

Parish Council Minutes
September 19, 2013

Present: Parish Council members Carol de Rosset, Charlie Homa, Bob Rucker, Fr. Michael (ex officio), John Roche (ex officio), Bruce Fraley, Hilda Castro, Tom Karasienski. Veronica Martinez and Larry Sabo were also present. Margie Stelzer and Gary Scarlett attended part of the meeting.

Start: 6:37 pm

1. **Opening Prayer – Bruce**

2. **Margie Stelzer’s report on the All-Parish Meeting**

Margie thanked the Parish Council members for their participation in the all-parish meeting and expressed appreciation for all 65 members of the parish who came., She noted that there was great energy at the meeting, and that several people had mentioned to her that they hope things suggested at the meeting don’t get dropped, but move forward.

Margie noted that Parish Council members have sign-in sheets for various committees, and suggested that Council members call on their respective committee members for help and advice.

Margie’s 8-page report on the All-Parish meeting is posted on the church website (stclareberia.org/blog) and she also posted a copy on the bulletin board in Friendship Hall. She will make some copies available in the narthex of the church.

3. **Review June minutes.** John noted that in paragraph 2, the minutes name *Marie* Stelzer, whereas it should be *Margie* Stelzer. – Bruce moved that the minutes be approved, and Bob seconded. All were in favor. It was noted that Jon P. is no longer on PC due to infrequent attendance as per constitution.

4. Gary Scarlett brought forward a request that the American & Vatican flags should be flown at St. Clare. He noted that the Knights of Columbus would be willing to get the flags and put them up. The Council tabled this matter to discuss at the next meeting.

5. Schedule for Council Members at Sunday Mass

- a. September 22: Bob
- b. September 29: Julie?
- c. October 6: Tom
- d. October 13: Keith?

6. **Pastor’s Report**

a. **Summary of September 8 Parish Meeting**

Green House:

Bob, the Parish Council representative on the Green House Committee, noted that he had visited City Hall – legal counsel has all our paperwork, but will inform Bob of what can and cannot be done with the property. Under the “grandfather” law, we can build anything with a footprint no larger than that of Friendship Hall, which is approximately 90’ x 40’, 3600 sq. ft.

The church could put up a 2nd building as well, if it is a warehouse-type structure that does not require heating, etc.

Bob will email his report on what is and is not possible to the PC.

John noted that many parishoners have an emotional attachment to the Green House, and that if it is torn down, we should allow space for mourning.

Hilda asked if we could build a playground as part of the rebuilding project. Bob said he would bring it up at the meeting of the Building Committee, which should be in two weeks or so.

Liturgy Advisory Group:

Bruce handed out LC Breakout session report. He asked us to read the first page of the report on our own. He then highlighted goals set during the session, which are on the second page of the report (1): Establish a coordinated liturgy schedule: a) Recruit a member/team to coordinate, prepare and communicate a schedule; b) establish a list of parishoners (which Fr. Michael already has); c) everyone would have the list of parishoners, with names, addresses, phone numbers and email (but legalities should be checked and the option of not having personal information appear on the list); (2) Educate the Parish about the Liturgy Committee: a) Expand; (b) How to get on it; (c) How to give input; (d) Have a music subcommittee under the Liturgy Committee; (e) What does the committee do?. Bruce emphasized that we need to encourage “fully conscious and active participation and involvement,” as stated in the Constitution of Vatican II. He also mentioned a possible past tension between PC & LC & FC, and that this tension should be let go; these groups need to work together.

Other ideas from Bruce’s group were: to have the Ministry Fair again, to rotate members on the LC, and to have a sign-in sheet for ministers in the narthex, so the sacristan can tell at a glance whether or not the scheduled ministers are present, and if not, who is there who can fill in.

Fr. M. passed around a copy of a list he had compiled of all active parish members – to give to all families. He also mentioned that the kind of education Bruce mentioned regarding the Liturgy Committee will be useful for all Church Councils and Committees, and this will be part of the emphasis on education in which the Church is engaging. He also noted that he will be purchasing a new bulletin board for the Sacristy where ministers’ sign-in sheets will be located.

On behalf of Julie Lebrun, Bruce handed out a copy of the Parish Life Advisory Committee report, which Julie had prepared. One item on the report was the upcoming Tri-Parish picnic, and it was decided that the information (including details) about the picnic should be run in the bulletin again. Father noted that Camp AJ will be open at 9:00 a.m., so anyone wanting to come early is welcome. Lunch will be at approximately 1:30. He further suggested that the Tri-Parish picnic be standardized to (a) always be the last Sunday in September; (b) always be held at Camp AJ; and (c) include mass.

Bruce reported that Julie requested that funds for an annual All-Parish Meeting be built into the Church budget. This matter will be taken up at the Finance Council meeting. She also asked that the Church pay \$100 per chaperone for chaperones accompanying the youth to NCYC. Father Michael stated that he thought a fund-raiser would be a better idea to raise this money. Julie noted that the church will pay \$200 for Fr. Michael and Ken Stuber’s hotel room at NCYC.

Fr. M. made everyone aware of his many duties and extremely full schedule. As pastor of three parishes, as well as working with the Berea College Newman Center (and saying mass on campus on Sunday afternoons), he is already stretched very thin, and now that he has been elected Dean of the Mountain West Deanery, his work will only increase. In order to help, parishoners will have to shoulder more of the load. Bruce asked whether the diocese could provide St. Clare with a deacon to help with the work. Fr. Michael said he had requested one, but was told that none was available. Bruce wondered if someone could be hired for 15 or 20 hours a week to help. John Roche is working toward becoming a deacon, but that will not be until 2016. Bruce wondered whether a part-time employee could do some of the work John is currently doing to free him to do work more in line with the diaconate, and help Father Michael at the same time. Fr. Michael mentioned the Town Hall meeting at St. William in London on

Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 6:00 p.m., to which everyone in the Mountain West deanery is invited, and you can bring up anything you want. Perhaps this would be a good opportunity to let the Bishop know that Fr. Michael needs help. It was suggested that the Town Hall meeting be put in the bulletin so that anyone from St. Clare who wants to go can do so.

Hilda mentioned several ideas for fund raisers:

- Consignment sale – (clothes, baby items, etc) – future date? (The Hispanics need a computer to be able to do a lot of the work for this)
- Raffles
- Breakfast monthly (Hilda suggests a fixed price; Bruce mentioned donations)
- Concerts/Christian witness/inspirational speaker
- Fast food restaurant – tickets for 1 day (10-15% of amount spent goes to parish)
- Use of FH – charge rent and a deposit (esp. weekends)

7. PC focus 2013-2014

8. Next meeting: October 17, 2013

- a. Opening prayer: Tom
- b. Closing Prayer: Bob
- c. Minutes: Carol

9. Closing prayer – Fr. M.

End time: 8:11 pm