

**SAINT AMBROSE
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
DATE: JULY 28, 2009**

Call to Order: Dave Urbanski, President

Prayer: Dave Urbanski

Roll Call/Visitors:

P/A

Roll Call/Visitors:	P/A	Visitors:
Tim Keenan (1 st Year)	P	
Dave Urbanski-Secretary (3rd Year)	P	
Jim McCormick-School Commission	P	
Jeanette Burbank-Spiritual Life	P	
Joann/Leonard Elsner-Stewardship	P	
Denny Frey-Finance Council	P	
David Geis-At-Large (2nd Year)	P	
Deb Bedwell-At-Large (3rd Year)	P	
Kitty Lewis-Community Life and Service	P	
Scott Lanam (1 st Year)	P	
Mark Nowling – Faith Formation	A	
Denny Frey – Finance Council	P	
Tonja Couch – (1 st Year)	A	
Ernesto Enriquez (2 nd Year)	P	
Fr. Scott Nobbe – Pastor	P	

Roll Call: Yes

Visitors: None

Minutes Approval: Upon motion of Denny Frey, seconded by Deb Bedwell and carried, the minutes of the PC meeting held on June 23, 2009 were approved.

Commission Reports:

School Commission: Jim McCormick reported that downtime for the school continues, but preparations for the new school year are under way. Hit and Giggle, a key fundraiser for the school is coming together. It will be held at Shadowood Golf Course. This year's financial goal is \$14,000. The school's total fundraising goal for this school year is \$100,000.

Community Life & Service: Kitty Lewis reported that the K of C continues to be independent and active; Crisis Meals had no activity; Haiti is active; St. Vincent de Paul's garage sale is coming up; D of I is engaged in the planning efforts for

the parish sesquicentennial; Fr. Scott volunteered to chair this committee and will report later in the meeting; Mom's ministry is engaged in development of a steering committee; Meet and Greet ministry is in the steering committee stage with a focus on young adults to participate.

Spiritual Life Commission: Jeanette Burbank reported that musicians are needed; the church's new sound system is in need of professional adjusting. There will be an outdoor mass at the County Fairgrounds on August 9, 2009 at Noon, to include both St. Ambrose and OLP parishes (including the Hispanic community). A Ministry Fair is being planned for September 26 and 27, 2009 at all weekend masses. All ministries and commissions are encouraged to make plans to participate by having a booth and in promoting and informing parishioners about their activities and opportunities to engage in the parish.

Stewardship Commission (Buildings and Grounds): Joan and Leonard Elsner reported that no meeting of the Stewardship Commission was held due to it falling on the July 4th holiday. Buildings and Grounds met on July 1, 2009. The church renovation expenditures to date were reviewed compared with budget. Joan stated a late decision was made to install book racks on the back of the pew seating to store liturgy books and hymnals. Open projects were reviewed by the Commission members and reported to the PC. Council was also informed that the Buildings and Grounds sub-committee is evaluating replacing carpet at the front of the Parish Center and hallway leading into the church. A question was posed regarding the process for seeking participants to be involved in ministries. Joan Elsner agreed to investigate this with the appropriate Archdiocesan office.

Spanish Ministry: It was reported that the activities of this ministry are moving forward. A Secretary is being looked for.

Finance Council: A thorough report of the Finance Council activities and financial condition of the Church and School were made by Denny Frey. Written reports were available including the minutes of meetings held July 16 and July 21, 2009; also an abbreviated comparative statement of Parish Assets – YTD June, 2009 compared with the same point in time June, 2008. Similarly, a comparative statement of Church and School Revenues, Expenses and Net Revenues was presented.

In total, Parish Assets at June 30, 2009 amounted to \$1,586,527 compared with \$2,488,892, a decrease of \$902,365. The vast majority of this reduction is related to the unrealized loss in parish assets due to the market decline in parish endowments.

On a combined basis, parish and school net income amounted to \$25,822 for fiscal year end June, 2009 compared with \$3,350 for fiscal year end June, 2008. Denny Frey noted that, although unusual from past years, the school had positive net revenue while the parish had a loss. The Finance Council is discussing this outcome and will make a recommendation to the PC about what to do with the school's excess net revenue from fiscal 2009.

Mr. Frey reported that his term on the Finance Council was ending and that Cindy Dennis would be the new President of the Council and therefore become the appointed PC representative. Mr. Frey was praised and thanked for his tenure of service and dedication to the parish overall.

Old Business:

A final report of the parish wide census was made, acknowledging the limited nature of the census form and the low response rate compared with the actual number of registered families within the parish. Discussion ensued on how the census results could be used. Jim McCormick volunteered to reconcile and clean up the integration between the parish records and the census information and to coordinate its potential use with the various commissions and ministries.

President Urbanski asked for cooperation and timely information in the process of placing items on PC meeting agendas. He also called for Commission Chairpersons to develop Commission Charters and/or description of duties if none exist. Several purposes for this are apparent – these will serve as guidance for the purpose, responsibilities and authorities of the commissions; they can also be used to post on the Parish's web site as a means to inform parishioners of the opportunities for service within the Parish. It is expected this project will take some time and be reported on at future PC meetings.

Dave Geis reported that a condensed version of the Parishes' Vision Statement was developed from the more extensive one adopted by the PC at its last meeting. Fr. Scott reviewed the condensed version and offered amendments that made it spiritually relevant. The revised condensed Vision Statement is as follows:

❖ **Welcome and engage everyone as the image of Christ**

- ❖ **Foster Christian love, faith and fellowship within our parishes and civic community**
- ❖ **Proactively identify needs of the Parish communities and rise to meet them**
- ❖ **Respect individuality while encouraging a community spirit**
- ❖ **Maintain support of Catholic education**
- ❖ **Discover ways to invite parishioners to engage in the life of the Parishes**
- ❖ **Demonstrate parishioner support through prayer and presence**

Through discussion, it was determined that Our Lady of Providence PC had not been provided an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed Vision Statement. It is hoped that both parishes will agree to these fundamental points of vision, but that in fairness to OLP, they should be given the necessary time and opportunity to consider it. It was agreed that Fr. Scott will present this Vision to the OLP parish council at its next meeting. Dave Geis stated that once the Vision is hopefully adopted by OLG it will be important to inform, display and bring to life the parishes' vision over the long term.

New Business:

An updated PC member contact list was circulated for members to update their information.

PC was informed that Fr. Scott will chair a newly created committee for the purpose of planning St. Ambrose' 150th anniversary

St. Vincent de Paul Society seeks approval to hold its collection on the 5th Sunday of the month. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

Pastor's Comments:

Fr. Scott commented he feels very welcomed and energized by the organization of the Parish, its commissions, committees and ministries. He believes strong leadership is in place and encouraged all to be involved and seek opportunities to involve others. He stated he is impressed with the spiritual tone of the parishes and encouraged a continuous drive toward the newly created Vision. He looks forward to working with the Parish Council.

In commenting on his role as Chair of the 150th anniversary celebration, Fr. Scott stated it will span a period of six months and celebrate the parish's history, school, and the various ministries and involve liturgy (including the invitation of the Archbishop for a special Mass of celebration); it will be inclusive of the diverse ethnicity of the parish.

Fr. Scott requested consideration of the PC to move its monthly meetings from the fourth Tuesday to the fourth Wednesday to avoid other meeting conflicts. After review and discussion of PC members' schedules, motion was made, seconded and approved to move the PC meeting to the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning with the August, 2009 meeting.

Closing prayer was led by President Urbanski.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

David Geis
Secretary