

Holy Redeemer Parish Council Minutes
September 21, 2011

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

Attendees: Father George, Rosemary Allender, Dave Fortuna, Mark Russo, Ellen Davis, John Enns, Ruth Cook, Briar Smith, Larry Bleau, Sean Ballantine, Chip Lockett

I. Opening Prayer- Father George

II. Introductions

- a. All Council members (new and old), introduced themselves and provided a little background information.
- b. Three of the four new Council members were present: Larry Bleau, Ruth Cook, and Briar Smith.

III. May Meeting Minutes

- a. The draft minutes for the Council's meeting on May 25, 2011 were reviewed and approved.

IV. Committee Reports

Youth Group- Mark Russo for Anthony Russo

- a. Mark Russo reported for Anthony Russo, the Youth Group representative to the Council, who had a conflicting meeting.
- b. The beach trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina went well- there were 22 students and 12 parent chaperones.
- c. A lock-in/sleepover was held in the old convent over the summer.
- d. A Back-to-School dance was held during the first week of school.
- e. The Youth Group holds fellowship sessions on Friday evenings during the school year.
- f. Chip Lockett, the seminarian assigned to Holy Redeemer this year, added that this year there will be Youth Group bible study on the second Wednesday of the month, and Faith and Action sessions on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Security Committee- Mark Russo

- a. The Committee has not met since the last meeting.
- b. Mark plans to update letters previously drafted requesting that the City of College Park request additional street lighting on existing PEPCO poles.
- c. The installation of parking lot lights will take one or two of the planned additions off the request, but requests for areas near the front of the church and the alley between the school and the convent are still valid.

- d. Mark also plans to update the “360-degree survey” of existing lighting on the perimeter of the church and school, in order to identify non-functional lights and areas where additional lighting would be desirable.
- e. Father George reported that an additional exterior light has been added near the back door of the Four Seasons Room near the music room.

School Advisory Board- Sean Ballantine

- a. The membership of the Advisory Board has been increased by two people (Pam Gerhardt and Philip Larkin).
- b. A number of activities have been planned for the 80th Anniversary of Holy Redeemer School this year, including:
 - A Family Fun Night on October 14th
 - An adult alumni party on October 28th
- c. The school has made an arrangement with a new uniform company- Carousel Uniform in Waldorf. The company will provide onsite measuring, ordering, and delivery.
- d. The school is working on additional improvements to the PA/sound system that was upgraded last year for musicals and other performances. They are currently looking for a “plug and play” system for the speakers in the Four Seasons Room.
- e. The school conducted a 9/11 memorial service on Monday, September 12th.
- f. In honor of the 80th anniversary of the school, Bishop Holley presided at the annual back-to-school mass on Wednesday, September 7th. He indicated that he enjoyed the opportunity and would like to be invited back in the future.
- g. An Ice Cream Social will be held on Friday, September 30th at 7:00 p.m.
- h. The school has purchased a banner making machine from Catholic University which can be used for making light post and other types of banners.
- i. Mrs. Bovich, the school Principal presented a long list of goals for the current school year to the Advisory Board.
- j. Over the summer, a new tile floor in a red and white Maryland Terrapins pattern was installed in the middle school wing. The school plans to eventually replace all the school tile with the same pattern.
- k. Current school enrollment is 259 students, including 11 pre-K students.
- l. The target enrollment for the pre-K is 15 students.
- m. The current budget was based on 257 students.
- n. The Catholic Business Network of Prince Georges County recently awarded a grant of \$1,250 to the school for the purchase of SmartBoard technology.
- o. A \$500 grant was also received for special education training aids.
- p. It was mentioned that Carousel Uniforms is also a member of the Catholic Business Network.
- q. The school’s special needs resource teacher is beginning her 2nd year at Holy Redeemer and has received very positive feedback.

Finance Committee- Ellen Davis

- a. The Finance Committee met since the last Parish Council meeting.
- b. Because of the billing cycles, most of the parking lot paving costs accrued to the current fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2011, as opposed to the previous year,

- which was the original desire. This caused a deficit in the current fiscal year budget.
- c. A letter to the parishioners will be included in the bulletin on the weekend of October 1st/2nd that will explain the following:
 - Year-end budget status for year ending June 30, 2011
 - Budget for the year beginning on July 1, 2011
 - Capital improvement expenditures (parking lot lights and paving)
 - The projected deficit for the current year is based on capital improvements
 - d. Ellen explained that when you capitalize the improvements, the budget picture looks better, and the overall feeling is that the financial health of the parish is better than expected.
 - e. The school is doing very well financially.
 - f. The school was able to contribute to the capital improvements such as the parking lot lights and paving.
 - g. Father George indicated that the parish still has a significant “rainy day fund” in spite of the capital improvements.
 - h. The budget deficit for this year is only about \$67,000 after the improvements are capitalized.
 - i. Father George commented on the generosity of the parishioners at Holy Redeemer and how a deficit of \$75,000 was made up in previous years.
 - j. Last year a \$30,000 deficit was closed within 6 weeks of Father George’s appeal for assistance.
 - k. Father George advised that, in spite of the many capital improvements that have been made in the past few years, there are a number of other potential projects that will have to be addressed eventually, including: water leaks in the rectory and gutter replacement in the rectory.
 - l. The cost of cleanup (removal, stump grinding, fill dirt) for the large oak tree near the playground that was felled during Hurricane Irene totaled approximately \$10,000. About 90% of this was covered by an existing Archdiocese insurance policy.

Liturgy Committee- Father George

- a. Father Smarsh is planning on setting up a Sunday or weekday evening session that will provide parishioners with an overview of the changes to the Roman Missal that will take effect this year at the beginning of Advent.
- b. Maria Balducci, the Music Ministry Director is currently reviewing books to replace the red Worship books that are based on the current Missal.
- c. There has also been discussion regarding whether the new books will replace the Gather book as well as the Worship book. No final decision has been made on this issue.
- d. The current Worship books were purchased around 1990.
- e. The books currently under consideration contain approximately 60% contemporary music and 40% traditional music.
- f. The estimated cost per book is around \$15 to \$16.
- g. The parish plans to offer memorial books, whereby a fee is paid to have a label placed in the book in memory of a living or deceased person.

- h. Mark Russo suggested that the parish might want to consider offering the red Worship books for sale to parishioners for a nominal fee, in case they would like one for sentimental reasons.
- i. It was also suggested that the parish should determine if there are means of recycling the books that would generate funds for the Parish or minimize disposal costs.
- j. The target timeframe is by the beginning of Advent, but it will likely take longer than that.
- k. A decision will also be made concerning whether to retain the Gather books currently used.
- l. The existing Worship books can't really be donated to any Catholic church within the United States because the Missal changes are nation-wide, and the cost to ship them out of the country would be prohibitive.

Parish 100-Year Anniversary- Dave Fortuna

- a. The Parish Directory should be completed and shipped out by Christmas time.
- b. A piano concert is scheduled for Sunday, November 13th at 3:00 p.m.
- c. A New Year's event is being planned- further details to be determined.

Social Justice Committee- No Report

V. New Business

Liturgy

- a. Traditionally, an outdoor mass is held on a Saturday at 4:00 pm during the Parish picnic in September at the Knights of Columbus pool/picnic grounds.
- b. In addition, the regular 5:00 p.m. Saturday mass is held at the church.
- c. Dave Fortuna intends to propose to the Liturgy Committee that next year there be only one mass conducted at 5:00 pm at the picnic, and no mass at Church on Saturday.

New Parish Council Chairperson/Vice Chairperson

- a. Rosemary would like to pass the baton to a new Chairperson for the upcoming year.
- b. She reviewed the duties of the Chair for the members present.
- c. John Enns volunteered to serve as Chair.
- d. Briar Smith volunteered to serve as Vice Chair.

Ministry/Committee Liaisons for the Upcoming Year

- a. Anthony Russo will serve as the Youth Group liaison to the Council.
- b. Mark Russo will serve as the Security Committee liaison to the Council.
- c. John Enns will ask Terry O'Meara to serve as the Social Justice Committee liaison to the Council.
- d. Dave Fortuna will serve as the 100th Anniversary and Liturgy Committee liaisons to the Council.
- e. Ellen will serve as the Finance Committee liaison to the Council.

- f. Sean Ballantine will serve as School Advisory Board liaison to the Council.

VI. Old Business

Community Sunday

- a. Last weekend's Community Sunday was sponsored by the Parish Council and went well.
- b. A revised list of recommended supplies will be provided to Fr. George for future events.
- c. It was mentioned that a bagel cutter would save a lot of prep time. Fr. George has one that he can bring over.

Parish Council Constitution

- a. It was noted that the new Council members will need copies of the Parish Council Constitution.
- b. There was discussion about when the revised Constitution was approved by the Council members. Several members recalled that it was voted on at the May meeting, however the minutes do not reflect it.
- c. Ellen Davis agreed to research the issue and will forward the approved revision to Mark Russo for posting on the Parish website and distribution to all Council members.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Saint Maria Goretti room.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Father George at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Russo
Secretary
mark.and.maryellen@verizon.net