

# **ST. WENDELIN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 16, 2017, 7:30 pm**

## **St. Wendelin School Library**

Members Present: Father Ron Weyrens, Charlie Dombrowski, Keith Lommel, Steve Torborg, Paul Koshiol, Joe Watrin, Gary Maus, Char Volkmuth

Member Absent: Kevin Lommel

Guest Present: Erin Lommel

- I. **Opening Prayer:** Meeting opened at 7:40 pm with a prayer led by Fr. Ron
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was amended to include three new items: Mowing of Parish Grounds and Bulletin Update under Old Business and Mass Times under New Business. With these changes, the agenda was approved.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the September 15, 2016 and January 19, 2017 meeting were distributed for reading after which they were approved.

#### IV. **Old Business**

A. **Mowing of Parish Grounds:** Due to the passing of John Notch who, in recent years did our parish mowing, there is need to hire a new person to take on this responsibility. Council approved Reed Bartell (who had been helping with trimming this past year) to take on this task pending a check with our insurance company (by Father Ron) to make sure there are no liability issues with operating power equipment since Reed is under 18. John Honer will still assist with mower maintenance and Paul Koshiol will help in the fall when the work load is greater due to picking up and shredding of leaves.

B. **Cemetery:** There is an ongoing effort to find a chair for our cemetery committee which deals with the sale of plots and all other cemetery matters. Father Ron visited with Andy Kiffmeyer thanking and commending him for his many years of faithful service working with our cemetery; as needed, Andy will still be available to help with marking of plots.

C. **Tables/Chairs for Mary Hall:** The Council revisited the topic of purchasing new tables and chairs for Mary Hall; currently there is \$1,020.00 in restricted funds for this purpose. Erin Lommel made a presentation stating the current tables and chairs have been in use for a long time and are in deteriorating condition. The Council concurred and following discussion about pricing and other issues, accepted Erin's offer to write an article for the "Parish Newsletter" giving all the pertinent information and also soliciting further donations. It was suggested to start first with the purchase of 250 chairs at an estimated cost of \$5,500.00 which would likely

be covered by donations and then as funds permit, move to purchase of tables. Erin will also check with parish members who are regularly involved with Mary Hall set up as to storage, area size, seating capacity and other pertinent issues.

D. **Deacon:** The Council was pleased at the news of Dan Dullinger being appointed deacon for our cluster. Deacon Dan is currently completing his studies for the Diaconate, will be ordained in June and will begin helping in our cluster come July. He and his wife, Teri, presently reside in the Monticello/Big Lake area but plan to eventually reside at Grand Lake. Our cluster will be responsible for expenses for any training/retreat/ workshop session he attends as well as mileage.

## **V. New Business**

**A. Financial Reports:** The financial reports from October thru December, 2016 were approved. Gary Maus noted our Christmas, 2016 collection was especially good at \$22,000.00+; monthly school subsidy for 2017-18 will remain the same as this year at \$13,333.00. Gary will check on a couple items relative to the publishing of the annual report summary and application of New Year's income . He also stated that starting in 2016, interest gains from the Deposit and Loan Pool account were applied back to the fund.

**B. Faith Formation:** Father Ron stated the Confirmation retreat led by students from St. John' University and the College of St. Benedict on Sunday, Feb. 12 at MIC went well. Confirmation will take place May 7<sup>th</sup> with 13 students expected to be confirmed. First Communion will be the weekend of April 29/30 with 14 students. Comment was made that it was good to see in recent bulletins, reports of some of the great activities taking place in our Faith Formation program with the hope such reports will continue.

**C. Shared Expenses:** Steve brought up the fact that sometimes questions come up as to how rectory renovation and tri-parish office expenses are being handled in the cluster. As this tri-parish set up is relatively new, some of these questions are still being worked through. An attempt will be made to have an informational sheet available at our next meeting to help in addressing these questions and concerns.

**D. School Update:** Principal, Lynn Rasmussen, reported anticipated enrollment for 2017-18 is encouraging expecting to be at 36 (pre K thru 6) and beyond that, it looks even more promising. Open House was especially successful with 13 families in attendance; another Open House, carnival style, is set for April 1<sup>st</sup>. A possible Tuesday-Thursday preschool will be considered depending upon need. Marketing attempts include setting up a booth and speaking at Masses in Kimball in March and Facebook postings. An attempt is being made to find a few parents who would make personal contacts. Lynn stated that the Catholic Community Schools format will be supportive and advised all to be positive and discourage any negative comments one might hear.

Relative to the January visit to the Way of the Shepherd Catholic Montessori School in Blaine by a group of our parishioners, Lynn stated due to teacher training and equipment requirements, the Montessori method would be cost prohibitive for us . However she is interested in the multi age segment, about which she and Linda Kaiser will brainstorm to see how it might be implemented here.

**E. New Bulletin Format Update:** Father Ron reported LPI (Liturgical Publications Inc.) has completed the initial groundwork and ad solicitations. March 5<sup>th</sup> will be our first bulletin with the new format. Council acknowledged/thanked Mike Austreng, the owner/publisher of the Cold Spring Record, for his excellent service these past 5+ years in printing our tri-parish bulletin.

**F. Summer Mass Schedule:** Father Ron proposed a new summer Mass schedule from May 27/28 through September 2/3 as follows:

Saturday: 4:00 pm at HC (no change)

Sunday: 7:30 am at SW

Sunday: 9:30 am at MIC

This plan would lighten Father's schedule a bit during the summer and may give a better picture of the number of weekend Masses needed in the cluster.

Council approved this proposal, the consensus being that our cluster offers a variety of weekend Mass times to meet various needs.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, location TBD. Since council elections come up prior to that, Charlie Dombrovski and Char Volkmuth were appointed to head up an Election Committee.

Meeting adjourned with a prayer led by Fr. Ron and closing at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Char Volkmuth