

St. Catherine of Alexandria

8661 N. 76th Place, Milwaukee, WI 53223

St. Catherine Parish is committed to worshipping God and His Son, Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. We are dedicated to living the Word of God by our Christian example. We shall achieve this through service to our Parish and stewardship of our time, talent and treasure.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

May 5th, 2011

Present: Debbie Hintz, Parish Director; Ken Laczniak, Chairperson; Frank Maier, Secretary; Joe Carey, Trustee; Jack Fox, Trustee; Frank Balistrieri; Debby Korpela; Lynne LeMense; Renee Serre; Ken Van Fossan; Bob Wazniak

Absent: John Scholz, Vice-Chairperson

School Planning Presentation with the Principals and Councils of OLGH and St. Bernadette

All three parish councils were presented with the idea of realigning the two Northwest Catholic campuses into a 'lower' school and an 'upper' school by the principals. The lower school will have K4 through 3rd grade and upper school will have 4th grade through 8th grade. All present from all three councils approved of the idea.

St. Catherine Parish Council Topics (St. Bernadette Library)

Approval of March Minutes

Bob motioned to approve the February minutes. Ken Van Fossan seconded the motion. The March minutes were approved.

Review of Draft 2011-12 Budget

Shari Brennan presented the 2011-2012 budget. It has a projected deficit of just over \$30,000. The two main contributing factors to this deficit are reduced contributions and a projected 20% increase in health insurance. The Archdiocese is pooled with other dioceses in an attempt to have lower health insurance premiums. However, the projected increase may not prove out. Projected increases in past years have come in lower than anticipated. Joe pointed out that the parish's year over year costs are flat and that our 'usable' savings (not restricted to specific causes) are less than in past years. In addition, the assessment from the Archdiocese is also down. The budget does include money for a full-time Music Director and current contributions have not been affected by the Jim Stout situation.

Debbie suggested that we need to do more fundraising, beyond festivals, fish fries, and bingo. One option discussed was asking Faith In Our Future contributors to continue their donations after November, when FIOF ends.

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Doing so would result in 100% of one's donation to go to the parish, instead of only 60%. The old Blue Bucket idea from years past was also mentioned. This fundraiser allowed the parish to refurbish the church without borrowing money. Debbie will begin to form an ad hoc committee specifically for the purpose of exploring 'low-effort' fundraising ideas. Debbie also stated that there are not many options left for cutting costs.

The Council approved the budget by consensus with agreement that more fundraising ideas will be explored and a letter will be sent in early fall to all parish families explaining the deficit in more detail.

Parish Climate/Moving Forward

Debbie thanked the Council for their support during the Jim Stout situation. The temporary organists have been doing well to fill in and are committed to continuing the work until a permanent replacement is found. Debbie and the hiring committee will interview a candidate on May 6th. Overall, the parish climate has improved with only a few occasional comments now.

Nomination Committee Update

The committee reported that the ballot is complete with four candidates. Voting will take place the weekend of May 14th and 15th.

Volunteer Appreciation Social, May ~~19~~th (20th)

The invitations for the first Volunteer Appreciation Social are out. It will take place on Friday, May 20th.

Parish Director's Report

Debbie did not have anything else to report.

Committee Reports (as needed)

The liaisons did not have major items to report.

'What are you hearing?'

There were not any additional comments.

Closing Prayer

Ken Van Fossan led the closing prayer.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Frank Maier, Secretary, Parish Council.

Handout: 2011-2012 Budget Overview.