

St. John Parish Council Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2007

Attendance: Fr. Frank McGrath, Deacon Bill Rowe, Fr. Chris Samele (excused), Ken Byrne, Susan Byrne, Jim DeCesare, Jim Friend, Marion Kirkman, Doug McKay, Meg Orner, Julie Rikert, Don Smith, Dave Maloof, Stephanie O'Malley, Sarah Nielsen, Will FitzMaurice

OPENING: Fr. McGrath opened the meeting with a prayer.

DISCUSSION:

Minutes - The minutes from the 11/12/07 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Nature of a Parish Council - Fr. McGrath discussed the nature of a Parish Council and suggested that Acts 2:42 could be a guide: Teaching (evangelization), Social Life (fellowship), Prayers (liturgical life), and Sharing (charitable works). The other elements of parish life are the maintenance of the physical plant and ongoing life issues. The Parish Council can be executive or advisory only. A constitution that had been previously used at St. John will be located, distributed and evaluated for our use.

Chair - Ken Byrne was elected as Chair of the Parish Council. Fr. McGrath proposed that, when elected, the Co-Chair should be in line to accept the Chair the following year.

Finance - Fr. McGrath reported that the increased offering appeal has been successful. It was proposed that giving statistics of other parishes and objective targets be given to the parishioners.

Social - Future events include caroling (12/23), pancake breakfast (1/13), golf outing, opera trip, spring dinner dance. The dinner dance will have a parish award element, a silent auction fund raising element and should be held on a date of significance to St. John Parish. A motion to have the dinner dance benefit 3 charities passed.

Parish Goals - Fr. McGrath asked what are the Lord's goals for St. John? Members stated that we need measurable goals, concrete discussion and commitment if we are to achieve any success. It was suggested that the Council is not aware of the activities of the various committees at St John. A motion was raised and passed to have the Council meet with the committee heads at the regularly scheduled Council meeting on 1/14/08. A motion was raised and passed to hold an ad hoc Parish Council meeting of regular business on 1/29/08.

Youth Group - Discussed plans for a Living Nativity on 12/14 and their charitable works for the Bridgeport Diocese.

Preschool - The search for a director has been narrowed to 4 candidates. There are two ideas being evaluated as a memorial to honor Sr. Peggy.

CLOSING: Deacon Rowe closed the meeting with a prayer.