

#### Youth Group- Mark Russo

- a. Mark Russo reported that, using some family connections, and after speaking with Marie Winterson (Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry), the new representative from the Youth Group will be Anthony Russo, a Holy Redeemer School alumnus and current freshman at Georgetown Prep.
- b. Mark reported on behalf of Anthony, who was home sick.
- c. The Friday night Youth Group meetings have been very well attended.
- d. The Youth Group sponsored a dance in the Four Seasons Room on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- e. The group sold poinsettias as a fund raiser this year.
- f. The Youth Group will be having a sleepover on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and will then be participating as a group in the March for Life in Washington on Monday.
- g. A number of lock-ins are also planned during the Winter.

#### Finance Committee- Ellen Davis

- a. The last meeting of the Committee was in November 2010.
- b. The Committee tentatively plans to meet at the end of January.
- c. Overall, the Parish budget is in the black.
- d. The Christmas collection exceeded \$65,000.

#### Building Committee- Father George

- a. Now that the lights have been completed, Father George has been looking at options for repairing/repaving the parking lot.
- b. Right now, he is looking to spend no more than \$100,000.
- c. Given the condition of some of the parking lot base, this will likely not be enough to pave the entire lot.
- d. The project may have to be completed in phases.
- e. From information he has received so far, Father George believes that \$100,000 may be enough to complete the first third of the lot, nearest Berwyn Road, as that is in greatest need of repair.
- f. The project would be completed in 3 years.
- g. Father Georges believes that \$100,000 could be incorporated into next year's budget for this purpose.
- h. Father George remarked about the generosity of Holy Redeemer parishioners, citing his appeal for \$30,000 on June 1, 2010 to make up for a projected budget shortfall. Within 6 weeks, \$34,000 was raised.
- i. There followed a brief discussion of the changing demographics of the neighborhood surrounding Holy Redeemer.
- j. 15% of Holy Redeemer parishioners are retired.
- k. A lot of new families have joined the parish, and are especially in evidence at the 10:00 mass on the second Sunday of the month.
- l. As students vacate rental houses for newly constructed apartment complexes on Route 1, families are likely to occupy those former rental properties.
- m. The lack of speculators will likely keep the housing prices from being driven up to artificially high levels.

#### Security Committee- Mark Russo

- a. The Committee has not met since the last meeting of the Council.
- b. Now that the parking lot lights are in-place, the Committee will revisit the possible installation of surveillance cameras on the poles.
- c. The Committee will look to develop options before any repaving of the parking lot takes place, in the event any trenching is required.
- d. Bob Ryan of the City of College Park acknowledged our request for extra patrol attention during the nighttime Christmas masses and indicated that he would inform the College Park contract police officers of the mass schedule.

#### Parish 100-Year Anniversary- Dave Fortuna

- a. A planned meeting of the 100-Year Anniversary last Tuesday had to be cancelled due to weather.
- b. The committee is currently discussing development of a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet.
- c. They are also developing a proposed schedule of events for the year.

#### CYO- Ellen Davis

- a. CYO is in the process of trying to raise money for more uniforms.
- b. There was brief discussion about how CYO league rules are made and how much input the individual parishes have. A recent example was the rule that if a parish can only field one basketball team at a certain age level, that team must play in the “tournament” league, which places the smaller programs like Holy Redeemer at a disadvantage. In the case discussed for example, Holy Redeemer’s team of largely 5<sup>th</sup> graders was winless after playing teams made up of almost all 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- c. Another example was the scheduling of all the JV Boys soccer games at the Soccerplex in Germantown on Friday evenings, even though none of the teams they played were from Montgomery County.
- d. Ellen Davis stated that CYO does provide the opportunity to comment on rules, but they rarely change.
- e. The shortage of adequate facilities (especially for basketball) was also discussed. Holy Redeemer currently has teams practicing at Paint Branch Elementary School, The Greenbelt Community Center, and Saint Mark’s school gym. The only one of these provided without charge is Paint Branch, which does not have a wooden basketball court surface. The others range between \$20 and \$40/hour.

### **V. Old Business**

#### Revision of Parish Constitution

- a. The Council reviewed the latest draft of the Parish Constitution and agreed upon a number of further changes.
  - 1) A revision date will be added to subsequent drafts.
  - 2) Article IV, Section 1- The Council does not currently have a Vice-Chairperson designated, but it was agreed that the position should be retained.

- 3) Article IV, Section 3- The first line is redundant and will be deleted. The second line which describes the makeup and function of an Agenda Committee will be retained.
  - 4) Article IV, Section 4.1- change “i.e.” to “e.g.”
  - 5) Article V, Section 5.5- delete the last sentence.
  - 6) Article V, Section 5.5- Change “The Secretary will forward the Draft Minutes...” to “The Secretary will forward the approved minutes...”
  - 7) Article VI- delete the second sentence and replace with “Changes to this Constitution must receive the votes of at least two thirds of the voting members of the Council at the time the changes are proposed. Following approval by two thirds of the voting members, the motion will be submitted to the President for final decision.”
  - 8) Appendix A, Section 2, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence- change “preparation programs including RCIA.” to “preparation programs, including RCIA.”
  - 9) Appendix B, Section 2.1- delete entire sentence and insert: “Ensuring that a meeting agenda is developed and distributed in advance of the scheduled meeting date.”
  - 10) Appendix B, Section 4.3- delete this section, and add the following to Appendix B, as Section 1.5: “At the President’s discretion, direct the Secretary to develop a brief summary of Council recommendations for inclusion in the weekly Parish bulletin.”
  - 11) Throughout document- change Roman numeral page numbers to Arabic numbers.
- b. Ellen Davis will incorporate the above changes in the latest draft and distribute to all Council members, with the intent of having a final product available for a vote during the March 2011 meeting of the Council.

## **VI. New Business**

### Council Membership

- a. Names of two individuals who expressed an interest possibly serving on the Council were forwarded to Father George.
- b. Father George will speak to the individuals, and, if they confirm interest, he will appoint them to currently vacant seats on the Council.
- c. The current terms of Agnes Newman and Mark Russo expire in June 2011.
- d. Rosemary Allender will draft a letter/bulletin announcement to be used for the May Council elections.

## **VII. Next Meeting**

- a. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 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 approximately 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Russo

Secretary

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