

Holy Spirit Parish-Newman Hall

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting

Agenda/ Notes

December 8, 2008

7:30 -9:10 PM

Attendance

Fr. Bernie Campbell, Jim Donato, Richard Elliott, Luis Gachuz-Meza
David Hahn, Dora Henel, Jim Martin, Deborah Tatto, Dave Thomas, Anthony Wright

Agenda Items

1. Opening Prayer (Dan)
2. Lenten Meditation Series- Jeannie Battagin
3. Report from Hospitality Subcommittee- Deborah/Richard
4. Details on YEAH Participation- David
5. Proposal from Diocesan Pastoral Council- Deborah
6. Pastor's input

Discussion/ Action

1. **There was a brief discussion on the Lenten Prayer schedule of events. It will be determined finally within the next month.**
2. **Hospitality: the subcommittee met during the month to look over the interior of the entrance way and the exterior entrance as well. The major ideas/ recommendations will be forwarded in detail to each council member. In general, it is recommended that:**
 - a. **the major bulletin board to the right of the entrance be updated and re-configured and simplified**
 - b. **The tables and sculpture might be moved and make the space more 'comfortable and useable'**
 - c. **The hallways leading to the other rooms (with additional bulleting boards and space for 'flyers etc' might benefit from simplification and updating and clearer organization. It was noted by Fr. Campbell that key personnel need to be involved in this process**
 - d. **The process will be reviewed and continue during these next few months.**
3. **YEAH- David Hahn has been in contact with Sharan ___ Coordinator of YEAH and recommends a formal effort at coordinating joint activities with the Lutheran Church program. The main focus is on the abandoned youth in Berkeley. One of the next efforts will be to develop a "Calendar of events". David will be unavailable during the next month or two.**
4. **Richard Elliott did attend a daylong workshop held at the Cathedral on November 13th, sponsored by JS Paluch Company. The two workshops were:**

- a. **Parish Census Data: A Gold Mine &**
- b. **It's in the Bulletin**—one important way reach parishioners

The presentations included:

- **The value of current census information**
 - **Getting people to register**
 - **The use of demographic information for all aspects of parish ministries**
 - **Marketing 101 (Product—What does the parish offer? Place—where does it happen; Promotion—use of bulletin, Web site, newsletters, etc; and Price—Cost in time, \$\$, and social/Psychological**
 - **Parish Bulletin: a potentially powerful tool; know your readers, what is your content, use a powerful design. And, be aware of its being one part of outreach—other means available.**
- c. **Some handouts were made available**
5. **The Diocesan Pastoral Council has been in contact with Deborah and an April visit is in the works.**
 6. **Fr. Campbell provided the Council with a summary of the results of the Paulist Visitation some months ago. In general it was quite positive. He then spent some time discussing the Parish Budget/ Costs/ Standing. Overall, it appears that the Parish has been able to reduce an existing deficit of over \$95,000 to less than \$10,000. Other steps are being taken to bring things into shape. Future considerations include a 5% increase in cost of living for parish employees.**

The meeting ended at approximately 9 PM...(to the applause of all!)

[Next meeting: January 12, 2009]

Minutes submitted by: Richard J Elliott