St. Michael Parish Council Minutes

Monday, October 26, 2015

**Members Present:** Karen Basham, Leslye Biller, Jay Blair, Chris Bonbright, Helen Bryant, Stacy Davis, Charles Edelen, Bob Goodin, Kathy Goodin, Gary Grieshaber, Denise Hampton, Karen Karem, Angela Kimbel, Brenda Rickert, Susan Robison, Jim Smith, Mary Rose Stephenson, Fr. Dick Sullivan, Stacy Tackett, Teresa Watson

**Members Absent:** Lori Elliott, Kevin Popp, Lisa Wilhelmus

**Minutes Secretary:** Teresa Watson

**Opening Prayer:** Karen Karem

**Minutes:** Minutes from the September 28, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

1. The Annual Board Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, January 23 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. It was decided to spend the morning with a spiritual retreat focus and the afternoon drawing up a long-range strategic plan for the parish and school. Some of the suggested topics were:

a. The Urton Lane extension

b. The upcoming accreditation for the school, which will include a long-range facilities plan (5 year) for the whole of the St. Michael campus. St. Michael already contracts with a company called Facility One that may be able to assist in this area.

2. The suggestion was made to poll members of the parish for their suggestions for strategic plan items in hopes of getting a fresh-eyes perspective on areas in need of attention and/or areas that can be improved.

a. To that end a subcommittee was formed consisting of Gary Grieshaber, Karen Karem, Chris Bonbright, and Leslye Biller. They agreed to outline a structure for the target data to collect; draft a list of recommendations on ways to collect that data in time for it to be usable for strategic planning at the January retreat; compose sample materials to be used in the data gathering; and make suggestions on those to invite as participants in the polling.

b. Their recommendations will be presented to the Parish Council at the Nov. 26 meeting.

3. The anonymous Police Department tip-line recently received a tip that possible violence could take place at St. Michael School. Police arrived at the school very early in the morning and though they stated they did not believe it was a credible threat, at least one officer stayed on the premises for most of the day.

a. A few parents chose to take their children out of school that day.

b. Stacy was commended for the calm and confident manner in which she handled the situation.

4. Bob is looking for a member of the Parish Council to take his place at the Archbishop’s semi-annual meeting which seeks input from parish councils across the Archdiocese. The meeting will be held on Saturday, October 31, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Bob will be out of town that weekend.

5. Bob announced the Parish Council is in need of a vice-chair, as the former vice-chair has moved. The primary duties are to fill in when chair is absent and to assist with the planning of the Annual January Retreat. Nominations will be accepted at the November meeting.

6. Gary Grieshaber, a new board member, requested that the Parish Council by-laws be sent via e-mail to all new members.

**Committee Reports:**

1. Communication, Chris Bonbright reporting: this committee has not met since the last Parish Council meeting. For now, he is focusing on a display for the Stewardship Fair in hopes of increasing the membership of this committee.

2. Finance, Denise Hampton reporting: Rose Michels has resigned as the co-chair­­ of the Finance Committee. Denise distributed a year-to-date summary spreadsheet showing income and expenses in four categories: Church, School, Building, and Cafeteria.

a. This is the first year the church is not paying any of the debt on the school.

b. Current debt on the church is $7.7 million.

c. The year-to-date income for the school is over budget which is due to the fees which are collected at the beginning of the year. However, it is expected to be on budget by end of school year.

d. Current debt on the school is $2 million.

e. A restricted gift of $98000 has resulted from the sale of a house that was recently left to the parish.

f. St. Michael’s annual budget of $6 million is the 3rd highest budget in archdiocese.

g. St. Michael’s current membership is approximately 1400 families.

3. Formation, Karen Karem reporting: The “Christ in the Mirror” program brought up some good ideas the committee to consider.

4. Justice and Charity, Kathy Goodin: praised the generosity of parishioners in the drives sponsored by their committee. She also expressed gratitude for the number of people who are actively involved in the work they do. This Thanksgiving they are hoping to deliver 100 baskets of food to families in Jeffersontown and in the South End of Louisville.

5. Parish Life, Helen Bryant reporting: The Mom’s Club has started a closed Facebook page. Michelle Cameron is the administrator. Diane Spahr is the new chair for the 3M Club, and Dionne Schoen is the new chair for the Knights Crew.

6. Stewardship, Lori Elliott absent: Bob reported that she is working on the upcoming Stewardship Fair

7. Worship, Mary Rose Stephenson reporting: Mary Rose suggested that all present at the meeting mark their calendars now for the many worthy events that are scheduled for the rest of this year.

Round Table Comments from At-large members:

1. Karem Basham complemented the St. Vincent de Paul Committee for the good work they do. She mentioned the brown bag project in particular as a good one for families to do together.

2. Brenda reminded everyone of Fr. Bob Ray’s presentation on Forgiveness & Reconciliation on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, from 7:00-9:00. She also requested prayers for those parishioners leaving for Ireland on Monday, November 2.

**Principal’s Comments:**

1. Stacy Tackett brought handouts with enrollment numbers, fundraiser numbers & school board reports.

a. The Walk-a-thon raised $45,000.

b. Enrollment is 59 above what the school budgeted for.

2. St. Michael had the second highest open house attendance (108) in the Archdiocese this fall.

**Pastor’s Comments:**

1. St. Michael is hosting the area ecumenical service for Thanksgiving on November 22. It begins at 6:00 with cookies served afterward. Father Dick invited Parish Council members to participate as greeters & hospitality ministers.

2. Our region of 8 neighboring parishes is cooperating in helping support a Hispanic ministry in this area. The ministry is housed at Bartholomew, and each of the 8 churches has pledged $7000 annually to pay the salary of the one who runs it. Hispanic Catholics in our area are directed to St. Bartholomew and St. Edwards where masses and other services are offered in Spanish.

3. One of the Communications persons has taken some of the St. Michael information cards to the new apartment buildings on Taylorsville Road.

4. The Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis begins on December 8. In preparation, the Archdiocese is sending out 7 suggestions to churches on how we can participate. Fr. Dick encouraged each of us to think of areas and ways we can practice mercy and evangelization in our own lives.

**Next Meeting: November 23, 2015**

**Closing Prayer:** Teresa Watson