**St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**7:00 p.m. November 21, 2017 Library**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

**Elected Members**: Dennis Hentzen, Janet Bohaty, Becky Reisinger, Marty Telecky, Jen Masek, Jeff Reimers

**Appointed Members**: Vicki Nowak, Steve Borer

Ex Officio Members:, Allen Brozovsky (School), Carmen Brown (CCD), Mark Peery (KC), Nicole Wegman (PTO)

**Absent**

Sandy Shaw (Appointed), PCCW Representative

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

1. Approval of the Minutes from September 12, 2017 meeting – Alan Brozovsky moved and Becky Reisinger seconded that the September 12, 2017 meeting minutes be approved. All agreed.
2. Role of Parish Council

Monsignor stated that the Parish Council and the School Advisory Committee needed to be leading the groups. The Parish Council is over the committees and helps to determine their direction in view of the whole parish goals. They pass information on to the committees.

Monsignor shared the 4 Misconception of a Parish recently discussed at a Priests’ study day.

* The pastor has to be involved in everything. Committees should be able to function without getting the pastors approval on every minor detail.
* The Leadership team shouldn’t push back on the pastor. The Parish Council represents the parishioners and open discussions need to occur.
* The Parish shouldn’t stop doing anything. If people are not attending events, maybe a change is needed. Projects and events should be evaluated to determine effectiveness.
* No one should ever leave a parish. If people are leaving the parish, we should try to determine why and find a solution.

The Parish Council needs to trust each other and remember that we do God’s work.

1. Review of Strategic Plan and work of committees

* Community Engagement – This committee does not exist yet.
* Finance Committee – The Finance Committee has not met since the last meeting and did not provide a report. Currently the parish has received $170,000 from Joy of the Gospel. These funds are to be used for Facilities, Connectivity events and future needs. There is not a clear idea of the exact use of these funds. Some Joy of the Gospel funds were spent on the sewer fascia repairs.

The Finance Committee is still working on the budget. It is about 80% done for this year. The Council thinks it would be prudent to project a budget for a few more years.

The parish has $400,000 in the Diocesan Investment and Loan account. Additionally there is $60,000 in a capital account and another $40,000 in Cattle National Bank for capital projects.

It is very important that the Facilities, Finance, Stewardship and School Advisory committees communicate since they oversee large expenditures.

* Facilities Committee - The Facilities Committee has a subcommittee looking at building needs. Kevin Clark with Clark Architects has listened to the needs of the parish and school. The parish needs more space for meeting rooms. If school enrollment grows, additional space is needed for the school. He is putting together 2 – 3 alternative plans for the committee to review. The plans would then be reviewed by the Parish Council before presenting to everyone else.

If we build and expand our facilities, can we maintain them? St. Patrick’s, a little smaller parish in McCook, grew their school to grades K-8 with 150 students. It may be helpful to look into how they accomplished it.

Dennis Hentzen will complete his tenure on the Council in December. He is the Parish Council member on the Facilities Committee. Marty Telecky volunteered to be the liaison with the committee.

* School Advisory Committee - The School Strategic Plan has been developed and has 4 pillars. There were questions on the status of the plan and whether they should continue to meet. It was determined that the School Advisory Committee should spearhead the follow-up to ensure the plan is developed.

The bulletin, Facebook and the newsletter, that Lisa Lindau sends out, are all methods to inform parishioners of committee projects and needs.

* Connectivity Committee – Becky Reisinger stated that their committee is small but is good at getting things going. They are looking at changing the bulletin.
* Stewardship Committee – Father Joe Walsh spoke to the Stewardship Group. St. Cecelia’s and St. Michael’s in Hastings have initiated a stewardship program based on a program Father McGread started in the Wichita Diocese. There is a cost to this program. It was questioned whether we are ready to bring in outside people or should more be done internally. Most of the committees need more people involved. How long should people serve on committees and how long should the chair serve? More discussion is needed on these issues.

Jim Spahr, current Stewardship Committee chair, is looking to turn it over to Ben Santos.

* Spirituality Committee – The committee is looking at a retreat or speaker for Lent. Matt Simmons is being considered.

1. Financial Report review – We need a financial report to the parish. Monsignor will have Bruce Faimon write one. There were no questions on the financial report. A budget needs to be completed and committees need to be notified of the amount they have to spend.
2. Spirit/Development Director position – The parish will pay Judy Vandenburg for the help she provides to Spirit. The amount or rate has not been determined.

David City and Hastings have similar positions. Eva Fujan, School Strategic Plan advisor, suggested the position be half-time to start and increase as needed. A job description for the position should be compiled by year end. It is uncertain whether to restrict position to a local person or outside person. Each scenario has different advantages.

1. Parish Council nominees: The following have agreed to be on the Parish Council ballot: Tom Dorenback, Mitch Fiala, Stan Mitchell, Karol Schoepf, Jill Bierbaum, and Bea Niemoth. Election will be December 2 & 3. Top voted male and top voted female candidates will serve a three year term. Additionally, Monsignor may select a third member from the parish for a three year term.
2. Other – Janet Bohaty and Dennis Hentzen will complete their three year term in December. A gathering will be held after the 5:30 PM Mass on December 9 to thank Janet and Dennis for their work and to welcome the new council members.
3. **Next Parish Council meeting is January 22 at 7:00p.m.** Monsignor closed the meeting with a prayer.