

St. Edward Parish Council Minutes
January 21, 2010
6:00 P.M.

Present: Jeff Greulich, Shirley Chmielewski, Barb Hantschel, Fran Angelini, Elaine Beres, Christine Frayer, Jean Spencer, Fr. Allen Bratkowski, Jeff Lory, Marion Mueller, Darrel Rouse, Steve Schoone

Guest: Matt Sadowski

Opening Prayer: The Holy Hour for Life Prayer Service at 6:00 p.m. in church was the opening prayer.

Old Business:

Approval of December Minutes:

- The December minutes were approved with a couple changes for clarification.

St. Edward Strategic Planning:

- The task of the Strategic Planning Core Group is to set a vision for the parish going forward for the next five years. The plan is to have recommendations ready to present to Father Allen and to the parish by the end of the school year. To date, Matt Sadowski and Laurie Hoeffert have agreed to join the group. Jeff Greulich will contact other possible candidates. The council members were asked to send Jeff an email stating if they were willing to serve, in what capacity and how much time they would be willing to devote to the group. He will then set up a schedule for future group meetings.
- We need to define who we are as a parish community before we can decide how we will go forward. The parish council handbook has a process for reviewing our Mission Statement. Each council member is asked to review the statement, determine if it is still valid and rewrite it if anything is missing.
- The list of major topics for the group includes Community, Finance/Fundraising, Education, Collaboration and Spiritual Life. We need to determine the role of the school in our parish. Any recommendations will affect the 2011-2012 school year.

Committee Reports:

Prayer and Worship:

- Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Masses will be at 8:00AM, which is an all school Mass, and 6:00PM.
- Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays at 6:00PM during Lent. The dates are February 19, 26 and March 5,13,19,and 26.

Stewardship:

- The meeting was cancelled in January. The next meeting is February 17.

Faith in Action:

- St. Vincent de Paul has many new volunteers.

- The prayer for Christian Unity will not take place this week. Instead, the West Racine Churches will hold a prayer service in June followed by a picnic at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. No date has been set.
- St. Edward will continue to host the National Night out in August.

Technology:

- In lieu of a meeting, the committee opted to do some work in the school. They have communicated recently through a "virtual meeting".
- Tech committee is encouraged with the technology instructor.

Christian Formation:

- Catholic Schools week will kick off with a pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 31. We're continuing to coordinate plans for the week.
- The Science Fair will be March 12-14.
- Meetings are beginning for the Bids for Kids Auction that will be on March 20.
- The Athletic Association is busy getting ready for the 8th Grade Tournament.

Buildings and Grounds:

- No report. The next meeting will be in February.

Finance:

- The collection agency the parish has been using is not very successful. They have not paid us anything, as they have not collected on any delinquent accounts. The parish will switch to a different collection agency. They will send a series of four letters and then resort to phone calls.
- 22 families are delinquent with first semester tuition, (\$38,500). Letters were sent and three replies received. Cases were reviewed and it was decided to allow extra time for those families. All others must pay tuition by Tuesday, January 19 or children will not be enrolled for second semester.
- Tuition for 2010/2011 was discussed. Projected enrollment is 231 students. Proposed increase is \$200-\$500. The Book and Tech fee will increase to \$195. Registration will be \$150 per family.
- Committee heads will be asked to present budget at special meeting on March 2.
- The William Fervoy Tuition Assistance has given all the money available for this year.

Endowment:

- The current balance as of December 31, 2009 is \$270,078.00.

Faith in our Future:

- The pledges total \$203,156.88.

New Business:

Fundraiser:

- The Mardi Gras Bingo fundraiser was rescheduled for April 11 with more than just Bingo. The time is tentatively 7-11PM with activities for children in the Parish Center and adults in Schaefer Hall. The parish must apply for a new bingo license as the previous license expired.

Harmony Club:

- The Child Development Center would like to expand its services to meet the ever-growing demand for quality childcare. In order to make room for more childcare space, Harmony Club would no longer be able to meet at St. Edward's on Thursdays. Fr. Allen will talk to Lincoln Lutheran to see if there is another location where Harmony Club could meet on Thursdays.

Staff Reports:**School:**

- Catholic Schools Week is January 31 – February 6. This year's theme is: "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life." Many activities are planned for the week.
- The school was broken into during Christmas vacation. Luckily, only the soda money was taken.

Child Care:

- No report.

Christian Formation:

- Our Lifelong Faith Formation Sessions continue to go well.
- 2nd Graders are preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion.
- A retreat was held for Confirmation students at St. Joseph Parish on Saturday, January 16th. Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday, February 5th at 7:00PM at St. Rita's Parish.
- In addition to Stations of the Cross on the Friday's of Lent, a faith sharing study group will be offered to discuss personal prayer and the practice of Christian meditation and reflection. These sessions will be on the opposite Sunday's of Lifelong Learning. We will also be collecting for Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl.

Pastors Remarks:

- The Parish Board of Directors met on January 15. The Archbishop established a separate fund for unemployment that needed board approval. Approval was unanimously given.
- All past due money from parishes to the Archdiocese was addressed. The ruling was for parishes to pay all they owe or submit a payment plan that must be followed. St. Edward submitted a 10-year payment plan. St. Edward will pay \$1,769.62 per month for arrears in addition to what we owe the Archdiocese currently.
- The minutes for the December CAR Board of Directors meeting was passed out.
- The dues for CAR for 2010/2011 will be \$598.75 per month.
- CAR will sponsor a gathering called "God Anoints You" on January 31 at St. Catherine's High School from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. Laurie Hoeffert will speak at 10:30 Mass this Sunday about the gathering.
- February 13/14 is the kickoff for the 2010 Catholic Stewardship Appeal. Chris Halverson is the chairman for this year. The goal for the parish is \$25,000.

- Fr. Allen, Fr. Ron, and Fr. Estaben met before Christmas about parish collaboration. On February 2nd there will be a collaboration meeting at St. Patrick's for the four parishes so the parish council presidents and trustees can get acquainted.
- There will be a Mass of Welcome for Archbishop Jerome Listecki on February 1, at 7:00PM at St. Paul the Apostle. A musical prelude will take place before the Mass and a Meet & Greet will follow the Mass.
- The timeline for the elections for Parish Council need to be looked at. Barb still has everything from last year. She's up for reelection so she cannot facilitate the elections this year. The matter will be addressed next month.

Steve Schoone will lead the prayer for the February meeting.
The next meeting will be Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 6:30PM.

The meeting ended at 10:10PM with a prayer led by Fr. Allen.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Spencer, Secretary