

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

November 18th, 2008 7:00pm Parish Conference Room

1) ATTENDANCE

Present

Members:

Fr. Kieran	Grizelle Apodaca
Jerry Briner	Cynthia Scheller
Nathan Cottrell	Ed Lavin
Steve Stephens	Jahn Trombley (president)
Helen Morton	

2) OPENING PRAYER

Fr. Kieran – opening prayer

3) APPROVAL OF OLD MINUTES

Minutes from the 08-23-08 meeting and 09-09-08 meeting both approved unanimously.

4) UPDATE ON YEAR OF THE HOLY FAMILY

- Fr. Kieran gave an overview of the Year of the Family
 - Parish Advent Mission will be from Dec. 7th to 9th. Evenings
 - Simbang Gabi – Philippine 9-days of Christmas – will be Dec. 15th thru 23rd.
 - Family celebration will be Sunday de. 28th (see discussion item #8)

5) PROGRESS REPORT / FIRST DRAFT OF PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

- Item tabled since Lori was not present.

6) REPORT ON PROGRESS AUDIT OF PARISH STRATEGIC PLAN

- Jerry met with Caron Meron to discuss the strategic plan.
- Typically a Parish Strategic Plan is audited every 2-3 years.

- Jerry will work on setting a time during January to have the council meet with Karen again to go through the strategic plan.

7) POT LUCK UPDATE

- Ed says the last potluck had the biggest turnout yet.
- We need to make it clear that everyone is welcome to each of the potlucks.
- The next one is the Northeast theme on Jan. 18th.
- The Parish Council should make more of an effort to attend the luncheons.

8) DEC 28TH PARISH HOLY FAMILY CELEBRATION

- The Family celebration is for families to attend together.
- There will be a special mass at 10:45 followed by the ‘party’.
- There will be inflatable bouncers, carnival games, prizes, etc.
- Food (hot dogs/hamburgers) will be served.
- The celebration will be from 12:30 to 4:00.
- Helen and Cynthia will do a magic show and face painting.

9) PARISH COUNCIL CHARTER

- Jahn outlined the issues:
 - The Parish Council needs to know the rules that we are bound by.
 - These rules need to be written and formatted in a way that makes it easier to pass along to the next council members.
 - The current charter itself is 24 years old in its current form.
 - We should look into creating a subcommittee for writing a new charter or amendments to the current charter.
 - Would like to have any changes before June '09 so they can be instituted before the fiscal year for the parish changes.

10) REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF BRAD’S RECOGNITION FOR DONORS AND VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

- Item tabled since Brad was not present.

11) SENIORS OF STA REQUEST ON PENNEY DRIVE

- Fr. Kieran said discussion on this issue is not a matter for the parish council. Item removed.

12) PARISH WEEKLY PRAYERS/PETITIONS DISCUSSION

- Grizelle outlined the prayer petitions
 - Propose possibly to put one petition into the prayers of the faithful at Mass.
 - Fr. Kieran indicated that there is a limited number that can be practically done at Mass while meeting the specific requirements from the Diocese. It would be difficult to add another one.
 - Jahn – can the parish start up a employee/employer connection group or message board to help people that are struggling with the economy. This is a common theme from many of the petitions.
 - A job board in the foyer is an option, showing general services/skills
 - This may be able to grow into something bigger with time that could be a real benefit to those even beyond S.T.A.
 - Jahn will look into it further and will report for the Dec. 9th meeting.

13) SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be December 10th. 7:00 pm, Parish Conference Room.

14) CLOSING PRAYER

Jerry Briner offered the closing prayer.

Adjournment.