

Holy Redeemer Parish Council Minutes
May 25, 2011

St. Maria Goretti Room, 8:00 p.m. (meeting started after 7:30 Evening Prayer Service)

Attendees: Father George, Rosemary Allender, Dave Fortuna, Mark Russo, Ellen Davis, Terry O'Meara, John Enns, Brenda Cooley, Ruth Cook, Anthony Russo

I. Opening Prayer- Father George

II. March Meeting Minutes

- a. The draft minutes for the Council's meeting on March 16, 2011 were reviewed, corrected, and approved.

III. Committee Reports

Youth Group- Anthony Russo

- a. Anthony Russo, the new Youth Group representative to the Parish Council introduced himself and gave a report.
- b. He is completing his freshman year at Georgetown Prep in Bethesda.
- c. He attended Holy Redeemer School from Kindergarten through 8th grade, graduating last June.
- d. The group's Total Faith Center is held every Friday evening.
- e. There is a time for fellowship following the meetings.
- f. Attendance at the youth group is up this year.
- g. The group is always looking for new members.
- h. This year, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the active members are freshman in high school.
- i. They plan to recruit new members from the graduating confirmation class.
- j. The group has been actively involved in a number of service activities in recent months, including:
 - Maryland Special Olympics- 20 students volunteer to staff check points during a school day.
 - In February, the group participated in the annual Pro-Life March in Washington, which was an all-day event. Participants took the Metro downtown, participated in the march, and then were treated to dinner at Burger King by Father George.
- k. The Spring Retreat was held at Camp Marie in southern Maryland.
- l. The annual beach trip will be held from June 19-25 in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The group has reserved three beach houses. Applications are due this week.
- m. Last Friday was the last meeting of the group before they go on beach trip, after which there are a number of gatherings planned.
- n. Father George suggested that the group conduct an activity like bowling to invite and recruit new members.

School Advisory Board- Father George

- a. This week is Sprit Week at school, with each day having a theme, including:
- Monday- Twins Day
 - Wednesday- Crazy Hat Day
 - Thursday- Crazy Tie

Social Justice Committee- Brenda Cooley

- a. Mollie Huitema recommended a social justice awareness event to be held as part of the Parish 100th anniversary celebration that might include the following activities:
- Displays on social justice activities during a Community Sunday gathering
 - A poster session
 - Handouts
 - Representatives of the Committee available to answer parishioner questions
 - Sign up sheets for parishioners interested in participating in social justice activities
 - They are currently looking at the possibility of hosting Community Sunday in late September, possibly the 3rd Sunday

Liturgy Committee- Father George

- a. Father Smarsh chairs this productive group, which includes Anne Nelson and Maria Balducci
- b. Pew cards are being developed that outline changes in the Roman Missal for use of parishioners during mass
- c. Changes in the mass for parishioners are not extensive
- d. Changes for celebrants are extensive
- e. Changes will go into effect on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011
- f. There will also likely be an orientation session(s) for parishioners on the new changes
- g. There will be no changes for Lectors
- h. There will be some changes to sung portions of the mass
- i. The changes will be in effect throughout the Church in the United States

Parish 100-Year Anniversary- Dave Fortuna

- a. On June 12, 2011, the 100-Year Anniversary commemoration will kick off with an ice cream social after the 10:00 mass. Volunteers are needed. Briggs Co. has donated the ice cream.
- b. Rosemary suggested that Simple Pleasures Ice Cream Café be contacted about supporting a future Parish event, such as the Parish picnic in September. The owner is a University of Maryland alumnus.
- c. Community Sundays
- The Committee would like to see each Ministry or pairings of smaller ministries host a Community Sunday throughout the year, that would

- include a special activity such as a recruiting drive or demonstration of group activities.
- Sponsors are needed for different Sundays
 - The Parish Council would be a typical sponsor
 - Rosemary suggested having name tags for each ministry to use
 - Brenda suggested that the group sponsoring the Community Sunday could stand up and be recognized during the mass and/or make an announcement at the end of the mass.
- d. The completion timeframe for the Parish Directory has shifted from May/June to sometime this fall.
 - e. The committee is considering a 100th anniversary book that would be published in 2012 and would contain photos of all the commemorative activities held during the year.
 - f. Interviews
 - Pat Hughes is coordinating interviews of parishioners
 - She needs volunteers to assist
 - She will provide starter questions for volunteers
 - At this point, they are not planning to film the interviews, as that would require a written release
 - A list of potential candidates for interviews is being assembled
 - Brenda Cooley mentioned that she knows someone who lives in Riderwood that was one of the early Holy Redeemer Parishioners that might be willing to do an interview

Building Committee- Father George

- a. The parking lot paving project is coming along. There are two proposals that will be considered by the Archdiocese Consultors during June.
- b. Current plan is to pave the entire parking lot at one time.
- c. The entire lot will be milled before repaving and some of the most degraded areas will be completely removed.
- d. A geotextile will be placed on top of the milled pavement before the new paving is placed, which should extend the life of the lot.
- e. Paving is planned to take place between a Wednesday and a Saturday
- f. The project should be completed sometime in June.
- g. Father George has been looking into obtaining solar panels for the roof of the school.
- h. The installer works with an investment group which would install the panels at no cost to the Parish
- i. The installer/investment group receive an incentive for the government for installing renewable energy technology
- j. The Parish would buy electricity back from the investors
- k. Any excess energy produced would be sold back to PEPCO
- l. The Archdiocese requires that the installer have a large amount of insurance and put up a cash bond

- m. At this point, it does not appear that the project will be able to get through the Archdiocese approval process, partly due to high workload in the office that handles such approvals.

Security Committee- Mark Russo

- a. No report

Finance Committee- Ellen Davis

- a. The school budget has been approved
- There will be a 5% tuition increase next year, which is less than the 6% projected
 - The school is doing well financially and has been able to cost-share some projects with the Parish, such as the parking lot resurfacing, which will be covered in the current fiscal year budget
 - Aftercare has proven to be a big boost for the school budget
 - Enrollment for the fall is good, though not quite as high as this year
 - This year there were 260 enrolled, compared to 242 contained in the budget
 - Pre-K enrollment is down slightly, but is expected to increase before the start of the school year
 - One teacher is retiring and another is departing this year
 - The budget includes a modest increase in teacher salaries
- b. The parking lot repaving will be covered in the current fiscal year budget

IV. Old Business

Parish Council Recruitment/Elections

- a. There was lengthy discussion of the number of current and anticipated vacancies, the requirements for a meeting quorum, and the number of current Council members willing to extend their terms, if a sufficient number of new candidates do not come forward.
- b. Council members made announcements at masses, but did not detect a lot of interest
- c. A number of parishioners expressed concern about the potential time commitment
- d. Dave spoke to two individuals that may be interested
- e. Ruth Cook is potentially interested and attended the May Council meeting to learn more about the opportunity
- f. Maggie Lippert has committed to joining the Council
- g. Brenda Cooley would like to step down, but will continue until a replacement is found
- h. One individual expressed interest in serving on committees, but has a continuing conflict on Wednesday evenings, so would not be able to serve on the Council itself.
- i. The terms of Mark Russo, Rosemary Allender, and Agnes Newman will expire in June. Mark and Rosemary agreed to continue on, if needed. Agnes will not be extending for another term.

- j. It was reported that Council members generally limit themselves to two terms.
- k. Dave Fortuna is currently serving beyond his second term, in light of Council needs.
- l. Elections this year will be postponed until June
- m. On the weekend of June 19th, a ballot will be issued as an insert to the bulleting that will contain a biography and photograph for new candidates.
- n. The voting will occur on the weekend of June 26th
- o. Council members that have agreed to extend their terms will not appear on the ballot.

V. New Business

Disability Ministry

- a. Terry O'Meara brought up the possibility of establishing a Disability Ministry for the Parish.
- b. Mary O'Meara is the Executive Director of the Archdiocese's Department of Special Needs Ministries, which includes the Center for Deaf Ministries, Ministry for Blind Awareness, and Office of Ministry for Persons with Disabilities.
- c. The ministry would provide services for Parish members with special needs, signing, and related needs.
- d. The ministry could also reach out to returning veterans. It was mentioned that Holy Redeemer Parish in Kensington has established a residential treatment program for returning veterans.
- e. Individuals could be recruited for this ministry by adding it to the Call to Serve worksheet that is distributed to the Parish annually.

VI. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 7:30 pm, location to be announced via e-mail.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Terry O'Meara at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Russo
Secretary
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