

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

February 16, 2021

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

President Sheila Schreiner called the meeting to order.

Fr. Braun led the opening prayer.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- Sheila welcomed everyone.
- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Braun, Sheila Schreiner, Holly Brown-Borg, Kevin Fruhwirth, Craig Pfau, Lori Swinney, Pete Bouley, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Jennifer Modeen, Jeri Anderson, Judy Jahnke, Jennifer Loraas, Tom Helbling
- **Approval of Minutes:** Holly Brown-Borg motioned to approve the Jan. minutes. Seconded by Lori Swinney. Motion carried.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Nothing to report—the Altar Society has not met.
- **Men's Club:** Pete Bouley reported the Men's Club has not been meeting, but they hope to regenerate the organization. (The Men's Club has been in existence at St. Michael's for approx. 100 years.) They hope to get younger members because most of the current members are in their 70's & older. The Men's Club sponsored the annual renewal of the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. They also gave \$1000 to St. Joseph's Social Care for "Giving Hearts Day."
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the KC hockey, basketball, & soccer tournaments were cancelled due to Covid-19. They're waiting for the permit for the Meat Raffle. They would like a weekend in March for another membership drive. (Fr. Braun said March 14 or 21 would work.) The food drive collected over 700 lb. of food. About \$900 was collected at the Jan. 22 Mass for Life & donated to pro-life causes. Men are encouraged to attend Catholic Men's Night on Feb. 18 at St. Mike's. The KC state convention is coming up in mid-April.
- **Bridge Builders:** Lori Swinney reported the last meeting was postponed, but the Bridge Builders Board is now scheduled to meet the coming Thurs., Feb. 18.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Fr. Braun said the Catholic Schools Week was celebrated starting Jan. 31. There was a good turnout on Feb. 13 for the First Reconciliation. Confirmation & First Communion Mass is scheduled for March 5. However, there will be no retreat this year.
- **Finance Council:** The Finance Council did not meet in February. Tom Helbling had earlier emailed Parish Council members a Finance Report & the Jan. Statement of Activities. For the month of January, Sunday envelope collection was up \$25,000 over last Jan., but the plate was still down due to lower Mass attendance. A council member asked what % is collected on-line. Maybe that's why we're doing well. Tuition income is down compared to last Jan. Overall Year-to-Date Income Totals are doing well. "Church" expenses are about \$14,500 less than last Jan. "Faith Formation/RE" expenses are far less than last year, largely due to no March for Life expenses. "School" expenses are fairly comparable to the previous year, but ended about \$8000 less this Jan. compared to last Jan.

The Parish's **Total Income – Expense** was a gain of \$12,000 this Jan. over last Jan.

A council member asked if the sale of St. Mike's Park had been paid off yet. Pete Bouley reported that last spring the buyer had asked for a deferment for 1 year. \$180,000 was still owed. Interest is also being charged. It should all be paid off this year.

It was mentioned that an upcoming parish expense will be the updating of the software for the fire alarm system.

- **Pastor's Report:**

- Lent was beginning the next day—Wed., Feb. 17. This year ashes will be distributed on the top of the head instead of a cross on the forehead. The parish mailing has already gone out.
A Lenten Bible Study is starting and there will be a "Life in the Spirit" seminar led by Ron Vasek.
- A video was shown last Sun. about God's Gift Appeal. We hope to have parishioners speak on Feb. 28.
- We have gotten 2 bids so far for the church stained glass windows and are awaiting a 3rd bid.
We've gotten several bids on the school windows.
- Parish secretary Lori Beckstead is retiring. There are several applicants for the position. They will be interviewed next week. Two full-time people are needed in the office. One of their duties is taking care of the SCRIP since it's not sold after Sunday Mass anymore.
- Fr. Braun was asked about the last Mass attendance count. He said we weren't able to get an accurate count this last time. However, he thought we were down about 50%.

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Parish Long-Range Planning:** Council members said it's so important to have long-range goals and the Parish Council could be a place to start for planning these goals. Maybe we should reach out to the Finance Council, also. It was suggested that members bring a list of ideas to the next meeting. In fact, maybe we should have brain-storming at each meeting. Do we know of people who have ideas? Some members felt the parish hadn't been pushing "long-range planning" as much as it should. However, Pete Bouley said "long-range planning" is not new to the parish and many things have come to fruition because of it. It's something ongoing. Of course, it's still important to bring in new people. Father Braun again sent out to council members the attachments he sent out last fall: a working list of "Long-Range Repair & Projects" for parish & school buildings, results of a parish survey done by Fr. Haman a few years ago, & "Time & Talent" forms used previously.
It was decided to allot time at the next Parish Council meeting to discuss ideas & goals. Sheila Schreiner said she'd contact the Finance Council.
- **Christmas Eve Dinner:** We want to make it clear that the reason the Christmas Eve Dinner was not held at St. Michael's this past year was **not** because of a shortage of volunteers. Rather, it was because of **safety issues** due to the coronavirus.

VI. New Business: None

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- There being no further business, Holly Brown-Borg motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Pete Bouley. Motion carried & meeting adjourned.
- Fr. Braun led everyone in saying the Prayer to St. Michael.
- Next meeting: March 16

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen