**St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**7:00 p.m. January 29, 2018 Library**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

**Pastor:** Msgr. Tucker

**Elected Members**: Becky Reisinger, Jen Masek, Jill Bierbaum, Mitch Fiala

**Appointed Members**: Vicki Novak, Sandy Shaw

**Ex Officio Members**:, Allen Brozovsky (School), Carmen Brown (CCD), Ellen Jirovsky (PCCW),

**Absent**

Marty Telecky (elected), Jeff Reimers (elected), Jason Clark (KC), Stan Mitchell (appointed), Nicole Wegman (PTO)

1. Prayer - Msgr. Tucker began the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes from November 21, 2017 meeting

Becky Reisinger moved and Ellen Jirovsky seconded that the November 21, 2017 meeting minutes be approved. All agreed.

1. Introduction of new members and assignment of duties

Monsignor introduced Jill Bierbaum and Mitch Fiala as newly elected members for three year terms. He has appointed Stan Mitchell for a three year term.

Monsignor stated that it is important for council members to openly discuss the needs of the parish and bring forth varying views. Council members are liaisons to the parish committees and it is important that they attend their assigned committee meetings.

Committee assignments were reviewed and are as follows:

Stewardship – Jen Masek

Connectivity – Becky Reisinger

Catholic Education and Youth Engagement – Sandy Shaw

Facilities – Marty Telecky

Finance – Mitch Fiala

Spirituality – Jeff Reimers

School Advisory – no assignment

Community Engagement – not formed yet

Vicki Novak, Jill Bierbaum and Stan Mitchell are not yet assigned to a committee.

1. Review and Direction for Committees
   1. Stewardship and Finance Committees

The Stewardship Committee is concerned about increasing responsiveness to time, talent and treasure. Communicating the need for stewardship is also a concern. The committee met with Father Walsh, Pastor of St. Cecelia’s in Hastings. They had retained Catholic Stewardship Consultants to help them develop stewardship. They produced good results but are very expensive. The parish invested $50,000 to raise $75,000. They have a monthly newsletter, annual stewardship retreat and annual tithing campaign. Some results are tied to increased participation and not to money raised. St. Cecelia’s has about 750 families while we have about 650 families. Jen Masek stated that recent positions hired might be able to do this work without hiring an outside firm. Monsignor is still working on the job description for position yet to be hired.

* 1. Facilities

Last Tuesday, January 22, a subcommittee of about 10 people met with the architect for 2 ½ hours. Kevin Clark, architect, has met with the subcommittee several times and will be drawing up some alternative plans. They are at the point of needing wider parish input. Immediate need for the parish is meeting space. Monsignor has been looking at current facilities and possible changes with the school. Monsignor will meet with Mr. Brozovsky to discuss space.

The parish cannot have a capital campaign until 2020 after Joy of the Gospel is completed. In order to build, 50% needs to be on hand. The remaining 50% plus an additional 10% needs to be pledged.

One question is whether we need a larger church. If we had an additional priest, more Mass times could be offered. This could account for about 600 more parishioners. Across the state about 20% is Catholic. This means Seward would need to grow about 3,000-4,000 people.

The Music Ministry has expressed a desire to move locations. At the current location, the sound goes up and gets lost. Since the church does not have a choir loft, they suggest the best location would be to the left of the altar by the stained glass windows (northeast side). The parish has $20,000 that is to be used for the Music Ministry. This could be used for the move. Another option would be to help with the replacement of the organ when needed. The organ is old and parts are not available.

The committee will meet with Kevin Clark again in two weeks and should have a plan showing changes to the sacristy and Music Ministry location. The committee hopes to have plans finalized by the Spirit Auction on April 14.

* 1. School

They are currently advertising and accepting resumes for a school principal. Mr. Brozovsky resigned due to illness. Monsignor will put an interview committee together, including one person from the parish council. Monsignor will be the hiring decision maker and is looking for someone who can build the school. Our parish has approximately 250 children between the ages of 5 and 13. The school enrollment is about 50.

The school was planning on having before and after care available this year. Due to misunderstanding on hiring and change in pastors, it wasn’t accomplished. It was suggested that St. John’s Child Development Center may be an option if transportation could be arranged. That will be looked into. Before and after care is an important element in building the school enrollment.

* 1. Connectivity

The Connectivity Committee is looking into the prices of a bulletin folding machine and will request purchase of the machine. Trulywed game is scheduled for Feb. 10. They need an audience. So please attend even if you won’t be competing. A Pitch Party is scheduled for February 17 with the proceeds going to Spirit. Another Pitch Party will be scheduled later.

* 1. Catholic Education and Youth Engagement Committee

The group is having difficulty on their focus and is having trouble moving forward. Monsignor said that we need to do something for the college students. Theresa Hain has agreed to work with Catholics at Concordia. Monsignor asked that the committee meet soon.

* 1. Spirituality

They are currently working on Adoration and hope to get Monday completed soon. Friday is not working out. It was suggested to have Thursday instead of Friday. Council members commented that some parishioners do not understand what Adoration is or what to do. Monsignor will plan on talking about Adoration to increase parishioner understanding.

1. **Next Parish Council meeting is March 19 at 7:00p.m.** Monsignor closed the meeting with a prayer.