

Parish Council Minutes September 18th 2011

Members present: Kate Bycroft, Martha Marcotte, Ken Stonebraker, Dan Sellars, Dave Stueve, Jeff Ostmeyer, Mary Ellen Muninger, Cindy Snavelly, Brian Ring and Sister Rose

Members absent: Brandon Ebert

Sister opened the meeting with a prayer

Jeff asked for approval for the meeting's agenda. All approved.

Stewardship of Hope

Kate invited parish members who had attended the Stewards of Hope conference last week to express their thoughts and opinions on the program. Everyone who spoke felt it was a long, but enriching day which invigorated their faith and encouraged us to reflect on our Christianity and reflect that onto our family and parishioners of St. Elizabeth's church. Sister commented that it would be wonderful to have a tri-parish speaker, possibly during Advent, to come and encourage prayer in our homes and families. She also added that the religious education classes are going to stress prayer and respect.

Jeff then asked for any corrections in the August 28th minutes. Kate pointed out a misspelling of Nathan Swanson's name. No other corrections were noted. Mary Ellen moved to approve the minutes and Cindy seconded.

Finance Board

Dan said everything seemed in order. The finance council had a meeting with the St Elizabeth's Women's Group to help clarify some miscommunication. It was decided that the St. Elizabeth's Women's Group funds and the Fall Festival funds will all be placed in the parish checking account. There will be separate lines for the Parish Life Reserve for the Fall Festival funds and a line for St. Elizabeth's Women's Group Reserve which the group will have control over. Concerning the Fall Festival, the women's group would like the council to ask, each year, if they would be able to help out with this parish-wide event, and not just assume their involvement. Jeff asked for approval of the finance report. Ken motioned to approve and Martha seconded.

Commission Reports

Finance

Dave asked about the statement "running behind" listed on the budget report. Sister noted that we are behind on adult collection envelopes, but that maybe due to the summer months and fewer people attending Mass. Dan commented that there would be a comparison chart in the bulletin between what we are collecting now, to what was given last year. Dave also noted the electric bill for the summer was very high. This was explained by the very hot summer and weddings that kept the air conditioning costs high. Kate asked if the guttering was to be completed and Sister said yes, in the next couple of weeks and \$2,500 under budget. Dan added that the counter tops for Father Frank's residence would be done later, after the first of the year.

Parish Life/Family Life

Cindy asked if the Welcome Breakfast could be moved from October 9th to October 16th. Sister said that would be fine and she should talk to the women's group to assist. She also added that the eight graders would also be helping with the breakfast. Sister encouraged all the council members to attend the breakfast, since there will be no council meeting that Sunday.

Religious Education

Sister stated that there were double classrooms for each grade. The large enrollment required another junior high instructor to be added with twenty-four students preparing for Confirmation.

No other commission reports were given. Dan did add that the finance council was sponsoring an informational meeting on charitable endowments on Monday September 19th and encourage all to attend.

Next meeting will be November 20th

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Grace Leu-Burke