

St. John the Evangelist Parish Council Minutes of

September 20, 2011

Summary

The St. John the Evangelist Parish Council met September 20, 2011. In attendance were Fr. Tom Powers, Sister Evelyn Ronan and members, Norm Boucher, Mimi Eldridge, Maryellen Denning, Pat Feige, Mike Holownia, Catriona Kinane, Stephanie Morgan, Jack Kapples, Julie Pernokas, John Salvati, and Jim Stokes.

The meeting opened with a welcome back to Sister Evelyn, who then led the Council in an opening prayer.

New members for 2011 – 2012

Nominations for new members will close October 2nd, and a listing of nominees will be sent to current members to discern the nominees' interest in serving. New members will be chosen the weekend of October 8/9.

Teen Efforts

Among the Council's priorities from the preceding year was Teen and Youth Ministry. Acknowledgement was made of the promising start to the contemporary music group that periodically will be part of the 5:00 Sunday Mass on evenings when there is CCD.

With many ideas in circulation, the thought of forming a task force to consider ideas and to devote time to a full airing of thoughts was raised. The possibility of teens filling a wider number of roles within the CCD night masses could include serving as greeters, bringing forward the gifts, etc.

Sister Evelyn stressed that the issue was less the specific tasks than in establishing the connections to the wider community. Such social connections will help in the future "building up" of the church, by nurturing an understanding of what being parish is about. Mimi and Maryellen volunteered to work with key parish collaborators to move some of the ideas forward.

Hospitality/Welcome Efforts

The discussion centered upon the issue of parish registration and how a more systematized grasp of the generic needs of individuals and families at the point of their seeking parish affiliation (perhaps 30 to 40 per year) and how to develop a safe relationship with those who are seeking entry to the parish for multiple and diverse reasons.

By the next meeting, members were asked to supply names of parishioners potentially suited for such a role.

PPG Update

Norm reported that the PPG held its first meeting of the year last week and was looking forward to the September 29 meeting with Father David Couturier, Director of Planning for the Archdiocese.

PPC Planning Process

Mimi expressed the Council's thanks to Kate, Norm, Mike, and Jack who had taken responsibility for creating a document listing the PPC's priorities for 2011-12 by sorting out the listing of PPG priorities and the various priorities arising from the Council's meetings with several parish groups over the past year.

Mimi introduced the idea of continuing the evolution of a parish planning process from the impetus of the Council's schedule of meetings last year with several of the parish's many groups, including the Service Commission, Religious Ed, and Building and Grounds. A possible schedule might focus on a March priority setting meeting between the Pastoral and Finance Councils that would precede April budget development on the part of the Finance Council. It was agreed that this would be a better idea than having a PPC representative attend all the PFC meetings.

The October meeting of the Council will include a presentation from the School to which various related representatives should be invited, Advisory Council, School Principal, Parent Council, etc.

Administrative Update

The Communications Commission will act as a clearing house for the various requests made to our 15 hour per week IT person to insure that she retains a manageable workload of 15 hours per week.

The Parish Picnic was judged to have been a great success and kudos were extended to Susan Calcio for her invaluable role. Sarah Connolly has started as the new Parish secretary.

A discussion was held regarding the multiple potential impacts of the new development on the former Grossman's sight, including the general increase in traffic.

Eyes and Ears

A suggestion was made that email addresses be created for both the Pastoral and Finance Councils to allow for greater input and information sharing within the Parish. The suggestion seemed to meet with general approval.

Praise was also offered for Fr. Tom's homily on 9/11, and general praise was extended to the overall plan for the Mass celebrations on that anniversary date.

A final comment was addressed by Fr. Tom to the evening "look" of the Parish Center building, with the challenge extended for what could be done to open up the face of the building and give it a "sense of life".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.