

**St Michael Catholic Community  
Parish Council Minutes  
September 3, 2013**

**Attendees: Karen Mazzara, Kim Kook, Shane Smith, Fr. Mike, Laurie Hall, Renato Ricciuti, Virginia Chadwick, Kayla Chadwick, Phyllis Rizzi, David Peckham, Amy Smolarz, Elvera Paul, Les Nevens, Sandra Wilt, guest from St. Vincent De Paul**

P	Chadwick, Virginia	P	Paul, Elvera
P	Chadwick, Kayla	P	Peckham, David
A	Galos, Artemio Rev. (Tim)	P	Quaine, Michael Rev.
P	Hall, Laurie	P	Ricciuti, Renato
A	Healy, Larry	P	Rizzi, Phyllis
P	Kook, Kim	A	Sandelich, Mike – Vice Chairperson
A	Lucas, Sr. JoAnn	P	Smith, Shane–Chairperson
P	Mazzara, Karen	P	Smolarz, Amy M.
P	Nevens, Lester R. (Les) - Alternante	A	Sukes, Shirley A.

P = Present, A = Absent, G = Guest

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm – Shane Smith calls the meeting to order

**Reading of the Mission Statement - All**

**Opening Prayer – Virginia Chadwick**

**Approval of Minutes – June 4, 2013 minutes were approved by Amy Smolarz, Kim Kook.**

**Enrichment:**

- The Parish Commissions – Explaining to new members the role of the Commissions
  - Shane explained the purpose of the 6 commissions that they are formed to achieve goals and that their work will continue and that the Parish Council is the liaison for them, they meet, come back to us and we work together to achieve the goals. Shane added that he would like to see the commissions work together to reduce any inefficiency or duplication. Shane explained that the commissions meet one time per month and their representative reports back to the Parish Council.
  - Fr. Mike added that we guide a large group of volunteers, people of God working together to bring about a common goal. Also added that he would like to eventually work towards reversing the order in that the Parish Council sets the goals and the commissions will carry them out. All need to be mindful of change and the commissions’ challenge is to be alert and be able to respond to changes such as changes in population of parish etc. We all share in the Pastors job, we steer the ship together.
  - Shane adds that with so much going on the commissions have had a lot on their plates and have been very successful at managing it. The overview from commission will continue and we will review the previously stated goals at next meeting.

**Pastoral Team Reports –**

- Fr. Mike: Pastor’s Report
  - Corresponding to the request made in May of the Parish Council regarding the restroom doors Cathy Campbell checked into the matter. From my understanding of the discussion about an elderly woman who could not open the restroom doors because they were too heavy, we considered a number of different possibilities ranging from the highest cost, i.e., putting a electronic door opener (around \$3000.00 each door) to the replacement of the door with a hallow door (not recommended because it could not bear the weight of the opener), to the replacement of the opener which made the door easier to open and slower to close in the event that a person with various walking devices (canes, walker, and wheelchair) would have easier access. Given the amount of times that the door is used on a weekend and that there is only one set of public restrooms for the entire plant, the motorized opener (which opens and closes very slowly) didn’t appear very practical. To address this issue we

installed on each restroom door, courtesy of Restaurant and Commercial Builders, 4117 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192—and to the tune of \$690.00 two new openers that are lighter weight and half the tension of the older closers. Again, this isn't optimal, but it is the best we can do given the age of the building, its design, and the commercial building requirements of public facilities. The second consideration: handrails for the stalls were installed in July.

- With Vernie Dale's retirement in June of this year, a search committee was formulated to select a new Christian Service Minister. Sr. JoAnn Lucas, from the Finance Council, Laurie Hall, Claudia Welbes, from Staff, and Adele Samson from the Christian Service Commission were selected and met in the months of July and August. Out of seven applicants for the position, Michelle Hayes was selected as our new Christian Service Minister. When you see her, usually at the 9:45 mass, please extend a word of welcome.
  - Vernie Dale is officially retired from SMCC. Her retirement celebration will be held at the 4:30 liturgy on September 21, 2013. The Christian Service Commission will host a reception in her honor in the social hall following the Mass.
  - Bob Murphy has agreed to chair the Evangelization Committee of our parish. The Evangelization Committee is a subcommittee of the Parish Council that operates as a hybrid. Most subcommittees are established from and run by the council. This subcommittee (as requested by the Archdiocese) is part of the Council by virtue of its universal mission. Inasmuch as the Church exists to bring the Gospel to others, so all of our efforts, no matter how tedious, should somehow flow from our effort at evangelizing.
  - Deacon Franz from St. Ronald is requesting another Youth Mass. He is recommending sometime in November or early December during the Advent Season.
  - One of our potential purchasers of the Activity Center is interested in renting the AC for the purpose of seeing if our facility would accommodate their needs. I gave them tentative approval to do so for the purpose of potentially selling it to them. Restrictions (insurance requirements, etc.) and availability still pertain.
- Deacon Larry – Absent
  - Father Tim – Absent
  - Laurie Hall – Pastoral Associate –
    - Laurie reports that we are about to start up with our RCIA program and that we have approximately 8-10 people already signed up. The inquiry phase will begin September 29<sup>th</sup> and they will be joining us at the 9:45 mass in November. Please be sure to welcome them when you see them. RCIA meetings are held in Meeting Room A, feel free to stop by and say hi. We have 6 new Catechists, most with former teaching backgrounds.
    - Phyliss asked about sponsors as she thought the person joining obtained their own and it was explained why the RCIA team felt it was better with assigned sponsors as not all wishing to join the program might have a person to ask and for privacy during personal discussions/scrutinies.
    - Shane inquired if we have enough sponsors and Laurie informed him we are always in need of sponsors and would welcome the opportunity to talk to anyone interested in becoming one.

#### **Council Chairperson's Report / Parishioners Viewpoint – Shane**

- The Desert Angel Project
  - A project was presented previously that is being revisited. It is called The Desert Angel. Shane passed around flyer about the organization. The project was passed around in various commissions and not yet responded to as the commissions were too busy but should we revisit this. This is an organization that has a packing party where they meet the needs of troops deployed overseas and items are donated, packed up and sent to them and they have various themes given the time of year.
  - Virginia will take packet to the Christian Services Commission at their next meeting and see if it is something they would like to take on.

**Break – Virginia Chadwick**

#### **Old Business**

- The Activity Center
  - The plan has been adjusted to reduce costs but still about \$800,000 short. The expected project start date in 2014 is not looking good unless Activity Center sells. If Activity Center does sell, it will put us in a better position

financially but logistically will be a challenge to continue the programs currently held there such as Religious Education and McRest until the new construction is completed.

- Dave wanted to know if we have a contingency plan in place and we discussed possible options and all agree we would have to work together to pull it off.
- Shane added that costs will rise especially with the construction industry doing better economically so the sooner the better.
- Fr.. Mike stated that we are targeting more developers to try to get it sold.
  - Laurie asked if there was any plan to go back to parishioners and Fr. Mike will talk to the Finance Commission.

#### **New Business:**

- Michelle Hayes as the new Christian Services Minister
  - (See Pastor's Report for details)
- Festival of Ministries and the Parish Council's involvement
  - Shane will send sign up sheet as traditionally the Parish Council is active in this festival and we need volunteers for all masses to be at the Parish Council Table or greeting etc.
  - Dave agreed that the K of C would provide donuts for the Sunday masses, not needed for Sat afternoon.
  - Fr. Mike wants visibility of all Parish Council at Festival and all Parish functions to get feedback from parishioners and bring back to The Parish Council. Wear Name Tags
  - Laurie discussed a previously mentioned topic of taking pictures of Parish Council members and listing names to be placed in view for Parishioners.
  - There has been a table for McRest added to the Festival of Ministries so they will have some initial sign ups and then can obtain remaining needs at the McRest sign up weekend.
  - We will serve popcorn and Ice Cream and we will have a balloon animal artist at the festival and of course Fr. Mike will be passing out kisses (wrapped in foil). We will have baskets to raffle off as well.
  - There will be some families to speak at mass but still need a few more to cover all masses.
- Vernie Dale's retirement
  - The celebration is set for September 21, 2013 at the 4:40 mass with a light reception held afterwards. This is also Fr. Mike's birthday but he wants NO attention given to him that day as it would take away from Vernie's day so any birthday wishes can be done on Sunday.

#### **Commission Committee Reports**

- **Vicariate Report**
  - The Vicariate is working to create a schedule of Reconciliation services vicariate-wide, to alleviate the few priests trying to attend many services. They have grouped St. Michael's with a western-Sterling Heights grouping, rather than with the group that includes St. Ronald and St. Louis. We have been collaborating for 9 years with St. Ronald and St. Louis, we would like to see that assignment change to accommodate our current relationship, one our parishioners have become accustomed to. Laurie will work with Maureen Blair at St. Jane to see what can be done. More info to follow.
- There were no other commission reports because the commissions were on their summer break.

#### **Roundtable**

No additional comments

**Closing Prayer** – Virginia Chadwick

**Meeting Assessment** – Successful

**Meeting Adjournment** – 8:30 PM

**Next Meeting** – October 1, 2013

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Karen Mazzara**