

**SAINT AMBROSE
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
DATE: August 26, 2009**

Call to Order: Dave Urbanski, President

Prayer:

Roll Call/Visitors:	P/A	
Tim Keenan (1 st Year)	P	Visitors:
Dave Urbanski-Secretary (3rd Year)	P	
Jim McCormick-School Commission	P	
Jeanette Burbank-Spiritual Life	P	
Joann/Leonard Elsner-Stewardship	P	
Cindy Dennis-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	P	
Tonja Couch – (1 st Year)	Excused A	
Ernesto Enrriquez (2 nd Year)	P	Heriberto “Erik” Romero
Fr. Scott Nobbe – Pastor	P	

Roll Call: Completed per above

Visitors: Heriberto “Erik” Romero – Spanish Ministry

Minutes Approval: Upon motion of Deb Bedwell, seconded by Mark Nowling and carried, the minutes of the July 28, 2009 parish council meeting were approved.

Commission Reports:

School Commission: Jim McCormick reported school enrollment (k-8) to be 110, level with the previous school year. Sylvia Rust will begin service on the School Commission beginning in August.

The school commission discussed the issue of surplus funds from the 2008-09 school budget, recommending that the funds remain deposited in the school

account through the end of December, 2009 in the event some or all of the funds are needed due to shortfall in fund raising. If mid-year projection is that revenue will meet budget goals, these excess funds would be transferred to an interest bearing account to support student tuition.

It was decided that the Chair of the School Commission should be a designated signer on the Edward Jones Tuition Assistance account, along with Fr. Scott.

A report on the success of the recent Hit-n-Giggle fundraiser revealed net proceeds of \$11,000 to \$12,000 compared with a goal of \$14,000. It was nevertheless, concluded to be another success.

The Guardian Angel Dinner is in preliminary planning stages with a date of October 14, 2009 at 6:00pm at The Pines Evergreen Room.

Jim updated Council on the Career Achievement Award Letter and Nomination Form. The plan is to make it available to parishioner as a means of nominating candidates the weekend of September 5 and 6.

Community Life & Service: Kitty Lewis reported on a variety of matters and activities of this Commission. Prayer Shawl Ministry is active – information night to be held September 17th. To date, 11 shawls have been delivered. Coffee and Donuts and Greeting after Masses are still in planning stages with desired involvement of parish youth. Daughters of Isabella are engaged in sesquicentennial planning – research in Archdiocese archives is in process, and a theme being developed. Other ministries have ongoing development and efforts within committees with nothing new to report.

Spiritual Life Commission: Jeanette Burbank reported that the Ambry is completed. Archdiocesan liturgical policies were reviewed by the commission. An update on the Ministry Fair to be held in the month of September was given. An update on this commission's involvement with the parish 150th anniversary was given. An advent reconciliation service is being planned for Wednesday, December 16th. A sanctuary arrangement proposal is being developed and will be reported on to the Parish Council at a later date.

Faith Formation: General update was provided by Mark Nowling. Faith Formation Commission met on August 11, 2009. The prospects of a Chastity Ball was discussed as well as marriage preparation programs. Commission by-laws and terms of office were discussed. The schedule for the Speaker Series was reviewed, noting the need for information to be prepared for the bulletin. The 2010 Parish Mission, "Tridium of Charity will be presented by Fr. Matthew on April 20-22, 2010. It was decided to have a Catholic Shop quarterly to offer for

sale religious books and goods. Various other information and reports were referenced in the Commission minutes.

Stewardship Commission (Buildings and Grounds): Joan Elsner reported that renovation of school restrooms is being completed. Fair booth was a success and plans for a parish picnic on August 9th with a cleaning of the fair booth were discussed. The institution of children's church envelopes was discussed along with information and training, teaching our children good values related to money, saving spending and charity. A plan to create a parish pictorial directory and the formation of a committee was discussed. Plans are being developed to place stewardship information on the parish web site. Discussion was held on the Parish and Archdiocesan appeal.

The Buildings and Grounds report was given, including a desire to update the church bell system. Sealing of the church brick façade was discussed. A review and possible enhancement to the floor plan of the parish offices at the rectory was discussed to better accommodate the new business manager and our deacon.

Spanish Ministry: Ernesto introduced guest Heriberto Romero (Erik) to Council members. Greater involvement by members of the Hispanic community in parish commissions and committees is being encouraged and Erik is taking a leadership role in promoting and organizing this effort.

Finance Council: Cindy Dennis was welcomed as the new appointee of the Finance Council to the Parish Council, replacing Denny Fry. Cindy distributed a summary report of the parish and overviewed the comparative information. As of July 31, 2009, Parish assets totaled \$1,720,353 compared with \$2,486,564 the same date in 2008. The decrease relates substantially to the impact of the market on the parish's endowment funds. There are signs the market is recovering and it is hoped and believed the parish's fund balances will reflect such recovery. Parish net revenues amount to a loss of \$29,583 compared with a loss of \$387 the same period last year. Other matters discussed by the Finance Council at its meeting held on August 20, 2009 were contained in the minutes of the Finance Council distributed to Parish Council members.

Denny Fry commented on his appreciation to be of service to the Council for a number of years and the Council extended its deep appreciation in return, thanking him for his broad based involvement in parish activities.

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Scott reported on his encouragement and support for greater involvement of the parish's Hispanic community in parish councils, commissions, committees and activities. He updated council members on progress with planning for the 150th anniversary.

Old Business: None

New Business: Youth fundraisers were discussed. The Parish Council was notified of the resignation of Tonja Couch due to continuing education scheduling conflicts. There is a need to fill this vacancy. Discussion was held about the idea of involving a youth representative on the Parish Council. Deb Bedwell agreed to research and develop criteria for this specific appointment or election.

The idea of a "Guest Speaker" to be invited to selected Parish Council meetings was discussed. The idea is to periodically identify and invite a person who is involved in a committee or activity within the parish to talk about their involvement, ministry to the parish and to allow the Council members to become better informed of such activities, thank and encourage their continued ministry. Effort will be made to begin the guest speaker program next meeting. Guest speakers will be invited to remain at the Council meetings if they wish to.

Dave Geis identified several open issues the Council had discussed at recent meetings that were not reported on in this meeting. He characterized these as "Open Issues" He recommended a "dashboard" concept to keep these unresolved matters before the council. President Urbanski suggested a section under Old Business be established for this purpose and Council was in consensus that this be done. Such items identified for this agenda section currently include: Parishes Vision, Ministry Involvement, Use and coordination of census data, Commission Charters and Descriptions

A closing prayer was offered by Dave Urbanski

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned.