

St. Joseph Parish Council  
Meeting Minutes  
December 18, 2007

The Parish Council of St. Joseph Church, Shelbyville, Indiana, met on December 18 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Religious Education Office. Members present were Tom Gruesser, Lisa Lewis, Rosemary Dean, Jen Deiser, Noell Krughoff, and Angela Gill. Father Chris Craig was also present.

Father Chris opened the meeting with an Advent reflection from the Gospel of St. Matthew with Jesus as the “new Moses”. He noted that Moses is the most famous shepherd in the Bible.

The council agreed to accept the November 27, 2007 minutes as corrected.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Snowball Dance:** Father reported that he had been approached by Steve Lancaster of the Knights of Columbus. Steve asked Father if it would be okay if the Knights sponsored the Snowball Dance this year since many people really enjoy it and were disappointed that it had been cancelled by the Parish Council. Father stated that he told Steve that this would be okay this year and that the Parish Council would revisit the issue next year. He noted that he didn’t want the Knights of Columbus and the Parish to have competing events. The dance will take place January 26, 2008. Father stated that he and the Parish Council probably didn’t have full picture regarding the dance, and Tom Gruesser noted that a general lack of communication within the Parish is an ongoing difficulty.

**Spring Festival Chairs:** Lisa Lewis reported that the Stewardship committee does not plan to meet again until January 21, 2008. She and everyone else agreed that this is too long to wait to ask them to find chairs for the spring festival. Lisa had some suggestions from Becky Claxton who has chaired the festival for several years. The council considered the names and divided them up for calling. The council agreed that the spring festival volunteers should get back into the swing of chairing for one year with the assistant chairs having the understanding that they will chair the next year.

**Coffee and Donuts:** No luck getting this organized this month.

**Music Ministry:** Noell Krughoff reported that she has had some contact with the various music groups and that they will meet after the holidays to try to create more structure in the ministry and better communication between the different groups.

**School Commission Report:** Jen Deiser elaborated upon the school commission report from the November meeting. She reported that Dennis Gilles, who is president of the school commission, was very happy to hear from her. He invited her to their meetings. He also reported that a new system is in place for collecting tuition and Leigh Ann Mills will be handling collections as opposed to Joan Livingston. Dennis’ main concern was the parishioner’s tuition

rate is given to St. Vincent families as well as St. Joseph's. Father suggested that the school commission and finance committee should work with St. Vincent's to get a plan in place for the new school year. The opening step will be the school commission formulating a letter St. Vincent's by the end of the current school year asking them to support the school. The school commission, finance committee and parish council should all review and approve the letter.

**Organ:** Curtis Davies is coming to the January 22, 2008 meeting to talk about repairs to the church organ.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Chuckwagon Sink:** Jen Deiser reported that Dennis Gilles also brought up that the sink in the garage for the chuckwagon is in desperate need of replacement and that Boy Scouts would like to take this on as a project. Jen will ask Carla Antle, who is the Faith Formation liaison, to tell him to go ahead and suggest that he call Benji Martin of buildings and grounds and also to include Lisa Baker, who chairs the chuckwagon. She can give the "specs" for what is needed. Noell suggested that they contact the health department as well for just what is required for food preparation, etc.

**Parish Council Vacancy:** The council agreed to put off filling the vacancy opened by Vernon Sharp's resignation until June during the regular election. Tom Gruesser will cover Vernon's liaison responsibilities until that time.

**Adult Education and Sacrament Preparation Staff Person:** Father needs help. The council discussed the budget and qualifications of such a staff person. This person would probably need a masters' degree in religious education. At Father's suggestion, the salary will be included in the budget when it is set up in July.

**Proposed Liaison and Commission Structure:** Noell Krughoff reported that she has reorganized the liaison and commission structure based on the purpose of each commission (see attached). It was noted by all that the liaison job description needs to be refined as a "communication pipeline" between the committees and council. Then, each committee should have a chairman. The chairs would meet on a regular basis as a group with their liaison according to "Noell's proposed structure" (for example, the chairs of the committees that fall under Parish Life/Outreach Commission would meet in a group with that liaison on a regular basis not yet determined). Everyone agreed that this seemed to be a very logical and simple "policy and procedure".

**Parish Summit:** The next Parish Summit will be held on February 23, 2008 from 10:00 to 2:00 in the cafeteria. The main topic will be outlining the new liaison and committee structure to the commissions and committees, to get their buy-in and to begin opening the lines of communication.

The next meeting will be January 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory.

Father led the council in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

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Angela Gill, Secretary