

# **ST. ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL**

## **OCTOBER 15, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Msgr. Greg Higley, Don Slinkard, Ginny Pattyson, JoAnn Scheidt, Jim Brune, Duane Evers, Margie Hagenhoff, David Hall, Tim Hronick, Richard McMichael, Debbie Mehmert, Vickie Pabst, Connie Schepers, Craig Schnieders, Brenda Tighe Deanna Haslag & Joe Veit

**ABSENT:** Alice Hutschreider, Eric Volmer

**GUEST:** Betty White

**OPENING PRAYER:** Led by Msgr. Greg Higley

**CALL TO ORDER:** Msgr. Greg Higley called the meeting to order

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** JoAnn Scheidt motioned to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2013 meeting; seconded by Don Slinkard. Members who were present at the previous meeting, JoAnn Scheidt, Ginny Pattyson, and Don Slinkard voted. Motion passed.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:** Msgr. Greg announced that a guest speaker, Sr. Kathleen Wegman, Chancellor of the Diocese, was scheduled to address the council. However, she was unable to attend due to illness. She will be reschedule to address the Council at a later date.

Msgr. Greg addressed the new members of the Parish Council, explaining the make-up of the council. The council should plan on meeting every other month. A schedule will be presented to the council so they will know meeting dates in advance. He explained that some will be serving on Commissions; Administration and Finance, Social Concerns, and Worship and Spiritual Life. The Education Commission has been combined with Worship and Spiritual Life. Other parishioners will also be serving on these Commissions along with Parish Council Members.

Deanna explained the contents of the binders that were distributed to each member, which included a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Parish Council, and Parish Council Guidelines and Directives. Each member was provided with a current listing of the Parishioner contact list. A sheet with their information showing how it would appear on the web was passed around so members could edit what they want to appear and not appear.

### **ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION**

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS:** Joe reported that problems with the sewer system need to be addressed. When the city put in a pump to take care of problems, we didn't by-pass the old system. All of the sewage stays in the old system and eventually floods the old

rectory when it clogs up. Randy Stegemann recommends that the old system be pumped out and then route around it. Randy obtained a bid in the amount of \$1,700 from Raitel Construction to do the work. David Hall motioned to schedule the work. Jim Brune seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion was amended to include the need to check warranties and then proceed. Since the quote was from May, it was recognized that the cost might exceed the bid of \$1,700 some. The motion was approved unanimously.

Joe reported that the parking lot is holding up pretty good with fine chat being used for areas where the asphalt is breaking down. Duane questioned whether the pipe under the asphalt might have been leaking, causing a soft spot. Msgr. explained the problems were caused by a poor foundation of gravel. After some additional discussion, parking lot issues were put on hold with the understanding that filling areas where the asphalt is breaking down has bought us some time.

**OFFICE REPORT.** Deanna reported the parish checking account balance is \$32,810. St. Peter's has not yet been paid for September and October because they are still assessing how many students St. Andrew's has attending. There are currently 50 students enrolled at St. Peters and 21 at Helias.

The Savings balance is \$76,989.73. Our savings is currently in a short-term account at the Diocese, earning 1.75% interest. Deanna recommended we consider putting that savings into a long-term account at the Diocese, which is currently paying \$3.75% interest. She distributed a hand out comparing the differences. Discussion included the suggestion of putting only a portion of the savings into long-term, that we need to keep enough readily available for emergencies, questions about whether the penalty is on the full amount, how it is calculated, is it compounding, whether the interest fluctuates or the interest is fixed. Deanna will get more information.

Deanna reported some families, especially new ones, have been asking when we would be doing a new parish directory. It has been five years since our last directory. Life Touch has contacted us, hoping to get the opportunity to do our directory again. There were some significant issues with them last time. Life Touch acknowledged this was true, but said they have made significant improvements in their equipment and service, including the purchase of Olan Mills. More information is needed on features, costs, etc. Msgr. mentioned individuals who were involved last time have expressed an interest in doing so again. The topic was tabled and is to be kept on the agenda.

**ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION:** No report.

**SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMISSION:** The Social Concerns Commission met on October 2, 2013. Minutes were distributed to the Council. Included with these minutes was the Social Concerns budget from June 21, 2013 to October 3, 2013.

**WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION:** No report

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PROFESS, PROCLAIM & CELEBRATE OUR FAITH INITIATIVE:** Bishop Gaydos has kicked off an enhancement program to encourage increased giving. Letters will be sent to parishioners thanking them for donations and asking them to increase their giving, if possible. The last finance campaign here at St. Andrew's was when we built the church. This is a stewardship campaign of 3 letters from Msgr. beginning at the end of January and ending in February. A pledge card will be included for those who want to use it. There will be no door to door calling. This is separate from the CSA.

**HAND RAILINGS ON THE ALTAR:** Betty White spoke on behalf of other parishioners, requesting that the council consider installing hand railings on the steps leading to the altar. They feel it is not safe and many are struggling with walking up the steps with nothing to hold onto. Some might be able to return to assist in liturgical roles if there were railings. Msgr. said it is a matter of aesthetics and needs to be done in such a way that it looks like it was always there and need to be placed so they are not in the way for weddings. The original railings that were never installed are brass. Discussion included suggestions to paint the brass railings or build a wood covering around them. Ideally the railings should be made of wood matching the other wood in church. Msgr. will bring the existing railings out of storage for people to look at. The topic is to remain on the agenda for the December meeting.

**BUDGET:** Msgr. presented the budget dated 10/15/2013.

**ELECTIONS:** The council voted President, David Hall, Vice President, Duane Evers, Secretary, Vickie Pabst.

**FALL FESTIVAL FOLLOW-UP MEETING:** Margie suggested a Fall Festival follow-up meeting be scheduled. It has been put on the calendar for November 5, 6:30 pm. Deanna will put in bulletin.

Msgr. Greg closed with a prayer.

**NEXT MEETING:** December 3, 2013, 7:00 pm. The February meeting will be February 4, 7:00 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**Vickie Pabst, Parish Council Secretary  
(as reported by Deanna Haslag, Parish Secretary)**