

Holy Family Parish Council Meeting
March 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Vice- Chair, Karen Harrington at 7:30 p.m. at the Conference Center at Holy Family. Attending were Fr Shane Stevens, JP Skelly, Karen Harrington, Mark McMahon, Jodi Wilson, Delbert Northrup, Valerie Johnson, Cindy Robinson, Theresa Kriese, Tony Magnuson and Audrey Stahl. Absent was Steve Peschong.

Minutes were read from the February 11, 2016 meeting. Cindy Robinson made the motion to approve. JP Skelly 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Fr Stevens addressed the demolition permit of the old rectory. The approval has been granted by the City, State and the Bishop. There is a 15 day window to receive the permit and required documents from the diocese. The doors and oak trim have been taken off. The asbestos has been removed. After all the documents are received, Schoenfelder Construction will proceed with the demolition.

Fr Stevens addressed the new rectory. The basement is near completion with a few minor things to be finished. After the completion, Fr Stevens would like to have an open house for the parish. The project was within budget.

The candidate for the Director of Music is continuing to proceed with the Visa process. He is still very interested in the position. He will also be a parish catechist and help with adult education, as he has a Theology degree. A contract will be signed after his Visa process is complete.

Fr Stevens gave an update on the remodeling of the North/ South sacristies. They are near completion and are waiting for the cabinets.

New Business

Fr Stevens commented on the placement of the Blessed Sacrament. He feels the tabernacle should be in a central and prominent location in the Church. The Blessed Sacrament has been moved to the front of the Church. The side area is a great place for the baptismal fount. Behind the baptismal fount, Fr is hoping to have a statue of the Sacred Heart. Preliminary plans are to put some lighting over the tabernacle. There may be angels purchased to put over the Tabernacle, also.

The picture window above the altar will hopefully be completed before Easter.

The Sanctuary carpet has not been replaced for several years. The carpet needs to be replaced and the steps need to be redone. Handrails should be added. The handrails would be on the sides of the 2 big pillars, so not very visible, but practical.

Jodi Wilson addressed the teacher pay increases in the Catholic Schools system, as food for thought. The legislature has approved the increase in the public school systems. The parish council needs to

think about ways to lessen the gap between the public school teachers and the Catholic School teachers. The Bids for Kids event needs to be a fundraiser for tuition assistance and for general purposes. We need to raise teacher salaries from the general fund, but not from fundraisers. Fr Stevens would like to see Youth Ministry be addressed more in this parish. The Church has a mission to continue Catholic Education beyond 6th grade. We need to think of ways to compete with the public school system, and do a better job of marketing our school and its benefits to the youth. John Paul 11 has some long time teachers. We need to look not only at the immediate future of the teachers, but also address the teacher situation in the long term. Fr Stevens would like to have a town hall meeting in the future regarding the budgets and the Catholic School system. The amount each parish contributes is divided according to the number of students from each parish. Mark McMahon said the finance committee is discussing and looking at ways to address the issues. Discussion commenced and the Parish Council is in agreement that we need to look at all issues and options.

Cindy Robinson asked if Fr Stevens would like to have a meal hosted by the Altar Society before the Open House. It will be sometime this spring or early summer.

Father suggested everyone explore the idea of building a new Community Hall after the rectory is demolished. It would be much more convenient, more assessable and more appealing than the Church basement for funerals and other events. It could be a place for hosting retreats and could become a community gathering area for all types of events. It would be built with a commercial kitchen, which would have an added value. No decision has been made, but it is food for thought. The present Church basement could be used for other options including storage, which will be needed after the garage is demolished with the old rectory.

The Parish Council discussed if the seating in the Gathering Area is needed for Sunday Masses, as an overflow. The initial intent of the Gathering Area was to be used as a greeting area and host small events, not as an overflow area for Mass. The consensus was that people should sit in the Church, if at all possible.

Next meeting will be on April 12 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Stahl
Secretary