

St. Mark's Parish Council Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2006

(Our next meeting will be on July 25, 2006 at 7:30 PM.)

Council Members:

***Non-voting Members**

Msgr. William Carton*	Present	Peter Abitanto	Absent
Deacon Dennis Saake*	Present	Mary Ellen Ballou	Present
Frank Prettyman*	Present	Tom Hayes	Present
Nelda Ragan*	Present	Frank Sharp	Absent
Karen Pappas	Present	Carlos Zuna	Absent
Gary Cademartori	Absent	Diana Zuna	Absent

Highlights:

Karen opened the meeting by talking with a parishioner who showed up because she believed she had seen a sign that the Parish Council meeting was open to parishioners. Karen explained to the parishioner that the Parish Council could not accommodate open meetings for all interested parishioners at each meeting. She pointed out that having unscheduled "open meetings" would not be practical due to time and space limitations and the need to conduct the planned business of the Parish Council. She explained that meeting materials are prepared after the 10th of each month, approved by the Pastor with input from the Council members and the meeting materials are handed out in advance of the meeting. Therefore, we would be unable to accommodate a change in our plans at this meeting and the meeting was not open. She advised that we would possibly consider an open public meeting with all parishioners in the future.

Later, during further discussion by Parish Council Members with Monsignor Carton and Deacon Dennis, it was decided that a general meeting open to all parishioners will be held on April 24, 2007 at 7:30-9:00 P.M., followed by light refreshments in the basement until 9:30 P.M. The location of the meeting (either the Church or the Church basement) would be determined at a later date, depending upon the number of interested parishioners. If interest is too large, then two or possibly three separate meetings will be planned.

Also, a planning meeting with the heads of all the Church ministries will be held on October 24, 2006, in the Church basement. Feedback will be provided on the work the Council has done to implement changes recommended in their meeting on October 25, 2005 and some short agenda items for future planning will be featured at the October 2006 meeting along with a key note speakers who will be asked to talk, possibly about the role of the laity in the Church in helping to produce extraordinary results.

Monsignor reported that we are continuing to make progress in recruiting candidates for the Intergenerational Faith Formation Director and the Youth Director. Interviews are continuing and we hope to have the position filled this summer. Our CCD program was successfully completed for this school year.

We finished discussions of the remaining suggestions made on the last two questions from our Oct. 25 Meeting. These are listed below for reference with associated comments:

3. How Can St. Mark's Parish Foster Increased Parish Participation In Various Ministries?

Ongoing Activities:

- **Have a representative of each Ministry speak after Mass once a year to help our Parishioners become more aware of their activities.**

Plans: discussed and approved at the June 27th Parish Council meeting-

- **Ask representatives from each of the Parish ministries to reach out directly and extend a personal invitation to new members.**
- **Run advertisements for new members in the bulletin.**
- **Continue to invite different representatives to the Parish Council and then take the information that is obtained from the meeting and incorporate into future Parish Bulletin articles.**

4. How Can St. Mark's Parish Foster More Youth Involvement?

Ongoing Activities:

- **Update Web site and keep it current**
- **Recruiting staff to run our Youth Program.**
- **Work with new Music Director to develop a youth musical group.**

Plans:

- **Have our CCD children perform more at Masses, using the children's choir and having the children do more readings.**

Plans: discussed and approved at the June 27th Parish Council meeting-

- **Remaining ideas will be presented to the new staff to develop more specific outreach to youthful members.**

After this discussion, Karen expressed resounding appreciation to members of the Parish Council for their dedicated work and discipline, in working for the past six months to ensure that review of all of the suggestions presented to the Parish Council by the heads of the Parish Council organizations had now been completed. To that the Council members responded “Amen!”

Deacon Dennis then reported on the progress with our Parish renovation projects at the Rectory. The renovation of the bathrooms is completed. The painting on the second floor is completed and the rugs are expected to be installed shortly and Monsignor should be back in his room soon. The upstairs is now very nice and all the damage to the Rectory has been repaired. The first floor of the Rectory will be painted, but it will be done room-by-room to avoid major disruption. Renovations of the basement area are underway and should be completed by late July. Part of this will be set up as a game room area for our youth, and additional meeting space will also be available there.

A question was raised regarding having women as ushers. Monsignor said that women ushers are welcome and a new announcement will be run in the Bulletin.

Members of the Parish Council then each shared any concerns expressed to them by parishioners and Monsignor thanked them for their feedback. Nelda provided a number of interesting articles found while searching through various Religious publications. Dennis is reviewing these themes for possible use in future articles in our Bulletin.

Action Items from June 27th Meeting:

1. Get suggestions for agenda items for our meetings to Karen by the 10th of each month to allow sufficient time for review, approval and distribution of the package one week prior to each meeting. Responsibility: All Members
2. Check on the various meetings, seminars, workshops, etc. that our Diocese sponsors and report on those of potential interest. Responsibility: Nelda
3. Write a “hold the date” for heads of Parish Ministries for the October 24, 2006 Special Parish Council. Responsibility: Karen
4. Write a “hold the date” for an Open Meeting with all Parishioners on April 24, 2007. Responsibility: Karen
5. Hold the basement and Church for both of the meetings identified in item four and five above. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis.
6. Identify what help is needed from Council Members to arrange and support these planned meetings. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis
7. Identify a speaker for the October 24, 2006 meeting. Responsibility: Deacon Dennis.
8. Announce in our Bulletin or in written correspondence an accommodation for Parishioners to ask questions on any topics of interest through our web site, as well as through the mail or by dropping a note in the collection basket. Responsibility: Karen

