

**St Michael Catholic Community
Parish Council Minutes
February 3, 2015**

Attendees: (see completed chart immediately below)

P	Brown, Deanna (Alternate)	P	Quaine, Rev. Michael
A	Chadwick, Kayla (Alternate)	P	Reid, Jim
P	Chadwick, Virginia	P	Ricciuti, Renato (Secretary)
P	DiNoto, Karen (Vice Chairperson)	A	Rizzi, Phyllis (Excused)
P	Eddins, Jamey	P	Sandelich, Mike (Chairperson)
P	Galos, Rev. Artemio (Tim)	A	Smolarz, Amy M. (Excused)
P	Hall, Laurie	P	Sukes, Shirley A.
A	Lucas, Sr. JoAnn (Excused)	P	Waddell, Susie
P	Nevens, Lester R. (Les) (Alternate)	P	Murphy, Bob
A	Peckham, David	P	Jim Toger (special guest)
		P	Paul Chancey (special guest)

P = Present, A = Absent, G = Guest, (Excused) = Excused absence

1) MEETING OPENING

- a. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Mike Sandelich.
- b. **Reading of the Mission Statement** – Attendees read the St Michael Catholic Community Mission Statement.
- c. **Opening Prayer** – Attendees read the opening prayer led by Mike Sandelich.
- d. **Approval of Minutes** – The November 4, 2014 minutes were approved by Laurie and seconded by Les.

2) ENRICHMENT REFLECTION FEEDBACK

Special guests Jim Toger and Paul Chancey provided attendees a well-guided tour through the Parish’s building addition/activity center project currently under construction. After the physical walk-down of the construction facility, additional related updates were provided regarding forthcoming work such as the electrical work, roof work, parking lot and drive way, etc. The City of Sterling Heights inspection is being targeted for the last week of February, and the City could still perform subsequent inspection(s). Temporary occupancy is targeted for March 15, 2015.

Volunteers are needed to clean the building addition (this will save \$9,500 too) sometime within the next month. This will save parishioners \$9,500, and, it will be a great way for parishioners to get a sense of ownership in the new facility.

Jim opened the floor to questions. Bob asked whether paint is covered in the construction project, and Jim confirmed it is. Renato asked whether the facility was constructed according to commercial “green

standards”, and Jim stated there is 24 inches of insulation in the ceiling which is more than 90% of the houses in the country, and that they put as much insulation as they could in the ceiling. They’re using 3 high-efficiency heating units. And the only thing they didn’t do was to put insulation in the dry wall on the cinder block walls on the exterior of the building because of cost. Bob asked whether there was insulation in the cinder blocks, and Jim confirmed there is. There is also insulation on both sides of the footings of the building. Mike asked whether Jim planned on speaking at all of the Masses to update everybody. Jim stated they haven’t decided yet. Mike commended Jim and Paul on what a fine job they’ve done on the project, evidenced by the lack of change-orders. Jim stated this work is not far different than the work he used to do for a living. Mike asked whether there would be gutters, and Jim confirmed there would be. Jim added that for final occupancy, the City requires for sod, trees, and shrubs, and that those installations are targeted for May and that we may not get the permanent permit until June or July. Renato asked whether there was going to be any badging, or access swipe cards or anything like that, and Jim stated they looked into that but it turned out to be extremely expensive and that unfortunately those get passed around and you lose integrity, and thus it didn’t make sense. Jim added there will be a security desk and visual on the door, including a \$2,900 buzzer on the door, which was the best way to handle this. Jim added that the Archdiocese requires us to protect the children. And that the way we do that is by controlling who enters the building by the buzzer and a background check.

Fr. Mike and others thanked Jim and Paul again for this wonderful and rare opportunity.

3) PASTORAL TEAM REPORTS

a. Fr. Mike: Per a submitted written report:

1. “We will have to complete electrical shut down of our building from Wednesday February 11 to Friday February 13. There will be no morning Mass on Wednesday or Friday and no evening Mass on Thursday and because there will be no heat, lights, computer, or telephone service, the offices will be closed as well during those days. The electrical panels in our maintenance room will be upgraded in order to accommodate the additional wiring from the new addition. The good news is that the cost savings of this electrical upgrade is about \$26,000...plus we get a new electrical panel. Apparently trying to configure new to old is an expensive process, in fact, so expensive that replacing the whole kit and caboodle still yields a savings of \$26K. How good is that!
2. I have alerted all of the local funeral homes in the area and instructed them to call me directly on my cell phone, 313-268-6379, to make funeral arrangements at an alternate church location for those three days. This represents a great inconvenience to many, but this will be one of the last big hurdles we face before the center is opened.
3. Again I am very pleased with the cooperation of our staff and parishioners during this time of construction. The maintenance people have been involved in moving walls in the social hall every week to section off classrooms for our religious education classes (a big thanks to them). With the building opening in a few weeks we may get a reprieve before the final classes of the year.
4. The AOD recently audited SMCC. According to the Chancellor’s letter, they are making a concerted effort to audit parishes every 4 years instead of waiting until a pastoral change

occurs, which has been the case for the past several years. Audits can be difficult, but helpful inasmuch as they provide oversight to the work that is being done and, if necessary, provide correction where needed. I would like to express my gratitude to Judie Taegel for her good work throughout these past couple of weeks.

5. The draft report of the audit results has already been given to members of our finance council. There aren't many revelations in the report and a final copy will be compiled after it is reviewed by the Chancellor. The report will be discussed in detail by the members of the Finance Council.
6. I was pleased by the attendance of SMCC parishioners at this year's Ecumenical Service. Barb Robinson did an outstanding job coordinating the music for the service and Virginia Chadwick and crew did a great job with providing a splendid reception following the service. I was very proud of what we did to show our ecumenical interest and outreach to our fellow Christians.
7. There was a new pastor named at St. Ronald Church, our sister parish. His name is Fr. William Herman. Now that he is settled in, Fr. Tim and I will not be needed. Laudate Dominum."

Regarding the AOD audit of SMCC, Fr. Mike shared a concern he had and worked through during the audit regarding student information protection as it related to student tuition calculations.

b. Fr. Tim: Nothing new to report.

c. Pastoral Associate - Laurie: Per written report submitted, "Many events have happened in our church life since November. Of note:

Christmas celebrations were beautiful and well attended. The worship space was beautifully decorated – thanks to a collaboration with two gentlemen from outside of the parish.

RCIA – We continue with our four gentlemen. Very different dynamic this year, but we are enjoying the time spent in preparation for the sacraments at Easter. We are delighted to be enjoying the ministry of two new catechists this year – Karen DiNoto and Bob Voiland.

Baptisms – we've been holding Baptisms on the second Sunday of the month following 11:30 Mass now for six months. Seems to be working well, I am enjoying meeting with the individual families and getting to know new parishioners and families a bit more. Lots of opportunities for evangelization.

Funerals - many funerals have been held during January – always a "busier" time of the year.

Evangelization – the team is attending a Christlife program at St. Mary Queen of Creation in New Baltimore. We've learned some good lessons and enjoyed seeing the program take life. Also began "Evangelization Energization" items in the Messenger to get people to think about Evangelization.

Ecumenical Service was held on January 18th – good attendance, excellent service, lovely reception.

Upcoming events:

- Anointing within Mass this Saturday
- Anniversary celebration on Sunday, February 15th
- Ash Wednesday on February 18th

Many plans are being made for Lenten and Triduum celebrations:

- Please join us for “Priest, Prophet, King” beginning on Monday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Space.
- Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday at 7:00 p.m. – We will have individuals leading the stations using a booklet entitled, “Mary’s Way of the Cross.” Fr. Mike will be our first leader on Friday, February 20th.”

Laurie also spoke to the points of her written report.

- d. Vicariate Report – Phyllis Rizzi:** No report (excused absence). Fr. Mike added that a Vicar nomination occurred.

4) CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT / PARISHIONERS’ VIEWPOINT

Chairman Mike: Mike passed on his report so that the Commissions would have time to report.

5) BREAK

We passed on taking a break.

6) COMMISSION REPORTS

- a. Stewardship – Sr. JoAnn Lucas (excused absence):** No report was provided.

- b. Christian Services – Virginia Chadwick:** Per written report read into the record,

“Christian Service has been busy implementing some of our new activities & projects. We visited Clintonaire Home on Martin Luther King Evening and took along 15 volunteers to play bingo with the 23 seniors. Our Almsgiving Basket Program is in its final stages to begin the First Weekend of Lent (18 agencies will be available for parishioner to choose from to donate to). We are in discussion with K of C about a Community Supper tentative planned for Friday, March 20th. We will ask for a sub-committee in March to review our current objectives and develop new ones for the Parish Council Goals, but until then we have “Met” 4 objectives and are “In Process” on two more. In April we will review our Projects & Activities with a sub-committee and in May we will hold our new officer election.”

Virginia also spoke to points of her written report.

- c. Worship – Laurie Hall: Worship Commission will be meeting this month, and so there is no report.
- d. Education – Virginia Chadwick: Per written report read into the record,

“Report to Parish Council from FLT, Feb. 2015

In a continuing effort to evangelize, FLT and Youth ministry are sponsoring an interactive prayer experience based on the story of the mustard seed on Friday, March 13 at 7pm in church. It has been developed by Susan DeBenedetti and her company, Band Aide, and will be projected across 6 screens. Claudia and Cathy have been involved from the beginning regarding content and have just previewed the – almost- finished product. It is a labor of love and faith. It is a wonderful way to spend a Lenten Friday.”

Bob asked whether this event was being advertised. Virginia and Laurie stated it should be in the Messenger. Bob added we should try using the Vicariate website.

- e. Youth – vacant.

Bob asked how did the SouperBowl of Giving event go. Laurie and Virginia stated it surpassed last year, even with the bad weather. Virginia added the event raised approximately \$1,800 and that there were several larger donations including a \$100 bill and several \$50 bills.

7) OLD BUSINESS

- a. Activity Center (Fr. Mike): Updates were covered during Enrichment portion of the meeting.
- b. Contribution Programs for Activity Center (for memoriums): Fr. Mike reminded PC that his concern is that several parishioners who donated larger sums for the new activity center have expressed wishes to be memorialized in some way, and that he would like our thoughts, feelings and/or opinions on how to handle this tastefully and without incurring a large cost. Fr. shared an example done at another parish with peoples’ names on leaves on a tree that cost \$30,000, which seems expensive. Fr. asked do we remember everyone? Or some ones? And how could that be done?

Bob asked has anybody come up to Fr. Mike and specifically asked that their name be put on something? Fr. replied yes. Bob asked 1-to-5, 5-to-10? Fr. replied he thinks there’s been about 15. Bob stated it almost seems you would have to find about 15-to-20 items that could be memorialized and then there could be plaques made. Mike (S.) stated we could try to find out how much it costs to equip a room, and then donors’ names individually or as a group could be named on plaques to the rooms, say above the doors, according to their donations. Mike added if it’s for a smaller donation, then you could put the name on something smaller. Virginia suggested perhaps we find out what those 15 people want, and she added that some donors may not want their names to be known. Fr. Mike reminded us that our typical donor at SMCC tends to donate within the approximate same dollar range, which from a risk perspective is beneficial so that the majority of our donations are not tied to a relatively few individuals. Virginia suggested the brick program as an option, and Fr. Mike said that’s still an option. Bob stated you could call those 15 people and ask them what they want, as it would be awkward otherwise to then ask the entire parish. Jamey stated there could be a gold, silver and bronze type of acknowledgment, and that name placement could be a way of distinguishing between levels, or the size

of the bricks the names are on. Laurie reminded PC that all of the donors' names were already published in the Messenger before, and so could their names be memorialized say in something that scrolls their names? Laurie added she feels it's awkward to distinguish between the donors' names based on the amounts donated, and that one person's \$5 donation may have been all that person had to give, donating from the heart prayerfully with guidance from the Holy Spirit, while another's \$50,000 donation may have not been as valuable to that donor. Laurie said she feels this is scriptural, and that it has to be all or none. Renato agreed with Laurie, and added no matter what you do you will not please everybody. Laurie added that it's reasonable that people want recognition given they donated to this for the community. Karen added since people don't know what others donated, that they may reasonably think others donated more than them if they see the other's names appearing somewhere where their names don't appear, so long as there's some type of global acknowledgment. Karen added we may want to provide a way for people to donate in the future and receive recognition at that time.

Fr. Mike said he's going to have to do something, and that he's taken our observations that it may be awkward not to acknowledge everyone, and that he may need to circle back to those individuals to ask for more specific information on their desires. Fr. stated he feels this is going to be an ongoing thing and that he wanted to get our feedback.

c. Dedication Ceremony for Activity Center: Mike stated since we're looking at a September timeframe and since we don't meet over the Summer months, that we should begin planning now. Jamey, Virginia and Shirley volunteered to be on a planning sub-committee; Laurie suggested including Claudia and Cathy Mac, and Virginia agreed she would talk to them about their potentially joining the sub-committee. Bob suggested doing a BBQ in the parking lot, to draw people in. Mike suggested the subcommittee meet and come up with some ideas to present to Parish Council. Regarding publicizing the event, Bob offered to explore a publication opportunity, working from a mid-September ceremony timeframe backwards. Fr Mike will ask Fr. Larry what date works for him in September for the dedication ceremony.

d. Possible Updating of Constitution: Discussion ensued. Bob stated there have been several addendums over the years, and that it may make sense to have the document re-written so that it flows better versus having the addendums located near the end of the document. Laurie commented with the new activity center project nearing completion, that this may also be a good time to revisit SMCC policies as well. Mike stated that previously we agreed for our enrichment to review sections of the AOD handbook for parish councils, and to consider differences from our Constitution, and Renato concurred. Bob stated they previously did this and that there were very little differences but that the problem is the document could be consolidated in the right format and order. Virginia commented that perhaps a sub-committee should be formed instead of trying to resolve every little difference in session and having to extend the meetings, and Mike agreed that's probably going to be the approach. Mike offered that we first go through the first chapter of the handbook guidance together at our next meeting, and then go from there regarding potentially establishing a subcommittee. A general consensus was reached. For those who may not already have the handbook, it can be found online on the Archdiocese of Detroit's website.

8) NEW BUSINESS

Mike asked if there was any other new business: Jamey brought up parishioner comments he's received, requesting to have some different songs sung during Masses for more variety. Jamey shared it

seems we'll go several weeks singing the same songs, and then they'll change a little. He added some people will sing but that others will begin talking during that time. He asked is there anything else we can sing. Laurie stated we have a whole book of songs we can choose from. Jamey added they're looking for something a little more lively he feels. Mike noted the point.

Mike brought up Opening Prayer at our meetings, and do we want to reconsider our approach given past comments made? Bob recalled a practice he shared with us previously that works well at St. Vincent DePaul. Renato brought up this topic is covered in the AOD handbook. Mike suggested we table this topic until we see how our enrichment exercise goes next month.

9) ROUND TABLE

Mike asked if there was anything else people would like to bring up during this Round Table.

10) MEETING CLOSING

a. Closing Prayer – Attendees read a closing prayer led by Mike Sandelich.

b. Next Meeting – March 3, 2015

c. Meeting Adjournment – 9:06 PM by Mike Sandelich. Bob motioned to adjourn and Deanna seconded it.