

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

December 13th, 2008 7:00pm Parish Conference Room

1) ATTENDANCE

Present

Members:

Fr. Kieran

Lory Charnetsky

Nathan Cottrell

Steve Stephens

Brad Keogh

Cynthia Scheller

Ed Lavin

Helen Morton

2) OPENING PRAYER

Fr. Kieran – opening prayer

3) APPROVAL OF OLD MINUTES

Minutes from the 11-18-08 meeting approved unanimously, with corrections as noted.

4) UPDATE ON YEAR OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Family celebration will be Sunday Dec. 28th

- There will be 6 carnival games – mostly for small children
- There will be additional games for the larger kids, and bingo for adults.
- The KofC will be running the bingo games.
- There will be a magician (Bob Taylor) in the courtyard
- The priests and deacons will be doing the cooking (hot dogs, burgers, etc.)
- The sacristans will be doing all of the setup
- Sign up sheets are still up at the doors of the church

5) PROGRESS REPORT / FIRST DRAFT OF PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

- Lory passed out a sample of the mission statement for review and consideration.
- The item will be continued at the January meeting after everyone has had a chance to review.

6) REPORT ON PROGRESS AUDIT OF PARISH STRATEGIC PLAN

- Jerry was not present to provide an update. Item continued to the January meeting.

7) POT LUCK UPDATE

- The next one is the Snowbird theme on Jan. 18th.

8) AMENDMENT TO PARISH CONSTITUTION

- The goal is to update the constitution to better fit the current calendar.
- The update would move the selection of the officers to the May date to allow the president to be in office at the beginning of the Parish fiscal year.
- Nate will propose some new language at the January meeting.

9) DISCUSSION OF PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER TERMS

- The terms have been 'off' since the stewardship campaign.
- We need to agree to a one-time "re-sync" of the terms of the existing council.
- The intent is to have every member serve up to two 2-year terms, with half of the council being up for election each year.
- Along with changing of the language for the date of officer election, additional language could be added to allow a 2/3 vote for special items such as this.
- Nate will propose some new language at the January meeting.

10) PARISH EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE/POSTING BOARD

- Item continued to the January meeting.

11) REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF BRAD’S RECOGNITION FOR DONORS AND VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

- Brad expressed a desire to provide more positive feedback for financial donors.
 - Thank you note
 - Recognition dinner – can this be done privately?
 - etc.
- Fr. Kieran asked for a proposal from Brad outlining a program.
 - Currently, most large donations are usually tied with a capital campaign.
 - Most of the donors do not want to be known.
- Brad posed the question: Can we “gently” push the parish members to support the school more?
 - Can thresholds or participation be set before allowing their children to attend?
 - Fr. Kieran stated that there cannot be hard requirements. It is the parish responsibility to provide religious services to those within the parish boundaries.

12) SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be January 13th. 7:00 pm, Parish Conference Room.

13) CLOSING PRAYER

Fr. Kieran offered the closing prayer.

Adjournment.