

**SAINT AMBROSE
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
DATE: January 27, 2010**

Call to Order: President Dave Urbanski

Prayer: Dave Urbanski

Roll Call/Visitors:	P/A	
Tim Keenan (1 st Year)	P	Visitors:
Dave Urbanski-President (3rd Year)	P	John Brooks
Jim McCormick-School Commission	P	
Jeanette Burbank-Spiritual Life	P	
Joan/Leonard Elsner-Stewardship	P	
Cindi Dennis-Finance Council	P	
David Geis- Secretary/At-Large (2nd Year) P		
Deb Bedwell- V.P./At-Large (3rd Year)	P	
Kitty Lewis-Community Life and Service	P	
Scott Lanam (1 st Year)	P	
Mark Nowling – Faith Formation	P	
Sharon Koch - At Large (1 st Year)	P	
Ernesto Enriquez (2 nd Year)	P	
Fr. Dan Staublin – Administrator	P	

Roll Call: Taken silently - Quorum

Visitors: John Brooks representing St. Vincent DePaul Society

Minutes Approval: Upon motion by Deb Bedwell, seconded by Sharon Koch and carried, the minutes of the meeting held November 25, 2009 were approved

John Brooks was welcomed as a guest representing the St. Vincent DePaul Society. The Society desires to advance an idea to collect non-perishable food items for the poor within our parishes and others such as Anchor House. The idea is termed a "Soup Box". Mr. Brooks said it is to encourage the parish's youth to gain awareness and to reach out to the poor by giving such things as canned products and other items. Mr. Brooks sought ideas for the structure and location of the collection box as well as approval for the concept. After a number of questions, concerns and thoughts shared by Council members, a motion was

made by Jim McCormick, seconded by Mark Nowling and carried to approve the project.

Commission Reports:

School Commission: Jim McCormick reported on behalf of the School Commission, referring to the minutes of January 14, 2010. He noted the likelihood of a two to three year commitment being extended to 7th and 8th grades. He said that currently, it is expected that approximately 18 students would be in these two grades next school year. Mr. McCormick noted his continuing intention to step down from the Parish Council, but that no individual had yet indicated a willingness to serve from the School Commission.

Community Life & Service: Kitty Lewis gave a brief report on the nine ministries. In particular, she stated that the Meet and Greet Ministry for after Masses was to become a high priority starting in February. She also noted that the Knights of Columbus would be added as a ministry under the umbrella of community Life and Service Commission. A report on the progress of St. Ambrose 150th anniversary was deferred to later in the agenda.

Spiritual Life Commission: Jeanette Burbank reported on behalf of this Commission, referring to the minutes of a meeting held November 24, 2009, posted which are posted to the Parish web site and the minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting which is not yet posted. Jeanette reminded all to bring in last year's palms for burning and use in Ash Wednesday services. She reviewed the Ash Wednesday service schedule and plans for weekly Stations of the Cross during each Friday of Lent.

Faith Formation: Mark Nowling reported on behalf of this commission. He acknowledged that the posting of minutes to the Parish website are behind and that more effort would be made to be timely in their posting after meetings. Mark noted a book and study guide written by Pope Benedict XVI titled "The Fathers". He informed the Council that a parish mission would be held April 20 through 22nd with a theme yet to be determined. He noted a priest facilitator has been selected.

Stewardship Commission (Buildings and Grounds): Leonard Elsner reported on behalf of this Commission which met January 2, 2010. Among various items reported on, the focus of the meeting and discussion was the development of a parking lot on the newly acquired lot across the street to the East from the church. It was noted that a land use variance would be required and proper

notice to neighbors of such and a hearing would need to take place. Mr. Elsner noted that the request would have to pass two Plan Commission hearing and be approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Council members asked various questions regarding the potential number of parking spaces (estimated at 20), the cost of making the lot into a parking lot and the ongoing maintenance of a planned gravel lot. Mr. Elsner stated these matters needed to be confirmed but gave estimates of all costs, totaling in a range of \$1,500 to \$2,000. Council discussed the need for a firm budget and timeline for the project before proceeding, mainly due to the current budget shortfalls being experienced to date. Upon motion by Jim McCormick, seconded by Mark Nowling and carried, with Jeanette Burbank casting a "no" vote, the Building and Grounds Committee was directed to develop a budget for the parking lot and to report back to the Council before proceeding. Mr. Elsner gave a brief update on the various improvement and renovation projects under way on the parish property.

Spanish Ministry: Ernesto Enriquez representing this ministry had no report. President Urbanski encouraged activity and reports from this ministry in the future. Fr. Dan reported on the early success of his integration with the Sunday 2:00PM mass in Spanish, especially noting his inability to speak Spanish. He said it is working out well with an interpreter. Presdien

Finance Council: Cindi Dennis reported on behalf of the Finance Council, referring to the minutes of the January 27, 2010 meeting. Cindi highlighted the year to date financial results, noting that Sunday collections continue to run behind budget by 10%. School revenue is over budget by 4.4% and expenses behind budget by a similar percentage. She noted the parish remains in a satisfactory cash position; she also noted an anonymous donation of \$10,000 for specific support of the maintenance of buildings and grounds. Currently, Finance Council members are assisting commissions with the next fiscal year budgeting process. Commission budgets are due by March and the entire parish budget is due to be presented to the Parish Council by May with final submission to the Archdiocese by June.

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Dan was officially welcomed by the Council members. He stated he had received a warm and encouraging welcome from the parish as a whole. He has been attending the various meetings of Commissions and ministries since his arrival in order to get acquainted and up to speed. He is encouraged by the great degree of activity and activism of the parishioners in both parishes. Fr. Dan said he is looking forward to his time and service as Administrator of both St. Ambrose and Our Lady of Providence.

Old Business: Dave Urbanski called for further discussion in preparation for the third and final reading of a proposed Appropriations Policy and Request Form. The form has been through some modifications based upon discussion at the last meeting. The modifications were sent to Council members in advance. Dave Geis offered yet further minor adjustments the form. After discussion, motion was made by Mark Nowling, seconded by Deb Bedwell and unanimously approved to adopt the Appropriations Policy and Form for use within all of St. Ambrose parish.

(Dashboard Items) The matter of having a youth representative on the Parish Council remains open. It was noted by Mark Nowling that youth representative has been identified and is ready to take the position. The question of assurance of continuing representation by a youth continues to be brought up. Dave Urbanski noted the need for a by-law change to accommodate this matter.

Kitty Lewis reported on the activities of the ad hoc committee working on the 150th anniversary of St. Ambrose Parish. She referred Council members to a Calendar of Events, noting the date, event and indicated budget for various planned items and activities. Kitty reviewed the planned logo and theme for the anniversary and stated that continuing development planning are occurring within a rather limited budget for fiscal 2009/10 of \$2,000. Dave Geis reminded Council members of the St. Ambrose Vision and that it needs to be exposed to the Parish as a whole. He asked Kitty if the planners of the 150th anniversary would consider somehow incorporating the rollout of the Parish Vision in keeping with the stated theme – “Illuminate the Past, Celebrate the Present and **Inspire the Future**”. Kitty said she believed it would be possible and appropriate and agreed to consult with her planning group.

New Business: Mark Nowling proposed, on behalf of the Haiti ministry, a fundraiser dance for Haiti relief on Saturday, February 13th from 6PM to Midnight, to be held in the school gymnasium. It is to include adults and youth. No alcohol will be served. Motion was made by Mark Nowling, seconded by Sharon Koch and carried, to approve the fundraising dance.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Council was in consensus to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
David Geis, Secretary