

August 16 Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 7pm. Attending were Jim DeVito, Lyle Garcia, Fr. Mickiewicz, Ron Pojedinec, Pam Stewart, Marilyn Wickel, and Dana Wilson. Absent were Mary Connolly, Bill Geeristead, and Therese Schick.

1. July meeting minutes were approved. Only revision was correction in spelling for David Geerinck.
2. Lyle Garcia provided the following information:
 - The 5 year plan has been updated (Issue 1.6). We need to work towards getting persons/group responsibility and completion dates for all tasks. Lyle shared a proposed bulletin announcement with the Council designed to inform all parishioners. The announcement was revised and agreed upon. Lyle will pass it on to Kristin for insertion in the bulletin.
 - Lyle distributed a proposed bulletin announcement to seek candidates for a new property/facilities management committee. The announcement was approved, with only minor change. Lyle agreed to pass the announcement on to Kristin Gemma for insertion in the bulletin.
 - Lyle informed the group that he had contacted two parishioners who had expressed interest (through the Stewardship process) in joining the budget committee. Both confirmed that they would be interested in serving. The decision was made for Fr. Bill, Lyle, and Jim Murray to meet, with the objective of insuring that there would be meaningful work for the new candidates. We also discussed the need check with two other parishioners who had previously expressed interest in the committee. Fr. Bill will set up the meeting.
 - Lyle discussed the Stewardship form process. Based upon Anthony DeStefano's experience in calling people on the list for the Book Fair, It appears that the list is outdated. We may need to totally update the list in the fall.
3. Religious Formation Review- Rose Fay, Annette Tagliarini, and France Kennedy provided an overview of our religious education program. The presentation was very informative, and several questions were asked. We discussed the pros and cons of our Lectionary approach. France described her emphasis on getting the Youth Mass on a stable footing. The youth program, as currently configured, involves the youth Mass and summer work camps. Lyle asked, and Rose Fay agreed, to review the formation section of the 5 year plan for completeness, and to add responsibilities and completion dates for all tasks.

During subsequent discussion, it was agreed that Jim would send a follow up note to both Rose Fay and the Budget Committee. The objectives of the communication will be both a thank you, as well as asking that they review, enhance, and take ownership to their relevant section of the plan.

4. 25th Anniversary Celebration- Fr. Bill led the discussion, seeking PC member thoughts about both the timing of our celebration and the content. There are three different dates to which we could tie our celebration (official date of establishment by Bishop McCarrick, date of the first Mass, and date of incorporation). Views were expressed, but no decisions reached.
5. Mass Schedule Change- Discussion continued on the subject of changing the Mass schedule. The lightest attended Mass is the 12:15. Possible options include no change, elimination of the 12:15 Mass, or a total redesign of the Mass schedule. After much discussion, it was decided that a change of this significance warranted getting input from as broad a base as possible. It was agreed that Fr. Bill and Marilyn would get together and develop an approach, most likely including a survey of the entire membership. Because of light attendance at Mass during the Summer, we will need to wait until the Fall to approach the membership.
6. PC Communication Plan- Pam introduced an initial cut at a plan. The plan is consistent with the one in the Covenant, but she has been more specific. Pam has included a proposal to do a radio spot, as she has access to a specific station. There was much discussion about this idea. The conclusion appeared to be that we would do the spot as long as it did not drain our resources. Pam will develop a more specific proposal. Input on any part of the plan should be given to Pam. There is one coffee/refreshment session per Mass per year, included in the plan. Comments supported the doability of this schedule. We can add more coffees if they are effective in getting people to mingle.
7. PC member effectiveness- Jim presented a 2 page document which he developed with the input from the council members. It covers behavior during and between meetings, as well as in our liaison roles. We had only brief discussion, as we were limited by time. Council members should review the document. Jim will add the discussion of this document to a future agenda, depending upon the availability of time.
8. Pastor's Corner- Fr. Bill distributed 3 informational pieces:
 - Two notes from parishioners regarding Earl's bulletin article regarding oil prices (pro and con). The message: given the diversity in people's thinking, we can reasonably anticipate difference in opinion whenever we state a position.
 - Article from the NY TIMES about State Fairs. The message: We need to be cautious in trying to hold onto events/projects which appear to have passed their prime.
 - Article from THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT dealing with solar energy, Stressing the social justice and potential cost savings. This could be an Item pursued by the new property management committee.
9. Diocesan Workshop- Jim asked who planned to attend the September 17 session.

Jim agreed to send out an E Mail asking each member for a definite yes/no on this topic.

10. September meeting topics:

- Retreat
- November Town Meeting (theme and discussion)
- PC Effectiveness Discussion
- Radio show spot-proposal by Pam

Prepared by Lyle Garcia 8-19-2006